

Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project across Africa: Background and WMO perspective

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South African Weather Service

WCS-RES-WR-AfricanSwift-SWFDP-201908



Outline of Talk

Three Parts

- 1. Early Warning Systems
- 2. WMO and the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP)
 - 3. SWFDP across Africa

Friday's Talk:

Four Parts

Data and Products

Case Studies

Verification Practices

Project Evaluation





Weather related disasters in the future

- Weather related disaster likely to increase in future due to:
 - Climate change
 - Increased vulnerability, particularly of growing urban populations
- Number of people affected is increasing in Africa (CRED)
- IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events (SREX): Call for more and improved Early Warning Systems (EWS) as a low-regrets measure









Challenges to Forecasting Services

 There are significant changes in the environment of weather service delivery (the science, technology, user needs)

("What the weather will **BE**, to what the weather will **DO**")

- What does the future hold for weather forecasting and forecasting services?
- How can weather forecasting and warning services adapt to reduce the threat of weather related natural disasters and increase community resilience?

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What is the role(s) of National Met Services in Disaster Risk Reduction?

- NMSs involved in all the phases of DRR at all time scales
- Main focus in services related to hazardous weather
- Primary users are local communities and disaster management structures
- Services must be closely integrated with stakeholders
- Activities should be covered by appropriate legislation







EWS is an End-to-End Warning System





Main Participants in EWS

- Technical Monitoring Agencies
 - Key national agencies to issue early warnings (like NMHSs)
 - Usually the single official national voice for early warning information
- Authorities Concerned with Impact
 - Emergency management departments, disaster management centers
 - Responsible for declaring disasters
 - · Coordinate response and recovery activities
 - Undertake preventative mitigation and preparedness activities
- Communities

EWS will fail if communities are not involved in risk assessment, dissemination, preparedness and response – react and respond

Political Role Players, administrators

Their support is crucial to make it work – Legislation and funding



The Multi Dimensions of EWS

An EWS can distinguish between different dimensions with its own roles and impacts:

- National early warning system
 - Mandated agency (e.g. the national meteorological service)
 - Based on scientific monitoring systems
- Community based early warning system
 - Functions at the community level
 - Utilizes community based techniques or systems and knowledge
 - Local research projects and monitoring systems

Essential that all dimensions are integrated to avoid conflicting information South African

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Effective Early Warning Systems Three essential requirements

- Technology: State-of-the-art hazard monitoring technology and effective dissemination capabilities and procedures
- Coordination: Excellent coordination between all role players, Met Services, DMCs, Media, Local Communities
- Information sharing: Communities at risk must receive, understand and appropriately react to warnings





Background on WMO members

WMO Operational weather forecasting

- WMO's World Weather Watch System (Observations, Telecommunications, Forecasting)
- Numerous advanced global NWP Centres
- Many low-capacity NMHSs in developing and least developed countries

Role of National Meteorological Hydrological Services

- Daily forecasts, weather warnings, information/data gathering
- Delivery of meteorological services (routine, specialized)
- Delivery of authoritative warnings

general public, disaster managers, civil protection authorities, important societal sectors (e.g. transportation)





- WMO program to improve ability of National Meteorological Services (NMSs) in developing countries to forecast severe weather events for the next 5 days using existing technology - to close the technology gap
- To improve coordination of NMSs with Disaster Management Agencies and the media
- SWFDP is about enhancing delivery of warning services as adaptation against a likely increase of disasters due to climate change and socioeconomic vulnerabilities

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Vision for improving severe weather forecasting and warning services in developing countries

"NMHSs in developing countries are able to implement and maintain reliable and effective routine forecasting and severe weather warning programmes through enhanced use of NWP products and delivery of timely and authoritative forecasts and early warnings, thereby contributing to reducing the risk of disasters from natural hazards."

