

**7th Meeting of the
Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
(CREWS) Steering Committee**

MEETING REPORT

6 December 2018, Katowice, Poland

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 7th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held on 6 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.
2. Representatives from CREWS Contributing Partners: Australia, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Switzerland; invited Observers: Finland and New Zealand; CREWS Implementing Partners: the World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as well as the CREWS Trustee and the CREWS Secretariat, connected to, or attended, the meeting (Annex 1 – List of Participants).

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, Objectives of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee, Ms. Brigitte Collet, French Ambassador for Climate Change Negotiations, Renewable Energy and Climate Risk Prevention welcomed participants and recognised Switzerland as a new financial contributor.
4. The representative from Switzerland confirmed a CHF 9 million contribution to the CREWS Trust Fund. The representative stated the role of early warning for the Swiss Development Cooperation work.
5. The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting followed by the adoption of an amended agenda (Annex 2 Amended Meeting Agenda)

Agenda Item 2 – Decisions taken at the Sixth Meeting, Reports by the Chair, the Secretariat and the Trustee

6. The Secretariat referred to CREWS/SC.7/infdoc.1 presenting the status of progress on decisions taken at the 6th meeting.
7. The Chair noted that there were two areas – already postponed at the 6th Steering Committee meeting - not addressed in the agenda due to time constraints: programming for people-centred approaches and cooperating with InsuResilience. The Chair recommended – with no objection from the members – that the Secretariat facilitate consultations on the proposals by email ahead of the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee.
8. The Secretariat reported on its activities, reminding meeting participants that the work of the Secretariat is outlined in its annual work plan. Priority areas are; support to the Steering Committee; working closely with the Implementing Partners to support their programme delivery; measuring the effectiveness of early warning systems; working jointly with the Chair on resource mobilisation; and facilitating advocacy and promotion of the work of CREWS and its Implementing Partners.
9. The Secretariat is continuing to strengthen its network and engagement with other partners, mostly through the Implementing Partners. The number of expert institutions engaging in CREWS country projects is also increasing.

10. For communication, the main tool remains the CREWS website portal linked to the website of the Implementing Partners; the Secretariat has started a twitter account; CREWS has been identified as a good practice in a Climate Change Adaptation publication developed for the G20 in Argentina; the Secretariat has also recently submitted a paper for inclusion in the GAR 2019 publication which addresses the issue of measuring the effectiveness of early warning systems. For knowledge products CREWS Secretariat has contributed to the revision of the multi-hazard early warning checklist and the post-disaster assessment of early warning systems in the Caribbean.
11. For the next six months, the Secretariat will be focussing on preparing for the 8th Steering Committee meeting; supporting the Implementing Partners with the roll-out of new projects; developing a resource mobilisation game plan; promoting early warning and CREWS at key events such as the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction, the WMO Early Warning Conference planned immediately prior, the G20 in Japan, the WMO Congress and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit; the Secretariat will also initiate, as per the Steering Committee's request, one post-disaster early warning assessment; and develop the first three CREWS Practice Compilations in close cooperation with the Implementing Partners.
12. The representative from the Trustee reported on the financial status of the CREWS Trust Fund, referring to the report prepared by the Trustee as of 30 September 2018 (CREWS/SC.7/infdoc.3). The Trustee noted that due to efficient allocation of resources by the Steering Committee, almost all contributed funds had been allocated as at the reporting date. The Trustee also reported on the recent signing of the agreement with Switzerland, resulting in approximately USD 10.2 million now available for commitments.
13. The Trustee reported that USD 35.97 million in contribution receipts had been received, and that investment income on balances has amounted to USD 0.025 million. The Trustee advised that just under USD 2 million of contribution receipts is expected to be received to the end of fiscal year 2019 under the existing signed Contribution Agreements; the total that would be available for new commitments by the CREWS Steering Committee to the end of FY 2019 would be just over USD 12 million, absent any new contributions.
14. The Trustee also advised that the Steering Committee would need to be set aside funds by June 30, 2019 to cover the CREWS administrative budget for FY 2020.
15. The Trustee reminded members of the site <http://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/Pages/crews.aspx> where members can obtain near real time information on contributions and cash transfers.

Agenda Item 3 – Measuring progress and knowledge products

16. The Secretariat outlined the proposed changes to the CREWS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. To facilitate the review process, four key guiding questions were developed:
 - I. Can the result statements be made more relevant based on one year of operational practice?
 - II. Are they easily measurable?
 - III. Are they aligned to the CREWS' value proposition as outlined in the Investment Case?
 - IV. Are they sufficiently reflective of the four components of an effective multi-hazard early warning systems?

