

Fourth Meeting of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) Steering Committee

6 September 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

MEETING REPORT

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

CREWS Observers



Canada



Japan



New Zealand



Norway



Switzerland



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

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The Fourth Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held on 6 September 2017.
2. Representatives from Australia, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Switzerland, USAID, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) attended the meeting (Annex 1—list of participants). Luxembourg and UNISDR sent their regrets and confirmed their participation in the next Steering Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, Adoption of the Agenda and Decisions Taken at the Third Meeting

3. The Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee, Ms. Brigitte Collet, French Ambassador for Climate Change Negotiations, Renewable Energy and Climate Risk Prevention outlined the objectives of the meeting followed by the adoption of the agenda (Annex 2—Meeting Agenda).
4. In the review of Decisions taken at the Third Meeting, the Secretariat provided an overview of proposed revisions to the Investment Plan and to the CREWS Operational Procedures Notes N°1 and N°2.
5. The revisions to the Investment Plan reflect the programming needs and funding priorities for the regional projects for the Caribbean and Western Africa, and are included in a new Annex 1 of the Investment Plan (workdoc.3).
6. The proposed revisions to Operational Procedures Note N°1 on Programming and Project Development (workdoc.4) and to Operational Procedures Note N°2 on Monitoring and Evaluation (workdoc.5) reflect changes required to achieve programmes and a monitoring and evaluation frame that are gender-sensitive, to align the earlier Notes with the newly approved Operational Note N°3 on gender-sensitive programming. Proposed revisions include gender related criteria for mapping early warning system status and needs, for project proposals templates and for monitoring and reporting on project implementation. The revisions proposed expand upon existing indicators to disaggregate data and include new indicators to reflect specific measures to promote gender equality in CREWS programming.
7. The representative of the Trustee (World Bank) referred to the Trustee’s most recent Financial Report on the status of the CREWS Trust Fund (FIF), as of 31 July 2017, circulated to the Steering Committee (infdoc.1). That report showed that available funds for new allocations by the Steering Committee amounted to USD 0.99 million. The Trustee also reported that, subsequent to the reporting date, the Trustee had signed the Contribution Agreement with the Netherlands, providing for a contribution of USD 3.35 million over three years. The first instalment payment of USD 1.125 million is expected in the coming weeks; upon its receipt the amount available for Steering Committee decisions would increase to approximately USD 2.115 million. In accordance with current signed contribution agreements, no additional instalment payments are expected before January 2018. Finally, the Trustee reported that it had transferred USD 8.68 million to CREWS Implementing Partners up to the 31 July 2017 reporting date.
8. The Chair noted that the Trustee’s report would indicate that there were funds available to potentially start the CREWS project in Papua New Guinea and that this would require a subsequent decision by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Decision 1:

The Steering Committee approves the Revised CREWS Investment Plan 2016-2020, the Revised CREWS Operational Procedures Notes N°1 on Programming and Project Development and the Revised CREWS Operational Procedures Notes N°2 on Monitoring and Evaluation.

Steering Committee Decision 2:

The Secretariat is to circulate a proposed decision, by email, to commit funds, on a no-objection basis, for the project proposal for Papua New Guinea (the project proposal was approved, pending the availability of funds in the FIF, at the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee).

Agenda Item 2 – Update on Status of Regional Projects for the Caribbean and Western Africa

9. Representatives from the Implementing Partners WMO and GFDRR briefly outlined progress and collaboration in the previous months to finalize the regional project proposals for the Caribbean and Western Africa.
10. In the Caribbean, early warning and climate information are priorities for the region—as reflected by the number of inclusions in the countries’ and territories’ National Determined Contributions, developed under the UNFCCC. A point further highlighted by the advances of hurricane Irma during the Steering Committee Meeting—yet needs exceed available resources. National capacity varies in the region; some countries have access to global and regional systems while others do not. Institutional capacity at regional level is good, in particular among prospective partners the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). Through these partnerships the project would take a comprehensive disaster risk management approach. Deliverables of the regional project include (1) institutional strengthening and the development of a regional strategy to strengthen and streamline early warning and hydrometeorological services; and (2) capacity building for observation, data management and forecasting.
11. Regarding the Caribbean regional project, GFDRR and WMO informed (infdoc.2) that joint consultations were planned for October so as to present the project for approval in November 2017, pending the availability of funds in the FIF.
12. For the Western Africa regional project, WMO identified key priorities for on-going country projects in Africa as well as the added value of the proposed regional project (infdoc.3). The regional project would enable a cascading or circulating operational system that would support the CREWS West Africa country projects by transmitting data and requirements from countries to regional and global centers, and in turn, forecasts and other outputs from regional and global centers to countries. The benefits of the current regional project proposal is that it leverages other investments beyond CREWS, will result in improved early warning systems through the exchange of data and model outputs between national hydrometeorological services and regional centers, and allow for the identification of needs and next steps for further improvements.
13. The CREWS regional project proposal will include a list of other relevant projects planned and on-going in the region. Netherlands welcomed this analysis and requested that project descriptions identify links with other (non-CREWS) projects. USAID offered to share information on a regional project it is concluding that could be useful to the CREWS projects.