WMO Strategic Thrusts

Improved Service Quality and Service Delivery

Improved delivery and access to high quality weather, water, related environmental predictions, information, and services

✓ Reduced risks and potential impacts of hazards
Strengthening Capacity Building





- The SWFDP is implemented in close collaboration with the Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme in order to improve severe weather forecasting and warning services.
- It has also been coordinating with other WMO technical commissions and programmes to extend the range of applications and broaden the benefits to other user sectors in society.
- The SWFDP is built on and collaborated with:
 - Global Data Processing and Forecasting System programme,
 - Public Weather Services programme,
 - o the Agricultural Meteorology programme, and
 - Hydrology and Water Resources Programme for developing synergies and linkages with Flash Flood Guidance Stem (FFGS) in various regions.

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Regional SWFDP's contribute to capacity building by:

- helping developing countries access and make use of existing NWP products for improving hazardous weather warnings,
- encouraging operational forecasters to use relevant standard or newly developed products and procedures
- Training is also carried out in service delivery principles and practices including user focus, communication skills and user satisfaction assessment.

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- Participating countries benefit from advances in the science of weather forecasting, especially the dramatic development in NWP and EPS which give guidance in advance of potential hazardous weather conditions for issuance of alerts and warnings.
- NMHSs in a geographical region typically need similar products, and SWFDPs coordinate requirements. Generally, the limited bandwidth is taken into account, with the file sizes of guidance products being minimal.



Global Centres:

centres provide available NWP and EPS products, including in the form of probabilities for a specific time frame

Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs):

interpret information received from global centres, prepare daily guidance products (1-5 day) for distribution to National Meteorological Centres (NMCs) and maintain the regional centre web site

National Meteorological Centres (NMCs):

- issue alerts, advisories, severe weather warnings to public via the media and other dissemination channels;
- liaise with disaster management, and certain economic sectors, and contribute feedback and evaluation of the project.

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SWFDP Framework backbone: "Cascading of Information"

- Global Centres
 - Provide specialized forecast products
 - Regional centre
 - Provide these products to NMSs through a dedicated web page
 - Provide guidance forecasts of potential severe weather for next 5 days, every day
- National Meteorological Services
 - Assess the products and guidance
 - Issue national warnings with up to 5 days lead time
 - Underpinned by regular training
 - No complex technology required



SWFDP as an end-to-end cross-programme collaborative activity





Phases of the SWFDP

Phase I: Pilot Overall Project Planning Phase II: Demonstration Regional Subproject Implementation Planning and Executing Phase III: Full Demonstration **Regional Subproject Evaluation Phase IV: Sustainability and Development Regional Subproject Long-Term Sustainability** and Future Developments



WMO's Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP)

Strengthening capacity of NMHSs in improving forecasts and warnings of meteorological hazards since 2006

Updated on 13 February, 2019



Legend

Global Contributing Centres (12)

Regional Contributing Centres or potential regional centres (15)

RSMC TC (5)

Green (solid-line) color boxes represent the domains of existing SWFDP regional subprojects. Pink (dash-line) and Brown (dash-dot-line) color boxes signify the regions for future SWFDP subprojects which will be developed within next 1-2 years and 3-5 years respectively.

Contributing Global and Regional Centres including RSMCs for Tropical Cyclones (RSMCs TC) for existing SWFDP regional subprojects as well as potential global & regional centres for future subprojects are also shown.

DESIGNATIONS USED

9/08/01

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps and included in lists, tables, documents, and databases on this web site are not warranted to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the WMO.



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SWFDP Regions across Africa



🛛 Tanzania



SWFDP-West Africa

2019/08/01







- SWFDP was started in 2006 in Southern Africa with involvement of just 5 countries.
- Based on its success, the subproject was expanded to include all 16 SADC countries in the sub-region in 2008.
- CBS/WMO recommended the involvement of DMs to improve severe weather warning services (part of PWS)
- In Phase-IV (sustain operations and continue development) since January 2012





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- Lead RSMC: Pretoria (SAWS) TC support RSMC: La Réunion
- 16 Southern Africa countries

Global Centre contributions:

- UK Met Office
- ECMWF
- NCEP/NOAA
- EUMETSAT (satellite products)
- MeteoFrance (TC region)

SAWS:

- UM 4 km regional model forecasts
- Nowcasting products
- Issuing of guidance products





Subproject website since 2006:

