

**9th Meeting of the
Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
(CREWS) Steering Committee**

FINAL MEETING REPORT

07 November 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 9th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held, as a videoconference, on 07 November 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Representatives from CREWS Contributing Partners: Australia, France, Germany, Luxembourg (Chair), The Netherlands and Switzerland; invited Observers: Canada; United Kingdom and European Commission represented by DG DEVCO, CREWS Implementing Partners: the World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as well as the CREWS Trustee (World Bank) and the CREWS Secretariat, connected remotely, or attended in person, the meeting (Annex 1 – List of Participants).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

3. The Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee, Mr. Georges Gehl, 1st Secretary, Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Luxembourg, welcomed participants and introduced the observers at the meeting.
4. The Chair highlighted the main developments since the last meeting. This included (1) the approval of financing for three projects in 16 July 2019, which are now being implemented in Afghanistan, Chad and Togo; (2) the information that two proposals are under preparation, one for a new project in Haiti for consideration at this meeting and one for additional financing for the West Africa Regional Project. In June, the WMO held its Congress where Luxembourg Minister Dieschbourg delivered a message on CREWS.
5. In July, the CREWS Secretariat prepared a one-pager on *Accelerating Actions on Early Warning Systems towards Climate Resilience*, including opportunities and critical element for scaling up work on early warning in the context of the SG's Climate Action Summit. In August, Minister Dieschbourg wrote to a number of countries inviting them to join CREWS and contribute to the Trust Fund. The United Kingdom and the European Commission are considering contributing while discussions are still ongoing with new potential contributing partners.
6. The Global Commission on Adaptation issued a report before the SG's Climate Action Summit that recognizes the importance of early warning systems and climate information for adapting to climate change. In September, the Summit, with leadership from the UK and Egypt on climate resilience, raised the visibility of early warning and early action that led to the creation of a partnership called *Risk-informed Early Action Partnership* (REAP).
7. Two positions at the CREWS Secretariat have been confirmed with the appointments of Mr. John Harding as Head of the Secretariat and Ms. Maria Lourdes Kathleen (Elkaye) Macasil as Programme Officer.
8. The meeting adopted the agenda (Annex 2 - Meeting Agenda).
9. Mr. Paul Egerton, Director, Cabinet Office of the Secretary General (COSG) of WMO provided an update on WMO's ongoing institutional change process and implications for the CREWS Secretariat. Mr Egerton noted that at WMO's Congress in June, the WMO Members approved the significant internal restructuring of the WMO to be aligned with the reforms approved in WMO's Governance structure. As part of the change process, the Development Partnerships Office (DPO), would be moving to one of the newly established departments entitled Member Services Department (formerly

Development and Regional Activities Department). It is suggested that the Head of the CREWS Secretariat would report directly to the Director of the Cabinet Office. This is to ensure that the CREWS Secretariat function is firewalled from the departments implementing projects. The proposed change in reporting line is not expected to affect the work of the CREWS Secretariat.

10. A question was raised by the representative of Switzerland with regard to the position and tasks of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) secondee to CREWS who is currently reporting to the Director of Development Partnerships. WMO COSG Director indicated that if any changes were required to the functions of the secondee from Switzerland these would be discussed and communicated once the current changes are in place which is expected by 1 January 2020.

Decision 1: The Steering Committee approves an amendment to the CREWS Governance Document (paragraph 14) to change the reporting line of the Head of the CREWS Secretariat to the Director of the Cabinet Office of the Secretary General at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

11. The Secretariat referred to CREWS/SC.9/infdoc.1 and presented the status of progress on decisions taken at the 8th CREWS Steering Committee meeting.

12. The Secretariat referred to CREWS/SC.9/infdoc.2 and presented updates of activities of the CREWS Secretariat since the 8th CREWS Steering Committee meeting. The Secretariat prepares its annual workplan in consultation with the Implementing Partners. It is expected that at future meetings of the Steering Committee, starting at the 10th, a revised and shorter format of the analytical progress report on the CREWS projects will be presented including (i) using the traffic light visual, (ii) an analysis of progress against the CREWS indicators and (iii) the risk status.