17. It is proposed to retain the high-level result statements which includes the CREWS Objective, the Final Outcomes and the Intermediate Outcomes (CREWS/SC.7/workdoc.3). The main areas of focus for modification were the Regional and National Outputs. The Regional outputs were reduced to one and reads *Institutional and human capacities at Regional WMO and intergovernmental organizations to provide regional climate/weather services to LDCs and SIDS increased.*
18. The Secretariat further reported that the National level outputs were reduced from eight to six. These are:
- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services service delivery improved, including the development of long-term service delivery strategies and development plans.
 - Risk information to guide early warning systems and climate and weather services developed and accessible.
 - Information and communication technology, including common alerting protocols, strengthened.
 - Preparedness and Response plans with operational procedures that outlines early warning dissemination processes strengthened and accessible.
 - Knowledge products and awareness programmes on early warnings developed.
 - Gender-sensitive training, capacity building programmes provided
19. The representative from Switzerland invited the Secretariat to build on the outputs and to further develop indicators, baseline and criteria for the evaluation of the CREWS initiative.
20. The representative of Germany indicated that it would be interesting to include the number of beneficiaries of the CREWS investments to allow members to understand how the interventions are reaching people in their respective countries.
21. The Secretariat informed that currently there is no provisions for external evaluations adding that it stands ready to carry out such processes once the Steering Committee has decided that it is time to do so and has also decided on the modalities for the evaluation.
22. The Secretariat provided an overview of the proposed Risk Management approach. The approach clarifies existing procedures that are set-out in the CREWS Governance document. The Secretariat indicated that the Governance document is clear on the accountability and managing of risks for the project portfolios, adding that these roles and responsibilities were further defined in the agreements that were signed between the Implementing Partners, the Trustee and the Contributing Partners - see CREWS/SC.7/workdoc.4.
23. The representative for Switzerland remarked that the Risk Management document, as presented, focused more on project performance than on risk assessment and queried how the latter will be addressed. The Secretariat responded by reiterating that risk analysis was done by each of the Implementing Partners utilising their individual institution's existing risk analysis framework.
24. The representative of the Netherlands suggested risks to the projects should also be made through prior assessments and not only those done during project development.
25. Regarding the proposed project performance criteria, the representative of Switzerland recommended that two additional factors be included: firstly, on financial sustainability and secondly the engagement component that will include country ownership which will also factor political risks such as government changes or changes in their priorities.

26. The Secretariat provided an overview of the proposed approach for the CREWS practice compilations. The Secretariat indicated that this proposal was about documenting the experiences with operationalizing early warning systems where CREWS portfolios exist - see CREWS/SC.7/workdoc.5.
27. The Steering Committee was also reminded that it requested the Secretariat to look at the opportunities beyond CREWS where the practices can be applied to other types of processes.
28. The representative of the Netherlands acknowledged the long history of project implementation among the members and suggested that the practice document be seen as a rolling one where it can be updated regularly to reflect any new and innovative practices.
29. The Switzerland representative also suggested that the Secretariat consider an online platform to host the practice document to allow for easy access and updating.
30. The Secretariat indicated that this initiative has some potential for partnering with others like the UK DFID's WISER programme, UNDP and the Green Climate Fund.
31. The Secretariat reminded the members that the main instrument to show progress on CREWS projects was the CREWS Annual Report along with the project status reports shared by the Implementing Partners. The Secretariat stated that these will remain instrumental with the practice compilation performing a complementary role.

Decision 1: The Steering Committee approves the revised CREWS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and requests the Secretariat to revise the *CREWS Operational Procedures Note N°2*, as well as the related template for reporting project progress, to reflect the changes accordingly.

Decision 2: The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to revise the proposed Risk Management Approach based on suggestions made at the meeting and to circulate it via email 30 January 2019 for approval by members.

Decisions 3: The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to revise the proposal for CREWS Country Practice Compilation, based on the comments made at the meeting, and to circulate it 30 January 2019 along with a detailed budget, by email, for the Steering Committee's consideration and approval.