Steering Committee Decision 3

Implementing Partners to finalize the consultations on both regional projects (Caribbean and West Africa) to be submitted through the CREWS Secretariat, for the Steering Committee’s consideration and approval for funding pending the availability of funds in the FIF.

Agenda Item 3 – Financing Plan for the CREWS FIF

14. The Chair introduced the agenda item on CREWS financing by noting that 70 per cent of funds pledged to the FIF have now been committed. Nevertheless there are projects that are not yet financed and there is the potential for scaling up CREWS activities to cover more countries. The target set at COP21 to reverse current trends in loss of life and livelihoods in LDCs and SIDS is USD100 million. At present CREWS has garnered pledges amounting to USD30 million (USD 22.83 million of pledges and contributions to the trust fund + USD 8.0 million equivalent contribution by the Government of Canada to WMO).
15. The Third Steering Committee had requested the Secretariat to present the outlines of an investment case for CREWS (infdoc.4). The Secretariat described the opportunity of investing in climate risk and early warning systems, the current regional distribution of funds and the incentives in place to distribute funds programmatically beyond observation and forecasting to address user needs. The anticipated CREWS value proposition is its policy alignment and accountability, its built-in mechanisms for transparency and effectiveness, its commitment to leveraging existing and guiding new investments, and its ability to build the capacity of national systems to allocate public investment budgets to support weather and climate services. As a pooled fund, CREWS improves coherence and reduces costs. CREWS pushes for effective programming by ensuring investments are made against an updated and long-term planning process on early warning systems; national hydrometeorological and disaster risk management agencies are linked from the outset; gender equality measures are integrated into planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting; and activities catalyse Implementing Partners' programmes and networks.
16. In addition to covering current programming decisions for the Caribbean and West Africa, the CREWS proposed funding objectives for 2018-2020 include reaching 10 new countries. Six countries that were identified at the early stages of the CREWS programming process as at high risk, strong demand for early warning services and with leveraging potential include Chad, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Senegal and Uganda. Moreover, Pacific region countries have identified countries and programme components that would benefit from scaling up and deepening/broadening CREWS efforts, as detailed in the presentation document.
17. The Chair welcomed the document and identified the need for a strategic discussion at the next Steering Commitment in November 2017 to exchange ideas on three elements of the financing plan: (1) sharpening the investment case, (2) plans for the future (for example in the Pacific) and (3) a financial strategy. The Chair highlighted the need to move now to secure the funds required to meet at least the original CREWS target. The Chair's proposal to address the three elements at the November meeting was seconded by Netherlands. Netherlands also suggested further clarifying the niche or added value of CREWS to motivate additional partners.
18. GFDRR noted that it took some time to set up mechanisms but now partners are well coordinated and systems are in place, which enables CREWS to start projects swiftly. GFDRR reconfirmed its commitment to show results quickly. Proof of the success of CREWS is country demand for support, as several countries are in the funding pipeline.
19. The Chair referred to France's engagement to continue supporting CREWS and shared ideas for further resource mobilization, including:
 - 1) Reaching out to potential new contributing countries to support CREWS. The Chair encouraged CREWS Members to serve as 'CREWS ambassadors' in their respective engagements with potential partner countries.
 - 2) Increasing and extending current contributions by Members.
 - 3) Showing results: the best investment case is CREWS' performance. At COP23, CREWS needs to showcase its projects to demonstrate concrete action on the ground.

Germany further emphasized COP23 as a good opportunity to engage with a public that is not aware of the benefits of early warning systems.

