

Showcasing African climate research at the African Climate Risks Conference

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IMPACT

ACRC not only provided a platform to share the latest research on Africa, but aimed to provide a platform which allowed stakeholders from across Africa (and beyond) to reflect on climate risks and solutions from an African perspective.

The conference could therefore be distinguished from other major international climate research and adaptation conferences in:

1. the level of inclusiveness in terms of the balance between senior and junior researchers, gender, backgrounds of participants, and particularly in promoting participation of African representatives;
2. the themes and topics of the event were carefully selected to address African climate research and adaptation challenges;
3. provided an opportunity for African researchers to share their research, voice their challenges and propose solutions to solve climate research and adaptation problems on the continent.



THE CHANGE STORY

In the past, Africa has been noted to be poorly represented, have weak agency, and lack a unified voice in international climate negotiations. In order for African decision-makers to be able to make effective decisions regarding climate-resilient development, Africa needs locally relevant climate information with co-produced solutions to foster transformation across the continent.

To target this gap, the Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) Coordination, Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange Unit (CCKE), hosted the African Climate Risks Conference (ACRC) held from 7 - 9 October 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This event showcased the FCFA programme's work and outputs to external audiences from Africa and beyond. The scope of the event was however beyond the FCFA programme - it was an open platform to share the latest progress in African climate research among researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and development partners. For FCFA, it served as a collaborative space for sharing learning and disseminating key programme findings and outputs to a wider external audience.

FCFA area of change 2:

Strengthening scientists' capacities to develop decision-relevant climate information.



Dismantling barriers to
urgent climate change
adaptation actions

FURTHER RESOURCES

[African Climate Risks Conference –
Conference report](#)

[IISD Reporting Services: ACRC
Bulletin](#)

LEARNING

The conference was successful in bringing together an international community of stakeholders working on climate change issues in Africa, with over 350 participants from 53 countries.

Participation grants were highly effective in supporting the involvement of African delegates and ensured that diverse views from the continent were represented.

A number of partnerships were established with relevant regional and international institutions with roles in promoting climate research, services and policy in Africa. The partners included the UN Economic Commission for Africa's African Climate Policy Centre (UNECA-ACPC); the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), who were all involved in the event planning through a Scientific Steering Committee.

Future Climate for Africa's Areas of Change are:

1. Enhancing scientific knowledge and prediction of African climate and new understanding of the resulting impact on the robustness of future climate change scenarios.
2. Strengthening scientists' capacities to develop decision-relevant climate information.
3. Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.
4. Approaches that support co-production of decision-relevant climate information and enable channels for on-going dialogue between the providers and users of climate information.
5. Identifying social, political, behavioural and economic barriers to the use of climate information in long-term decision-making, working to elicit solutions which support effective integration of climate risks within decision making across scales, sectors and social groups.
6. Approaches to climate science research and climate-sensitive risks within medium-term decision making which enable active participation and address the specific concerns of women and marginalised groups.

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