Agenda Item 4 – Status of CREWS Projects and Pipeline

32. The Secretariat provided an overview of the overall status of the CREWS portfolio highlighting that to date USD 23 476 205 has been allocated to ten initiatives, adding that two have been successfully completed.
33. The Secretariat reported that, at the national level progress has been reported by the Implementing Partners against Output 1 which states *National Meteorological and Hydrological Services service delivery improved, including the development of long-term service delivery strategies and development plans*. The other outputs with some progress are *Gender-sensitive training, capacity building programmes provided and Knowledge products and awareness programmes on early warning systems developed*. Of the six outputs, the area showing the least

amount of progress is *Preparedness and response plans with operational procedures that outlines early warning dissemination processes developed and accessible.*

34. The WMO representative highlighted, using a matrix of the CREWS WMO projects, the countries where initiatives were being implemented. WMO representative presented its role as the provision of advisory services to the hydro-met institutions to enable them to make better decisions and to optimise the resources they have, including those from other partners such as the Green Climate Fund and the World Bank. He stated that overall the CREWS projects were coordinated with other investments.
35. The WMO representative reported that there is progress being made across the projects, adding that significant progress has been made in the carrying out of assessments. He stated that there were some delays in the Papua New Guinea initiative which was linked to getting the Letter of Agreement signed between the national meteorological service and their Australian counterpart but informed the meeting that the agreement was signed recently.
36. In terms of the leveraging potential of projects, the WMO referred to the need to provide the right advice, training and technical expertise to enable sustained use of resources to leverage additional funding. For example, in the case of Mali, CREWS funding of USD3million implemented by the World Bank with the technical assistance of the WMO, helped to leverage the USD23 million provided by the GCF and USD24 million from IDA.
37. The World Bank representative provided an overview of their CREWS project portfolio. As a financing institution, the World Bank considers that one of their main value added to the CREWS initiative is the ability to bring development financing into the equation through better demonstration of the economic benefits of hydromet services to the decision-making ministries. Lack of the long-term investments in hydromet and EWS has been identified as one of the critical challenges facing hydromet institutions in Africa and elsewhere. The World Bank representative referred to its experience in hydromet programmes that dates back to the 1990's. He added that since 2010 its investment has quadrupled to just under USD 900 million in financing across the various regions for hydromet and early warning services.
38. The World Bank representative highlighted that some of the core challenges of CREWS projects were institutional and linked to demonstrating to governments the high socio-economic value of NMHS. He stated that the World Bank's experience has shown that an increased focus on hydromet service delivery through better engagement with users was needed.
39. The World Bank is leading the implementation of the four CREWS projects; the DRC, Mali, Niger and in the new programme in the Caribbean include regional project which is implemented by the WMO and the UNISDR. The World Bank is also involved in coordinating in the regional West Africa work, in Burkina Faso and in a number of other areas.
40. The World Bank representative stated that for all of its CREWS engagements, it effectively links the grant funding with broader development support and additional financing such as from the International Development Association, Green Climate Fund, or Global Environmental Facility, thus scaling up the development impact of these operations ensuring long-term sustainability.
41. Gender was identified as a core element that was factored into all of the projects, which all benefit from gender disaggregated indicators.

42. The representative from UNISDR reminded members of their engagement in the CREWS Caribbean regional initiative, the representative stated that their focus was primarily on building on the gender findings contained in the WMO Caribbean 2017 Hurricane Season an evidence-based assessment of the early warning system. He stated that UNISDR's involvement will be facilitated through the Panama Regional Office. He added that following the launch of the project and a coordination meeting between the three Implementing Partners, his colleagues have indicated that a critical area that must be managed is the sustained dialogue between the disaster risk management institutions and the national meteorological services.
43. The representative from Switzerland questioned the Secretariat on financial sustainability, in particular how it will be guaranteed and how will countries pay for those services in a sustained way. The representative also stated that the issue of country ownership which is one of CREWS programming principle is not factored in the proposed value propositions. He also requested clarification on the people-centred aspect of the projects indicating that the operational practice compilation may provide more insight to this area.
44. Members called on the Secretariat to revise the format and detail of information regarding the status of progress on country projects and related budgets.
45. The World Bank representative indicated that among the five pipeline countries approved by the Steering Committee at its 6th meeting (June 2018) in Geneva, Chad, Togo and Afghanistan were proposed as the next countries where full project proposals would be developed. Each country initiative being proposed was about USD 3 million, with Togo being slightly smaller (USD 2.2 million).
46. The Implementing Partners provide a brief insight to the needs and the local realities for Afghanistan. They reminded the members that there were concept notes previously prepared for each country and that they stand ready to work with each of the proposed three country institutions to initiate projects, and World Bank, as the lead implementing partner for the three initiatives, will lead in developing the project proposals for Chad, Togo and Afghanistan.