Steering Committee Decision 4:

CREWS Secretariat to finalize the CREWS Investment Case, as a short document, in consultation with the Steering Committee and the Implementing Partners, for circulation prior to UNFCCC COP23.

Agenda Item 4 – CREWS-Related Events at UNFCCC COP23

20. The Chair invited Members to share information on events planned for COP23 (infdoc.5). Germany advised that it was preparing two events: A high-level event through BMZ Fiji and Fiji UNFCCC COP team on risk, risk transfer and instruments to help Pacific islands deal with disasters. In this event, CREWS visibility would be limited as it is a partnership with Fiji but an event that could give CREWS visibility is a stakeholder forum planned for 16 November 2017. The whole-day platform aims to engage as many experts as possible on risk finance and its integration into risk management. Germany offers to discuss with the Secretariat opportunities to showcase CREWS activities to a wider audience. The event will take place outside the COP zone but near the venue and aims to attract stakeholders beyond governments, including those with a risk management or sustainable development background. The goal is to engage more people on the topic of risk and EWS. The representative of Germany invited any interested participants to contact him regarding the stakeholder forum on risk transfer and management.
21. The Chair welcomed the opportunity to discuss collaboration with Germany on its events and announced that France is planning to hold a CREWS event in the French Pavilion with ministers during the second week of COP. The event will follow the same format as that of last year in Marrakech, which included a video followed by two panels of financing or implementing partners and representatives of countries. It will be important for the Pacific region and Africa CREWS partners to be well represented.
22. France, on behalf of CREWS, is also cosponsoring on Friday 10 November at 13:30 an event with EUMETSAT/Copernicus entitled “Open data and local capacities to support the global response to climate change.” The event will comprise two panels, one of which features CREWS, and is in the COP’s official programme. The format of the panel is open and France welcomes proposals for participation.
23. WMO is preparing an island event to be held during the second week of COP entitled “Leaders in Island Resilience” with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), The Nature Conservancy, the European Commission and Okeanos-Foundation for the Sea. It will be a high-level event, hosted by the President of Palau. Head of delegations of CREWS partners will receive invitations.
24. The Chair stated France would provide an update on preparations of the CREWS event as details are confirmed and reiterated the need to show implementation is underway to mobilize additional support.

Agenda Item 5 - CREWS Website

25. The Secretariat outlined progress made in the development of the CREWS website and presented a preview of six of the webpages developed to date (infdoc.6). CREWS Implementing Partners guided the website’s development through a workshop where they identified the website’s objectives, functions, and target audiences. Partners agreed on the website objectives

as: keeping the Steering Committee and donors updated on progress and decisions; informing potential investors about CREWS activities and procedures; connecting Implementing Partners and national focal points; and informing experts from each sector and specialized agencies about progress in projects and early warning status. The website will feature CREWS projects and include a tab on “impacts” that will show status of early warning in countries and regions using graphics. As CREWS is a partnership, Implementing Partners will utilize the same information about CREWS projects on their own websites. Similarly, relevant news featured by GFDRR, UNISDR or WMO will directly link into the CREWS website. The website will go online at the end of September. The Steering Committee was invited to browse the webpages (“CREWS Website Screenshots” folder) and provide comments.

26. The Chair welcomed progress on the website’s development and noted its importance in making the investment case at COP23. The Chair requested and offered to assist in the translation of the site’s main pages into French in time for the COP. Germany informed that COP21 requested the establishment of a clearinghouse to serve as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer for Parties to develop and implement comprehensive risk management strategies. The portal features a learning system that responds to questions linking previous queries. Germany recommended CREWS share information on its activities on the clearinghouse.

Agenda Item 6 - Next Chair of the Steering Committee

27. The Secretariat thanked France for its support and leadership over the last year. As per the terms set out in the CREWS Governance Documents, the Steering Committee is required to renew or appoint a new Chair. The Secretariat had invited all Members to express an interest and France had offered to serve another year. France’s offer to renew its chairpersonship was welcomed by the Members.
28. Future appointments of the Chair will be made in the spring/June meeting of the Steering Committee and the elected Chair will start his/her functions at the following meeting. Netherlands and Germany thanked France for its leadership and strongly supported its continued chairpersonship. The Chair expressed her satisfaction in continuing to serve over the next year so as to see concrete implementation and financial progress.

