

Summary of FCFA work in Rwanda

[Future Climate for Africa](#) (FCFA) aims to generate fundamentally new climate science focused on Africa, and to ensure that this science has an impact on human development across the continent. FCFA's work in Rwanda was carried out by the [CCKE](#) unit for the programme. The activities focused on integrating climate information into the design of projects for the [Rwanda Green Fund](#).



About the CCKE Unit

The [Coordination, Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange \(CCKE\) unit](#) performs several functions to increase the overall impact of the FCFA programme, including:

- Coordinating activities to promote learning and knowledge exchange between research partners including workshops, conferences, webinars, and meetings.
- Coordinating and compiling reporting to the donors and the annual review of the programme.
- Gap filling research was commissioned as the programme progressed and new research questions emerged.
- Research and travel grants were issued and managed for early career researchers from the FCFA research consortia through the capacity development mechanisms of the FCFA Innovation and Mobility Fund.
- Generating and disseminating content to communicate FCFA work and key research messages to wider audiences through the FCFA website, Twitter account, news stories, press releases, briefs, and other publications.

Highlights from Rwanda

- [Climate change fact sheet](#) for Rwanda, and subsequently a [risk screening tool](#) for agriculture projects in FONERWA was developed.
- Subsequent engagements during FONERWA proposal development workshops played a key role in facilitating the inclusion of climate change considerations within project proposals.
- Further work in Rwanda supported by FCFA, has examined mainstreaming of climate information in the [tea and coffee sectors](#). This identified challenges related to adaptation in Rwanda and what is needed to address these challenges.
- Engagements in Rwanda are ongoing, with the DFID Rwanda country office requesting support from the DFID Climate Mainstreaming Facility.

Developing a Climate Risk Screening Tool for FONERWA

The work in Rwanda is centred on developing the capacity of the FONERWA (Rwanda's climate and environment fund) project appraisal team to screen project proposals. This would include a stronger review of applications for climate risks, and provide FONERWA with a reference base for project developers so that climate information is better understood and incorporated into project design and implementation. The first output was a generalized [climate change fact sheet](#), as requested by FONERWA, to start the conversation around climate change and risks amongst the FONERWA team and project developers. The fact sheet was presented to representatives from FONERWA and Rwanda Meteorology Agency during a workshop. Following limited engagement with climate information from the fact sheet and in the workshop, it became apparent that the real need is for climate impact information that can be communicated with the project developers.

This led to the development of a [risk-screening tool](#) (focusing on agriculture) that provides relevant impact information for project developers and a reference base for critiquing proposals for FONERWA staff and reviewers. A second more informal workshop, where the risk screening tool was presented, was more effective in communicating the content as many of the participants were able to use the tool to better understand and relate to climate impacts, as a result, many believed the workshop was more interesting and valuable. The awareness and relevance of incorporating climate information into projects and fund processes were found to be more effective when detailing climate impacts with climate change information as context and not the other way around.



Participants engaging with the climate risk screening tool at a FONERWA workshop. Credit: Julio Araujo

Following the second workshop, direct engagement in the FONERWA Proposal Development Workshop (PD Clinic) proved beneficial in highlighting risks and the relevance of climate information. This resulted in an increase of project proposals which had incorporated climate elements in some form. This was likely attributed to the emergence of local champions within FONERWA who prioritised suggestions to include climate risks in proposals. After the engagement produced tangible outcomes, Meteo Rwanda informally requested to be involved in the following training workshop and PD Clinic.

Mainstreaming Climate information into tea and coffee sectors of Rwanda

During the [scoping phase](#) of FCFA, the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership (GCAP) was commissioned to carry out a pilot study in Rwanda to examine [the use of climate information to achieve long-term development goals](#). Part of this Rwanda pilot study focused on mainstreaming climate change within the country's [tea and coffee sectors](#). These sectors were chosen as case studies due to their importance in the economy and their vulnerability to climate variability. The study identified three building blocks to address the challenges of adaptation such as uncertainty. These include (1) implementing low-regret options which address current climate sensitivity and improve future resilience (e.g. planting shade trees or intercropping), (2) examining near-term decisions with long lifespans (e.g. the expansion of tea plantations), and (3) considering future risks that may emerge (e.g. through research and monitoring and evaluation). Key findings from the tea and coffee work were outlined in a [video](#) produced by the CCKE.

DFID Rwanda Call Down support from the DFID Climate Mainstreaming Facility

The DFID Climate Mainstreaming Facility has been established to provide on-demand support to DFID country offices, regional and central departments to help advance DFID's goals on tackling climate change. The Facility is supported through FCFA's Accountable Grant, with the CCKE in partnership with Paul Watkiss Associates forming the Facility Management Team.

In 2020, the DFID Rwanda country office submitted a request for support to review the International Climate Finance portfolio of the country office. The request was particularly seeking guidance for ICF indicators and allocations for their Future of Agriculture in Rwanda (FAIR), Exiting Poverty in Rwanda (EPR) and TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) programmes. Through the Climate Mainstreaming Facility, there will be continued engagement and support for the country office.

Selected Additional Resources:

Araujo, J.A., Kagabo, D., Kabirigi, M., Zinyengere, N. and Owiti, Z. 2018. [FONERWA climate risk screening tool: Agriculture](#). Future Climate for Africa. Cape Town, South Africa.

Araujo, J.A., Zinyengere, N., Marsham, J. and Rowell, D. 2016. [Rwanda country factsheet: Climate information for an uncertain future](#), in L. Joubert (ed.), Africa's climate: Helping decision-makers make sense of climate information. Climate and Development Knowledge Network. Cape Town, South Africa.

Watkiss, P. 2015. [Final Report: Rwanda Pilot](#). Future Climate for Africa. Cape Town, South Africa.

Watkiss, P. 2015. [Using climate information to achieve long-term development objectives in Rwanda](#). Policy Brief. Future Climate for Africa. Cape Town, South Africa.

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For more information, visit <https://futureclimateafrica.org/project/CCKE/>

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