Decision 4: The Steering Committee invites the lead Implementing Partner to develop project proposals in coordination with the other Implementing Partners for Chad, Togo and Afghanistan, in-line with the procedures set-out in the *CREWS Operational Procedures Note N^o1 Programming and Project Development* and to submit the proposals to the Steering Committee at latest by the 8th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee, through the Secretariat, for consideration, review and approval for funding.

Agenda Item 5 – Scaling Up CREWS

47. The Secretariat indicated that the development of the proposed CREWS Investment Case allowed for greater focus on what value-added CREWS brings to the early warning environment.
48. The Secretariat requested feedback on the document as it is expected to be one of the tools used to provide input into building CREWS moving forwards.

49. The representative of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) outlined the funds work on building hydromet capacity in developing countries. He stated that the objectives of CREWS were aligned with their country work in early warnings. He informed of a Memorandum of Understanding with WMO to improve climate services to their country projects. He stated that a partnership with CREWS made sense as there will be a need to upscale their interventions in an effective manner. He further stated that CREWS already afforded them an opportunity to know who is doing what and where.

Agenda Item 6 – Objectives for the next meeting and the new Chair of the Steering Committee

50. It was agreed that the 8th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee would take place in the second quarter of 2019 and discuss, among other things the project proposals for Chad, Togo and Afghanistan, a proposal to streamline the Secretariat's costs and also preparation for CREWS at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and WMO Congress.

51. The 9th Meeting would possibly take place in the margins of COP25.

52. The Chair announced that Luxembourg had expressed its willingness to be the incoming Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee. Members expressed their appreciation both to the outgoing and incoming Chairs.

Decisions 5: The 8th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will be a half-day video-connection meeting of the Contributing Partners to go over, inter-alia, financial decisions regarding the projects, administrative matters and will tentatively take place in the second quarter of 2019.

Decision 6: The 9th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will be a half day meeting, including Contributing Partners and Observers, possibly in the margins of COP25.

Decision 7: The Steering Committee approves the nomination of the Government of Luxembourg to serve as the Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee for the calendar year 2019.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	PARTICIPATION
Australia	Russell Miles	In person
France	Brigitte Collet	In person
	Arnaud Rayar	In person
	Vincent Szeleper	In person
Germany	Philipp Knill	In person
Luxembourg	Georges Gehl	In person
Netherlands	Piet de Wildt	In person
Switzerland	Sergio Perez	In person
	Antonia Sutter	In person
OBSERVERS/INVITEES	NAMES	PARTICIPATION
Canada	Marie-Elaine Boivin	Online
Finland	Hanna-Mari Ahonen	In person
New Zealand	Margot Gibson	In person
GCF	Ousmane Pa	In person
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAMES	PARTICIPATION
UNISDR	David Stevens	In person
WB	Bernice Van Bronkhorst	In person
	Stephen Hammer	In person
	Niels Holm-Nielsen	Online
	Julie Dana	Online
	Manuela Chiapparino	Online
	Vladimir Tsirkunov	Online
	Makoto Suwa	Online
	Henriette Mampuya	Online
	Anna-Maria Bogdanova	Online
	Victoire Carrasco	Online
WMO	Maxx Dilley	In person
	Jean-Baptiste Migraine	In person
	Josephine Wilson	In person
TRUSTEE	NAMES	PARTICIPATION
	Jonathan Caldicott	Online
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	PARTICIPATION
	John Harding	Online
	Catherine Thompson	In person
	Donna Pierre	In person

Annex 2 - Provisional Agenda

Thursday 6 December 2018, from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

- 1.00 – 1.20 Item 1 – Opening**
- Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting
 - Review of Decisions taken at the 6th Meeting
 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.20 – 1.30 Item 2 – Chair of the Steering Committee**
- Appointment of incoming Chair and handover
- 1.30 – 1.50 Item 3 – Status of CREWS**
- Reports by the Secretariat and the Trustee
- 1.50 – 2.30 Item 4 – Status of CREWS projects and pipelines**
- Overview by the Secretariat and the Implementing Partners
 - Countries where projects are to be initiated from the pipeline list
- 2.30 – 3.15 Item 5 – Scaling-up CREWS**
- Presentation of the CREWS Investment Case
 - Leverage the Green Climate Fund (GCF) - GCF Representative
- 3.15– 3.50 Item 6 – Measuring progress and knowledge products**
- CREWS M&E Framework revisions
 - Documenting operational practices proposal
- 3.50 – 4.00 Item 7 – Wrap-up**
- Approval of Decisions
 - Dates for the 8th and 9th Meetings

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



CREWS Observers



CREWS Implementing Partners

