

## FONERWA: Climate Risk Screening Tool for Rwanda

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**Project:**

Coordination, Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange Unit

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### IMPACT

Although not apparent for every submitted proposal, there was a clear incorporation of climate information (where previously non-existent for relevant proposals) in the proposals following the workshop where the factsheet and a draft version of the screening tool were presented. All the projects that were engaged with during the workshop had added considerations for current and future climate to their application. It is important to note that although climate contexts were added to their proposals, the extent to which this was included, varied, thus there is much room for improvement in how well it is integrated into the projects.

Local champions emerged and took ownership over parts of the work. Primarily this took the form of direct requests from FONERWA to the applicants to identify climate risks in their projects.

There was a strong sense of contribution from FONERWA staff to the development of the risk-screening tool, which has led to fast agreement on how and where the tool can be integrated into fund processes and therefore agreement on its uptake and usefulness. Further, engagement and support from Meteo Rwanda emerged after they saw the tangible outputs/outcomes from FCFA's work with FONERWA.



### THE CHANGE STORY

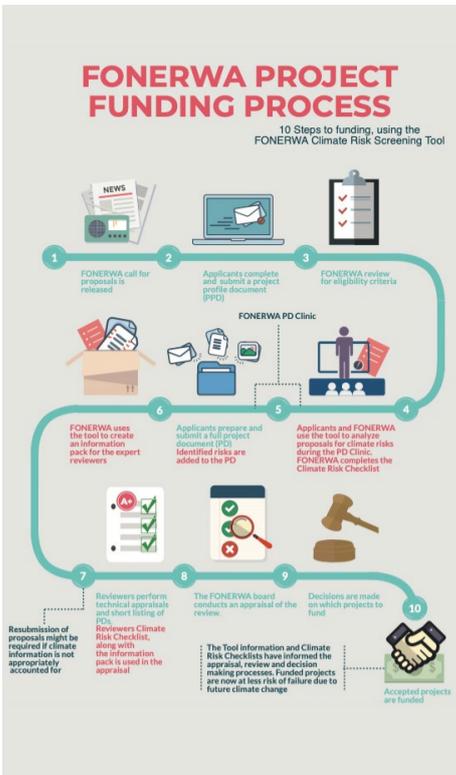
There was limited understanding of climate change or impacts by FONERWA (Rwanda's climate and environment fund), no direct considerations for climate variability or change in the application process and few project proposals were appropriately considering climate information.

Recognising this, the FCFA work in Rwanda centred on developing the capacity of the FONERWA project appraisal team to perform a rudimentary screening on all project proposals. This would include a stronger review of applications for climate risks and provide FONERWA with information they can share with project developers so that climate information is better understood and incorporated into project design and implementation.

FCFA developed a [climate 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. Although this tool is centred on agriculture, the principles behind the screening are similar for multiple sectors and therefore are a first step in creating awareness and developing capacity.

FCFA held two workshops with FONERWA and Meteo Rwanda:

- A presentation and discussion around the Rwanda climate factsheet
- A workshop on climate risks and the screening tool



### FURTHER RESOURCES

[FONERWA Climate Risk Screening Tool](#)

## FCFA area of change 3:

Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.

## LEARNING

Having a local champion that is willing to take ownership of the work and provide an authoritative voice was extremely beneficial in moving the project forward. Without someone of authority within the local institution, it is unlikely that FCFA's (an outsider) suggestions would have been fully considered by the applicants. Creating a sense of accountability is key to eliciting change. This was partly done through the local champion, but more importantly through the existing formal processes like the review and the application template. Knowing that project developers will be evaluated for climate risks and providing a targeted section for this, meant that the projects were more likely to make use of climate information.

Although successful engagements are highly dependent on the relevance and relatability of the content being discussed / presented, having a more causal and interactive workshop proved to be more effective in creating a relaxed learning environment. Removing the assumed hierarchy in the "room" can help to promote comments and engagement by the less experienced participants.

Having a clear process for co-exploration and co-production would potentially have provided better results for identifying the actual needs of FONERWA. However, given the timeline and resource allocation for this work, it was not feasible to undertake such activities.

While this project is only engaging at the proposal development stage, it is also important to have appropriate monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation. This is necessary as there needs to be some sort of accountability to actually implement changes that were made during the proposal development stage and make sure that the implementation is conducted appropriately.

- ### 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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