Steering Committee Decision 5:

The Government of France is appointed for one further year as the Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee. The extended appointment would start as of the Fifth Meeting (November 2017), for one year.

Agenda Item 7 – Any other business and dates for the 5th and 6th meetings of the CREWS Steering Committee

29. Under “any other business” Japan offered to expand CREWS’ visibility by re-tweeting information and requested to receive details on upcoming events and offered to share a report on risk and fragility in the Asia-Pacific region through email.
30. In regards to the upcoming Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee, the Chair proposed that the agenda include: a report of all projects that have been launched or proposed, as well as a discussion on the CREWS financial strategy/investment case, which will include taking stock and looking ahead on scaling up CREWS action. At the Fifth Meeting the Committee will decide on the approval of regional projects for the Caribbean and Western Africa. By then a financial decision on Papua New Guinea should have been made by email.

31. The Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee will be in June 2018, dates to be defined, through video connection.

Steering Committee Decision 6:

The Fifth Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will take place on 8 November 2017 from 1:00 to 5:30 pm, at the Marriott World Conference Hotel (next to the UNFCCC COP23 venue), Bonn, Germany. The meeting will include a strategic reflection on the CREWS mechanisms specifically to: (1) report on the progress and results in the country projects; (2) advance the CREWS financing strategy; (3) discuss a position paper on CREWS analytics to support countries' efforts to measure early warning access and effectiveness; and (4) review projects for approval for West Africa and the Caribbean.

Steering Committee Decision 7:

The Sixth Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled as a video-call in June 2018.

Annex I - List of Participants

Contributing Partners		
France (Chair)	Ms. Brigitte Collet	Ambassador for Climate Change Negotiations, Renewable Energy and Climate Risk Prevention
	Mr. Thomas Liebault	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Michaël Chouraki	Desk Officer, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Australia	Mr. Dominic Ransan-Cooper	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Germany	Mr. Christoph von Stechow	Senior Policy Officer, Division Climate Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
The Netherlands	Ms. Marjolein Geusebroek	Senior Policy Advisor, Climate Team
Observers		
Canada	Ms. Shannon deGraaf	Analyst Policy and Partnerships Division
Japan	Ms. Keiko Yamamoto	Official Climate Change Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
New Zealand	Ms. Kate Wilson	Lead on Finance, Senior Policy Adviser, Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the UN in Geneva
Norway	Ms. Therese Marie Uppstrøm Pankratov	Adviser NOREPS/Emergency Preparedness/Response
Switzerland	Mrs. Regina Gujre	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
	Mr Tobias Sommer	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
USAID	Ms Sezin Tokar	Senior Hydrometeorological Hazard Advisor
UNDP	Ms Uthira Ravikumar	Programme Analyst, Climate Change and DRR Cluster
Trustee		
World Bank	Mr. Jonathan Caldicott	Senior Financial Officer, Development Finance
Implementing Partners		
WMO	Ms. Mary Power	Director, Development and Regional Activities Department
	Mr. Maxx Dilley	Director, Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch
	Ms. Lina Sjaavik	Project Officer, Office for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships
	Ms. Lucía Valcarce	CMS Project Officer, Communications and Public Affairs Office
World Bank/GFDRR	Ms. Manuela Chiapparino	Team Leader GFDRR Europe and European Donors Relations
	Mr. Vladimir Tsirkunov	Team Leader of GFDRR's Weather and Climate Information for Decision Support (WCIDS) Program
	Ms. Henriette B. Mampuya	Disaster Risk Management Analyst
CREWS Secretariat	Mr. John Harding	Head, CREWS Secretariat
	Ms. Catherine Thompson	Senior Secretary
	Ms. Silvi Llosa	Consultant

Annex II - Agenda

Wednesday 6 September 2017

- 13.00 – 13.20** Item 1 – Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the meeting
- 13.20 – 14.00** Item 2 – Review of the status of regional projects for the Caribbean and West-Africa
- 14.00 – 14.30** Item 3 – Financing plan for the CREWS FIF
- 14.30 – 14.45** Item 4 – CREWS related events at UNFCCC COP23
- 14.45 – 15.00** Item 5 – CREWS website
- 15.00 – 15.10** Item 6 – Next Chair of the Steering Committee
- 15.10 – 15.30** Item 7 – Any other business and dates for the 5th and 6th meetings of the CREWS Steering Committee