13. Work is being undertaken to develop the CREWS generic indicators and updates on this will be presented at the 10th Steering Committee meeting. Further, the Practice Compilations have been initiated and communication efforts are ongoing.

14. The Steering Committee noted their interest in seeing rapid progress on the secretariat's work to develop CREWS generic indicators. It was further stressed that these generic indicators need to be aligned and applicable with the metrics used by the countries to measure the effectiveness of their early warning systems under Sendai Target G, as well as the metrics used by development partners to measure progress of their hydromet investments that relate to early warning systems.

15. WMO Development Partnerships Office (DPO) presented updates on its contributions to leveraging CREWS: the Alliance for Hydromet Development to be launched at COP 25, the Country Support Initiative (CSI) expected to become operational in 2020 and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), which is at conceptualization stage with an envisioned announcement at COP26.

16. Representatives requested further clarification on the SOFF. WMO/DPO representatives presented the initial concept of the SOFF initiative. It was noted that this envisioned facility would provide financing for systematic observations in developing countries in a new and equitable, predictable, and sustainable way. There is no need to substantially increase finance for systematic observations, but there is a need to provide these resources through innovative financing vehicles that give consideration to the global public good that these observations provide. SOFF would complement and leverage existing sources of finance that are covering other aspects of the weather, climate, and water value chain. The initial SOFF concept note was developed by a group of staff from several institutions, including World Bank, Green Climate Fund (GCF), European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), and UK Met. Feedback from Steering Committee members is very much welcome, and COP 25 will provide an opportunity to further discuss.

Decision 2: The Steering Committee invites the WMO Development Partnerships Office to regularly provide updates on the three initiatives: Alliance for Hydromet, Country Support Initiative and Systematic Observations Financing Facility.

17. The CREWS Trustee referred to CREWS/SC.9/infdoc.3 . It was noted that as of 30 September 2019, Australia has transferred its final instalment to the Trust Fund putting the total paid contribution to USD 40.96 million. The Contribution Agreement with the United Kingdom is now in its final stage and expected to be signed shortly. A total of USD 4.4 million is currently available for funding decisions.
18. The representative from Germany indicated its intention to contribute additional amount to the Trust Fund. Germany also encouraged CREWS to further emphasize the need of weather and climate data to accelerate the penetration of insurance in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a further contribution to climate resilience.
19. The representative from WMO spoke about one of its ongoing projects supported by the Government of Germany on applying seasonal climate forecasting and innovative insurance solutions to climate risk management in the agricultural sector in South-East Asia. This project is a contribution to the International Climate Initiative. It was suggested that the work of CREWS on supporting efforts of the InsuResilience partnership could build on this project.

Decision 3: The Secretariat to work with the Implementing Partners to initiate a study to analyze the weather and climate data needs, availability, accessibility and reliability in a selection of countries in which both InsuResilience and CREWS have investments in the context of the requirements to facilitate the penetration of risk financing and insurance solutions.

20. At the request of several CREWS donors, the Trustee submitted a short paper CREWS/SC.9/infdoc.4 on “Clarifying the Financial Management Responsibilities of CREWS Key Partners” for discussion and solicited comments and questions at the meeting. The representative of Switzerland noted that the paper described the situation as it currently stands, and that the legal team in Switzerland evaluated the governance structure and concluded that there are gaps. The representative reiterated its position, supported by other members, that additional text should be included in the Financial Procedures Agreement (FPA), between the Implementing Partners and the Trustee to rectify these gaps. The representative from the Netherlands supported the position of Switzerland and enquired about the statistics of the cases of misuse of funds and how they were resolved. The representative specifically referred to the case in GEF.
21. The representative from the Trustee mentioned that due to the sensitive nature of the matter and infrequency of cases, she does not have the information readily available but can look into this. She also mentioned that it would be a very difficult endeavor to make changes to the FPAs due to the efforts of the World Bank as a Trustee to harmonize FPAs across all donors and all FIFs, and if there are any suggestions on possible amendment of the FPAs, these need to be discussed with the legal department of the World Bank.

