Proposal for a CREWS Operational Practice Compilation

1. The CREWS Steering Committee, at its Sixth Meeting, requested: "The CREWS Secretariat to work with the Implementing Partners to develop a proposal to document operational practices across the CREWS Regional and Country initiatives including defining the scope, coverage and modalities for such an exercise and present the proposal at the meeting of the Steering Committee that will take place in the margins of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24) in December 2018." (SC6, Decision 2)

2. In consultation with the CREWS Implementing Partners, the Secretariat has developed the following proposal for the Steering Committee's consideration.

I. Summary

3. This note proposes that CREWS undertake six practice compilations, one in each of the six thematic areas to which it is committed across its country and regional projects. (i.e., sustained engagement with country institutions, coherence promotion, solution orientation, people-centered focus, gender-sensitive approach and investment multiplier).

4. Before undertaking the compilations of practices, CREWS will develop short fact files for each of the projects that briefly identify information pertaining to the six proposed thematic practice areas.

5. The fact files and the thematic practices will draw on innovative and good practices of other on-going or previous initiatives in the country/region, based on their relevance to CREWS programming.

II. Background

6. Numerous initiatives to strengthen early warning systems are underway across the globe, leaning on a well-established body of knowledge on what constitutes an effective early warning system.

7. The compilation and neutral analysis of *innovative practices in the implementation and application* of effective early warning systems by development partners is not readily available. In order to learn from effective programme implementation, there is a need to identify, collect and analyse practices to distil key elements for replication, expansion and collaboration.

8. As CREWS projects are in the early phases of implementation, the time is right to identify and reflect upon its own practices as well as those of other initiatives operating in the same countries or regions. Such reflection will enable CREWS to identify successful elements and opportunities to better address challenges.

9. There is a demand from countries and practitioners to strengthen the community of practice around weather, climate and hydrological service for early warning systems, to facilitate the exchange around innovative approach to address challenges affecting national institution. These include lack of maintenance of equipment, human resources, budget and tools, as well as to share examples of how to develop agreements between institutions, capacity and needs assessments technical specifications for hydromet equipment and related procurements.

10. A CREWS practice compilation will contribute to such a cross-fertilization, knowledge management and knowledge exchange, while supporting the collection of resources and relevant

outputs for each of its project, to facilitate adaptation and scaling-up of relevant solutions in different countries.

11. Currently, CREWS Implementing Partners monitor and report on their activities biannually but no system is in place to encourage systematic reflection upon successes and challenges in the pursuit of continuous learning and improvement across CREWS projects.

12. Climate financing mechanisms would also benefit from documentation of approaches that should be scaled up. CREWS, as the only global initiative dedicated solely to the strengthening of early warning systems, is well positioned to lead a systematic review of practices to benefit the broader community and better target development funding.

III.   Objectives

13. The compilation will contribute to CREWS' commitment to continuous learning and to developing feedback loops for so-called 'agile or transformative development operations'.

14. The proposed set of practices will build the knowledge base to strengthen CREWS country investments and those of the larger community engaged in improving weather and climate services and early warning systems.

15. They will provide an opportunity for development partners to learn and exchange on practices that are working and can be replicated across CREWS projects and other initiatives and identify challenges that require an adapted approach.

16. The reviews will contribute to the knowledge management efforts of:
    (i)   UNFCCC processes collecting practices, specifically the SUVA Dialogue under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage;
    (ii) The Global Framework for Climate Services' efforts to harness knowledge for capacity development under its Disaster Risk Reduction priority area;
    (iii) The recently announced Alliance for Hydromet Development (WMO, World Bank, GCF and others);
    (iv) Potential discussions on the topic at the next G20 Summit;
    (v)   Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019, in particular the session on innovation, and related processes under the Sendai Framework;
    (vi) The Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference to be held in Geneva, immediately prior to the Global Platform;
    (vii) Mid-term review of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway).

IV.   Scope

17. The six practice reviews will be based on country/region fact files. The fact files will provide an overview of practices for each CREWS project, including those of relevant initiatives beyond CREWS, in all six thematic areas. Each practice review will draw out practices for its specific theme from each country/region fact file.

18. Practices will be identified throughout the project cycle in project design, implementation and evaluation.

19. The proposed six themes for the practice reviews are:

    (i) Sustained engagement with country institutions: How are country programmes driven by the expertise and specialist networks of the CREWS partners?
        - Strengthening institutional capacity and inter-institutional operational procedures

- Aligning implementing partners and their respective expertise, networks of partners and ongoing programmes and operations
- Ensuring programming contributes to the long-term strengthening of NMHS and other early warning agencies by establishing processes that outlive the project's lifetime

(ii) Coherence promotion: How do programmes consider and build upon existing projects to ensure added value in the national context?
- Promoting common plans/strategies in countries, linked to broader climate change, disaster risk reduction and development plans, with country partners and other initiatives
- Mapping previous and existing initiatives before initiating projects to identify activities to build upon and avoid unproductive overlap

(iii) Solution orientation: How is agile learning promoted to continuously adapt and improve national and regional projects?
- Identifying and collecting practices and analysing lessons and opportunities from CREWS and external programming
- Incorporating innovative approaches and aligning global guidance and norms and programmes across the early warning value-chain

(iv) People-centred focus: How does programming ensure investments are driven by the needs of the most vulnerable?
- Identifying and engaging at-risk social groups and key institutions
- Understanding people's access to information and communication channels for warning dissemination

(v) Gender-sensitive approach: How do programmes empower women to access, process, and respond to information and warnings for resilience?
- Identifying and engaging representative women's groups
- Tailoring programming to ensure women receive information and warnings

(vi) Multiplying investments: How do portfolios promote a favourable environment for, and leveraging of, effective additional financing?
- Defining *leveraging* and demonstrating how it works systematically, through CREWS Implementing Partners, Steering Committee proceedings and other development partners.

V. Modalities for Capturing Practices

20. In consultation with CREWS Implementing Partners, the CREWS Secretariat will lead in the development of the country/region fact files and the thematic practice reviews. Implementing Partners will be required to contribute to and assist in reviewing the fact files for accuracy and add detail as needed. The Secretariat will subsequently analyse the fact files to draft the thematic practice reviews. The Secretariat will manage the internal consultation with the Steering Committee and other stakeholders. The Secretariat will work with the Implementing Partners to ensure wide dissemination of the practice reviews.

21. In their biannual reports, Implementing Partners will reflect on their practices under the six Outputs of the Monitoring Framework, and in more detail, in the "lessons learned" section. Implementing Partners will capture practices in the six themes identified (Section IV, Scope) in CREWS projects as well as other initiatives they deem particularly relevant. Implementing Partners will share with the Secretariat programme documents, such as reports of project stakeholder meetings, to support analysis. Implementing Partners will also facilitate contact for the Secretariat with initiatives whose practices should be analysed in the reviews.

22. Based on priority themes identified by the CREWS Steering Committee, the country/region fact files and the first practice reviews will be developed between January and July 2019.

23. Estimated budget for the development of the fact files and practice compilation is USD 80,000. Contributions will be sought from other development partners interested in participating in this exercise.

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	USAID	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