RSMC Pretoria: http://rsmc.weathersa.co.za/login.php





















- SWFDP Eastern Africa started in 2010
- Originally 6 countries with support from Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam
- South Sudan joined in 2013
- Currently in Full Demonstration phase (III; Field phase) since September 2013

Training workshops:

- Tanzania (2010 & 2011)
- Uganda (2012)
- Burundi (2013)
- Rwanda (2014)
- Ethiopia (2015)
 - Kenya (2019) 2019/08/01





- Lead RSMC: Nairobi (KMA) LV support RFSC: Dar Es Salaam (TMA)
- 7 Eastern Africa countries
- **Global Centre contributions:**
- UK Met Office
- ECMWF
- NCEP/NOAA
- DWD
- EUMETSAT (satellite)
 KMD and TMA support:
- Regional WRF forecasts
- Guidance Maps







REAL-TIME WRF

2°S

Init: 2019-07-30_00:00:00 Valid: 2019-07-31_09:00:00

Lake Victoria SWFDP – RFSC: Dar Es Salaam



Regional Forecasting Support Center (RFSC) @ By Tanzania Meteorological Agency



2019/08/01

1 50°E

Precipitation Tendency from 2019-07-31_06:00:00 to 2019-07-31_09:00:00 (mm)



REAL-TIME WRF (issued by TMA-Tanzanja) 2019-07-30_00:00:00 Valid: 2019-07-31_00:00:00









Lake Victoria SWFDP – RFSC: Dar Es Salaam





- SWFDP West Africa was initiated February 2015
- Seed funding from the Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA)
- Currently in Demonstration phase (II) since January 2019

RSMC: Dakar WRF Regional Model Wave Watch III

- Global Centre Contributions:
- UK Met Office
- ECMWF
- NCEP/NOAA
- Environment Canada
- MeteoFrance
 2019/08/01













Heavy rain, strong winds, high sea (swell), Max. temperature (heat waves conditions), Min. temperature (cold waves conditions)





Donors

- All SWFDPs including in Africa are supported by various donors (governments, development agencies etc.)
- WMO also attempts for synergistic efforts to maximize benefits for benefiting countries (e.g. SWFDP-West Africa workshop in November 2018 (Lome, Togo) was organized in collaboration with African-SWIFT)
- SWFDP-Eastern Africa workshop (Nairobi, Kenya) in January/February was organized in collaboration with UKMO through HIGHWAY project





Donors

Southern Africa:

- Mainly Norwegian funds up to 2014
- USAID/OFDA funds during 2014-2016 for twining of SWFDP & FFGS in South(ern) Africa

Eastern Africa:

- Mainly Norwegian funds during 2011-2015
- Mainly through HIGHWAY-LVB project funds since 2017

West Africa:

- During 2015-2017, Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) provided seed funding to kick start the process
- Since 2018, Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative through its project for West Africa and its in-country projects in the sub-region.





Feedback and Verification





In Conclusion: OUTCOMES OF PROJECTS

- Enhanced capability for NMHSs to forecast severe weather and issue warnings at the national level, including improved accuracy and longer lead-times;
- Established warning processes agreed with national disaster management and civil protection authorities, along with planned responses for protection of lives and property;
- Established forecast processes and Quality Management Systems (QMS), and strengthened forecast capabilities in support of other user sectors in society (such as water, DRR, agriculture and food security, aviation, marine safety and transportation, etc.) at the national level;
- Raised awareness of the value of NMHSs with national governments and their agencies, leading in the long-term to greater national support and investment and leading, in turn, to improved supply of observations and feedback into the GDPFS; and
- Reduced loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure, and contributions to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals) and Sendai Framework for DRF in achieving their respective goals and targets.

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In Conclusion: OUTCOMES OF PROJECTS

- The SWFDP's across Africa have proven to improve the lead-time and reliability for alerts and warnings about high-impact events such as heavy precipitation, strong winds and high waves.
- It has been strengthening engagement of NMHSs with users including media, disaster management and civil protection agencies and local communities for improved disaster risk reduction (DRR) and decision making process by users.
- The projects are benefiting to various socioeconomic sectors as well, including agriculture, fisheries, aviation, and marine transportation.

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THANK YOU

Merci

Dankie



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