Decision 4: Switzerland is invited to share, as a basis for further discussions, a proposed modification to the existing financial agreement between the CREWS Implementing Partners and the Trustee to address possible misuse of funds.

Agenda Item 2 – Country/Regional Project Decisions

22. WMO, on behalf of the Implementing Partners, presented the project proposal for Haiti CREWS/SC.9/workdoc.3. A total of USD 1.5 million is being requested from CREWS for the project. The aim of the project is to support for the Hydro-meteorological Unit of Haiti (UHM) for sustainable

operation, maintenance and implementation of a relevant and efficient hydro-meteorological warning system. It builds on the achievements of the previous project of WMO in Haiti supported by the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and of the ongoing World Bank project financed by the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). It has two main components: (1) Strengthening the organization and the capacity of UHM to deliver services to the Haiti Civil Protection and other stakeholders; and (2) Improve early warning services for targeted users & communities.

23. Both the World Bank and the UNDRR expressed support to the CREWS Haiti proposal. The Task Team Leader of the ongoing World Bank project in Haiti emphasized the importance to continue investing into strengthening the link between UHM, civil protection systems and food security. The WB Hydromet project will come to an end in June 2020 and this new CREWS Haiti project can provide continuity of support, which is much needed in the hydromet sector. Further, the UNDRR representative welcomed that the project proposes the strong collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (Directorate of Civil Defense). However, UNDRR highlighted the need to address all four (4) components of Early Warning Systems in future CREWS projects.

24. The representative of Switzerland provided the following comments for consideration in strengthening the proposal: (i) show clear links of the proposed project with the other existing initiatives in Haiti; (ii) define how the CREWS investment can help fill in the gaps; (iii) clarify the human resource allocation in the project to sufficiently implement the activities; (iv) clarify on the need for a large financial allocation for communication and production; (v) strengthen the logical framework with indicators that are results-based and show impact of the project; (vi) elaborate on the sustainability aspect of the project. The representative of France supported the comments provided by Switzerland. Moreover, it was suggested that more community-focused indicators be included to more concretely see the results and impact of the project to the ultimate beneficiaries. For instance, noting the number of persons in agriculture supported, defining the means to verify the data/information, building on the Caribbean regional project and how the recent events in the region would be taken into account. The WMO representative clarified that WMO engagement in Haiti is part of the core business of the organization. WMO will be continually involved and engaged in Haiti. The investment by the World Bank and WMO through Canada has improved the functionality of the hydromet services. Despite the limitations of staffing, which is the reality for many Met offices, capacity building and training were provided to the staff to enable them to fulfill their tasks. The proposed project will continue to work with Meteo France and the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in the delivery of trainings.

Decision 5: The Steering Committee invites the Implementing Partners to revise the project proposal for Haiti based on the comments made at the meeting and to circulate the revised proposal for a no-objections approval process, depending on the availability of funds in the FIF.

25. The Secretariat outlined the process and rationale for pipelining countries by the CREWS Steering Committee and presented the reasoning for additional financing for the Pacific based on the status of the ongoing project.

26. The WMO representative, on behalf of the Implementing Partners, presented the concept note for pipelining additional funding for the Pacific region. The proposal would entail a USD 2.5 million investment from CREWS with the objective of strengthening the ability of regional institutions and enhancing the capacity of targeted National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide impact-based forecasts of extreme weather events. It was emphasized that the essential step to achieving resilience in the Pacific is to ensure hydro-meteorological services are science based and tailored to the needs of various end-users. The project for additional funding will build on and enhance the on-going CREWS Pacific SIDS project “Building resilience to high impact hydro-meteorological events through strengthening MHEWS in the SIDS” and ECCC CREWS project in SIDS.

27. It was emphasized by the representative of France that the full proposal needs to ensure a coherent logical framework and results-based indicators.
28. The WMO representative noted that it will take advantage of an upcoming meeting in Fiji in end November to further consult and develop the proposal with the countries and other stakeholders, including the CREWS Implementing Partners.
29. The representative of Switzerland suggested to include Cambodia in the pipeline list and the representative of France requested that Laos be also added to the pipeline list. The Chair agreed to include these two countries.
30. The representative from WMO, on behalf of the Implementing Partners, provided an update on the status of project proposal development of CREWS West Africa. A draft has been prepared and is being finalized. The final proposal will be submitted, for review, to the Steering Committee, through the CREWS secretariat, by 15 November 2019. The Steering Committee noted the date of submission.

Decision 6: The Steering Committee modifies the list of pipeline countries to include Cambodia, Laos and additional funding for the Pacific Region. The Implementing Partners are invited to develop, facilitated by the Secretariat, project briefs for Cambodia and Laos.

Decision 7: The Steering Committee invites the lead Implementing Partner to initiate a project proposal for the Pacific Region, in line with the procedures set-out in the CREWS Operational Procedures Note No. 1 Programming and Project Development, and to submit the proposal to the Steering Committee, through the Secretariat, for consideration, review and approval for funding depending on availability of funds in the FIF.

Agenda Item 3 – Outreach and advocacy

31. The representative from the UK provided a background on the new REAP partnership. It was launched in September 2019 during the SG's Climate Summit by a Minister from Bangladesh. It aims to bring together the vulnerable countries and implementing partners to deliver programmes on Early Warning Systems, among others. It has an ambitious agenda modelled against existing global mechanisms. A Secretariat is being established that will facilitate the provision of expertise for climate services, mobilize support for humanitarian response and conduct external outreach events. It is expected that the REAP Secretariat will coordinate closely with the CREWS Secretariat to the extent possible.

Decision 8: The CREWS Secretariat to work with the three Implementing Partners and the soon-to-be established REAP Secretariat to develop a paper on the contribution of CREWS to REAP and modalities for cooperation. This paper would serve as a basis for discussions on cooperation with REAP at the 11th meeting.

32. The representative from the European Commission provided an update on the status of discussions on a contribution to CREWS under its 11th Intra-ACP European Development Fund funding window.
33. One of the result areas of this funding is on early warning system development and the European Commission is currently exploring possible implementation through the CREWS. A technical document between the EU and the ACP secretariat is expected to be finalized by end of February 2020 with a target of end 2020 for a financing agreement with the ACP secretariat. This will then be followed by delegation agreements to be signed with various implementing partners, including possibly CREWS, and implementation of projects will then follow the mechanisms of the partners. The process is envisaged to be undertaken between 2020 and 2021.

34. CREWS members welcomed the EU interest to be part of the CREWS initiative and emphasize the value of CREWS as an efficient operational mechanism to ensure delivery of results.

Decision 9: The European Commission is invited to initiate discussions, at the appropriate time, with the CREWS Trustee (World Bank) and the CREWS Secretariat, following the meeting, on the most effective modalities for formalizing the engagement of EC/DEVCO in CREWS.

35. The Secretariat provided an outline of CREWS events planned at the UNFCCC COP 25, including the format and objectives of the 10th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee. The 10th Meeting, open to observers, will take place in the margins of COP25, on 5 December 2019, from 12.30 to 3.00 pm (venue tbc). The agenda will be circulated shortly. The meeting will provide an opportunity to (i) review the status of progress of the CREWS portfolio of projects; (ii) discuss and approve programming decisions; and (ii) set the ground for positioning CREWS post-2020, as an effective programming vehicle for early warning in LDCs and SIDS.

36. The representative from WMO informed the Meeting that the UNFCCC COP has invited WMO to submit a report on the State of Climate Services. It is expected to become the regular report that provides hydromet gap analysis with respect to climate services.

Decision 10: The 10th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee takes place on 5 December 2019, from 12.30 – 3.00 pm in the margins of COP 25. It will be open to observers. It will hear of the status of progress of the CREWS portfolio of projects, review, discuss and approve additional funding for West Africa and set the ground for positioning CREWS post- 2020.

Decision 11: The 11th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee would be held in the second quarter of 2020 for the Contributing Partners only.

Agenda Item 4 – AOB and wrap-up

37. The Chair reminded the Meeting that the position of Steering Committee Chair is open for 2020. The Chair strongly invited members to express an interest to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee for 2020 and a decision is expected at the 10th meeting.

38. The Decisions of the 9th Steering Committee meeting were approved.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	STATUS
Australia	Margalit Levin	Online
France	Vincent Szeleper	Online
	Arnaut Rayar	Online
Germany	Martin Kipping	Online
	Patrick Smytzek	Online
Luxembourg (Chair)	Georges Gehl	In person
	Cherryl Dentzer	In person
The Netherlands	Marjolein Geusebroek	Online
Switzerland	Sergio Perez	In person
	Antonia Sutter	Online
OBSERVERS	NAMES	STATUS
Canada	Shannon deGraaf	Online
EC DEVCO	Jose-Carlos Edo Monfort	Online
	Duccio Tenti	Online
UK DFID	Marc Ducroquet-Lavin	Online
	Rosalind West	Online
	Saskia Goldman	Online
	Andrew Leslie	online
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAMES	STATUS
UNDRR	Paola Albrito	Online
	Sandra Amlang	Online
WB	Julie Dana	Online
	Vladimir Tsirkunov	Online
	Niels Holm Nielsen	Online
	Henriette Mampuya	Online
	Lorenzo Carrera	Online
	Anna Maria Bogdanova	Online
	Roland Bradshaw	Online
	Aratti Belle	Online

	Hugo Thomas Wesley	Online
WMO	Mary Power	In person
	Maxx Dilley	Online
	Jean Baptiste Migraine	In person
	Jason Thomas Watkins	In person
TRUSTEE	NAMES	STATUS
	Larissa Vovk	Online
	Ronald Chari	Online
WMO/CER	NAMES	STATUS
	Paul Egerton	In person
WMO/DP	Lorena Santamaria	In person
	Tamara Comment	In person
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	STATUS
	John Harding	In person
	Maria Lourdes Kathleen Macasil	In person
	Catherine Thompson	In person
	Srivedant Kar	In person

1.00– 1.45

Item 1 – Opening

- Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting
- Review of Decisions taken at the 8th Meeting
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Update by WMO on change process/implications for CREWS Secretariat
- Update by CREWS Secretariat including briefing on the Status of the Country Support Initiative (CSI), Alliance for Hydromet Development and Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)
- Update by Trustee

1.45– 3.15

Item 2 – Country project decisions

- Review for approval of CREWS Project Proposal for Haiti
- Update on Status of Project Preparation for Additional Financing for West Africa
- Proposed decision on the inclusion in the list of pipeline countries for additional funding for the Pacific Region

3.15– 3.45

Item 3 – Outreach and Advocacy

- Follow-up to discussions and outcomes of the recent UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit; Briefing on REAP by DfID
- Update on the Status of Discussions on contribution to the CREWS of the European Commission as part of the framework of the Intra-ACP EDF 11
- Preparations of CREWS Events at UNFCCC COP 25 (date/venue TBC)

3.45– 4.00

Item 4 – Wrap-up

- Any other business and invitations of interest in the next Chair of the Steering Committee
- Approval by the Steering Committee of the Decisions taken at the meeting

The objective of the CREWS initiative is to significantly increase the capacity to generate and communicate effective impact-based, multi-hazard, gender-informed, early warnings and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

CREWS Members



Australia



France
(Chair)



Germany



Luxembourg



Netherlands



Switzerland

CREWS Observers



Canada



Finland



Japan



Mexico



New
Zealand



Norway



UNDP
Empowerment.
Inclusion.
Sustainable
Development.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ACP

CREWS Implementing Partners



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



WORLD BANK GROUP



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction