

**8th Meeting of the
Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
(CREWS) Steering Committee**

MEETING REPORT

10 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 8th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held on 10 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Representatives from CREWS Contributing Partners: Australia, France, Germany, Luxembourg (Chair), The Netherlands and Switzerland; invited Observers: Canada; 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 to, or attended, 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 recognised Switzerland as a new Contributing Member. He welcomed the participation of the Government of Canada, as an observer, given their financial contribution to WMO aligned with CREWS.
4. The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting and, in particular, that three decisions are expected with regard to CREWS operations. First, the approval of three new projects for Afghanistan, Chad and Togo; second, the approval of three new pipeline countries, namely, Haiti, Mozambique and Sierra Leone; and third, members need to decide on one or two countries/regions where project preparations will be initiated.
5. The meeting adopted the agenda (Annex 2 - Meeting Agenda).
6. The Secretariat referred to CREWS/SC.8/infdoc.1 and presented the status of progress on decisions taken at the 7th meeting.
7. The representative of Switzerland proposed discussing a perceived liability gap in the CREWS Governance Paper under Any Other Business.

Agenda Item 2 – Status of CREWS

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 Partner.
9. A key deliverable for the Secretariat is the CREWS 2018 Annual Report and the compilation of related results from the projects. The launch of the Annual Report will take place at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and called on partners to assist with its dissemination and to add links on their respective websites.
10. At the request of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat has reduced the number of operational outputs for CREWS to six and adapted the related operational modalities for project preparation

and reporting. The meeting welcomed the figures on page 6 of the Annual Report and requested if some additional quantitative indicators could be aggregated at the portfolio level.

11. The Secretariat was not able to measure progress of the portfolio of projects against the Sendai targets of life and economic losses or target G on access to early warnings, as a limited number of countries are measuring these. It is expected to be able to include these metrics as of next year.
12. The Secretariat is working on two types of knowledge products. First, the country practice compilations aiming at documenting operational practices from CREWS projects and other initiatives. A proposal for the initial first three practices has been shared with the Steering Committee for approval of the budget. The proposed topics are: (i) Impact-based warnings that lead to institutions and people taking appropriate and timely action; (ii) Providing a favourable environment for, and leveraging of, effective and scaled-up climate financing; and, (iii) Sustaining national institutional capacity beyond projects. The representative of Switzerland indicated that comments related to the proposal will be shared, in writing.
13. The second family of CREWS knowledge products are the post-disaster early warning assessments. Following the assessment carried out for the 2017 Caribbean hurricane season, a proposal is being developed at the request of WMO's Pacific Tropical Cyclone Committee, with support from the New Zealand meteorological services for a post tropical cyclone Gita assessment. A proposal with the budget will be circulated to the Steering Committee shortly for a no-objection approval. The Secretariat also suggests developing guidelines for systematic assessment of early warning systems post-disasters.
14. The Secretariat informed that an initiative entitled HydroHub, managed by WMO with financial support from Switzerland will be looking to bring innovative approaches to the CREWS country operations, starting with the proposed project for Afghanistan.
15. In order to achieve the USD 100 million target by 2020 and ensure pledges are made for next year, the Secretariat will work with the Chair, the Steering Committee and the Implementing partners on efforts to attract additional contributions to the Trust Fund.
16. UNDRR welcomed the continued efforts to link results in CREWS country projects with the Sendai targets, in particular Target G on early warning access.
17. The representative from France enquired on the date for the availability of the 2018 Annual Report in French. The Secretariat indicated that the on-line French version of the report would be available for the launch at the Global Platform.
18. 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 31 March 2019 (CREWS/SC.8/infdoc.3). This showed the value of signed contributions currently standing at just under USD 40 million, with almost all contribution instalments now fully paid.. The Trustee noted the report does not include the latest USDeq 3.45mn contribution from France, as it was received after the reporting period, and that USD 25 million has been transferred to Implementing Partners World Bank and WMO to date. The Trustee also explained that the Financial Procedures Agreement between the Trustee and UNDRR has not been signed yet as UNDRR has indicated it cannot agree to certain audit and reporting requirements. Therefore, a draft decision providing an exception is to be circulated to the Steering Committee shortly for approval.

19. The Trustee informed that USD 14.86 million is currently available in the Trust Fund for funding decisions, also noting that funds are required to cover the Fiscal Year 2020 Administrative costs of the Trustee and the Secretariat that has not yet been submitted to the Steering Committee for approval.
20. Director DPO/WMO presented a proposed decision for simplified and harmonized CREWS Secretariat staff appointment modalities (document CREWS/SC.8/workdoc.3). The proposal was developed in consultation with the Implementing Partners, the Trustee and WMO as the host of the CREWS Secretariat. Based on a review of staffing needs it is suggested to keep the size of the Secretariat unchanged while upgrading the Head of the Secretariat position from a P4 to a P5 level. With a view to better control costs it is proposed to move all Secretariat staff to WMO contracts.
21. Members welcomed the proposals. Netherlands suggested that the expertise of the Secretariat staff remain similar to current set-up. France and Switzerland requested that the Steering Committee be represented on the recruitment panel for the Head of Secretariat position.
22. The Chair informed that the Administrative Costs for the Trustee and the CREWS Secretariat for fiscal year 2020, will be circulated to the Steering Committee in June for a no-objection approval. The Administrative Costs will include the staff costs for the Secretariat (terminating current secondment and loan agreements and recruitment of two WMO posts).

Decision 1: The Steering Committee approves the proposal for the *Simplified and Harmonized CREWS Secretariat Staff Appointment Modalities* and welcomes the participation of the Chair or a representative of the Steering Committee on the recruitment panel for the Head of the Secretariat in an advisory capacity. In addition, paragraph 14 of the CREWS Governance document should be revised accordingly.

Agenda Item 3 – Portfolio status

23. The CREWS Secretariat presented the revised format for joint reporting by the Implementing Partners on the status of CREWS projects. The monitoring and evaluation modalities, as set out in Operational Procedures Note No 2, have been strengthened with the provision of regular information, to the Steering Committee, on project performance (traffic lights visual). This is a self-assessment by the Implementing Partners on rate of expenditure, rate of delivery and alignment with objectives and was approved during the 7th Steering Committee meeting.
24. The next step will be to establish quantitative thresholds for each measure. The traffic lights visual complements the six-month written reports on project progress (due in June). The Secretariat reiterated that, as per the CREWS Governance Document, it is the Implementing Partners own policy and procedures for programme management that apply.
25. The World Bank presented, on behalf of the three Implementing Partners, the status of progress for projects in the Africa and the Caribbean region (Powerpoint Report on Project Progress, December 2018 to April 2019 - CREWS/SC.8/infdoc.5).

26. The country support to Mali, Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is provided by World Bank and WMO (technical advisory services). Both partners also collaborate closely in Burkina Faso. In all four countries CREWS contributes to ensure optimal use of resources available from larger investment or development operations. In Mali, the GCF financing has been delayed, for which CREWS is expected to provide technical assistance. With approval of financing expected in May 2019, implementation rate is expected to pick-up significantly. The projects consider as a priority the strengthening of coordination between institutions responsible for observation and forecasting with those responsible for risk assessment, warning dissemination and emergency preparedness and response. Insecurity remain high in all four countries, missions by technical partners requires advanced planning and flexibility.
27. The West Africa Regional Project started in September 2018. The first project steering committee was held on 19 December 2018. The project is developed in a complementary manner to the three country projects as well as to the ACP-EU project supporting AGRHYMET capacity development as regional climate center, which is received positively by all national authorities.
28. In the Caribbean, the first project steering committee took place with regional partners, national authorities and implementing partners who agreed on steps ahead. A regional strategy, interlinked with post-disaster efforts and developed with all the partners, including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is expected to be finalized by December 2019. Work is initiated on gender mapping and inclusion with UNDRR. The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forums will be supported. A Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project training plan has been developed for the region.
29. In the Pacific region, strategic meteorological plans are under development in Kiribati and Tuvalu with another six countries' planned. Tuvalu has also finalized a national drought policy. An agreement has been signed with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to strengthen Information and tele-communication Technology (ICT) capacity in 14 island countries, including webpages for national meteorological services. The agreement with SPREP also includes Community-based early warning systems that are currently being initiated, focusing on preparedness. Moreover a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) e-learning platform is being developed. The Pacific Regional project is aligning closely with the Australian Government support to Pacific Island countries to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate variability (COSPPac). The status of implementation and expenditure rates have improved and are now on track. For PNG rate of implementation is yellow given the delay in signing the institutional cooperation framework between the PNG weather services and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. The risk status remains low and the project has initiated a strong level of coordination with partners.
30. The representatives from France and Switzerland invite the Secretariat to work with the Implementing Partners to develop quantitative indicators for each of the six outputs and the intermediary outcome of the CREWS monitoring framework in order to better follow progress of the projects and increase accountability. The Secretariat clarified that currently it is the Implementing Partners that develop indicators as part of the project proposals. It is possible to

aggregate these.

31. The representative of the Netherlands sought additional information on the mandate of AGRHYMET in the context of the West Africa project and what measures are being taken to clarify it. WMO clarified that while AGRHYMET is in the process of formalizing its status as a regional climate center of WMO, the timing of the process relies in part with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The process should not affect the technical work ongoing through the project and related data exchange.

Decision 2: The Steering Committee invites the CREWS Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Partners, to propose indicators for the Outputs and Intermediary Outcomes of the CREWS monitoring and evaluation framework to be used to reflect the progress of the initiative. The proposed indicators will be discussed at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 4 – Country project decisions

32. The Chair reiterated expected decisions under this agenda item, namely: (i) the approval of three new projects for Afghanistan, Chad and Togo; (ii), the approval of three new pipeline countries, namely, Haiti, Mozambique and Sierra Leone; and (iii) members need to decide on one or two countries/regions where project preparations will be initiated.

33. The World Bank presented the three draft project proposals for Afghanistan, Chad and Togo, developed in consultation with national authorities and the Implementing Partners. The representatives referred to the three documents: Project proposals for Afghanistan (CREWS/SC.8/workdoc.4), Project proposals for Chad (CREWS/SC.8/workdoc.5), Project proposals for Togo (CREWS/SC.8/workdoc.6).

34. The representative of Switzerland enquired on the possibility of developing transboundary elements to the project in Afghanistan. Switzerland, supported by France, asked for more clarity in the project proposals on what is already being done in the countries and the specific expertise CREWS is bringing. Switzerland invited the Implementing Partners to include more detailed budgets in the proposals and to strengthen the logframes. The representative asked for more time to provide written comments on the project proposals to the Implementing Partners.

35. World Bank and WMO indicated that additional information is available within the departments implementing the projects and referred to the considerable amount of work carried out upfront to identify the landscape in each country and determine the CREWS deliverables. They call on flexibility by the Steering Committee in the amount of detail required in the project proposals. It is often a combination of strategic planning, technical capacity and advisory services that are required, with some of the skills available nationally and others requiring international support.

36. The Secretariat reminded the members that the project programming process and the template for project proposals can be revised based on feedback from the Steering Committee, however, it is the policies and procedures of each Implementing Partner that apply and it is important to align with their procedures. The Secretariat can assist in ensuring that members are sufficiently informed by the Implementing Partners on the consultation processes and the work carried out to develop the project proposals, if required. The Chair invited members to provide comments in writing for the Implementing Partners to take into account when revising the proposals. Project proposals would thereafter be approved on a no-objection basis.

37. The Chair presented the proposed list of countries to be added to the pipeline list. He reminded members that the Secretariat compiles information on early warning systems for all LDCs and SIDS, in an ongoing manner, using three criteria reflecting need, demand and leveraging potential. Countries and regions are included on the pipeline list if they demonstrate a sufficient level of eligibility, ownership and readiness for the preparation of projects proposals for potential future funding decisions.

38. The Chair indicated that the proposed countries to be added to the pipeline list are Haiti, Mozambique and Sierra Leone (either as a stand-alone project or part of the West Africa regional project with a focus on early warnings in an urban resilience context). Briefs on each of the proposals are available in document CREWS/SC.8/workdoc.7. Members had no objections to the proposals.

39. The Chair invited members to identify countries/regions, for which project proposals will be prepared for future funding decisions. The countries/regions proposed should be drawn from the updated pipeline list and CREWS project that are found to have a sufficient rate of delivery and expenditure for which additional financing is required.

40. The Members suggested that the Implementing Partners initiate project proposals for Haiti (USD 1.5 million) and additional financing for the West Africa regional project (USD 3.5 million).

Decision 3: The Steering Committee members agree to provide comments, in writing, within two weeks following the meeting, on the project proposals for Afghanistan, Chad and Togo; and the Steering Committee invites the Implementing Partners to revise the project proposals based on these comments. The revised project proposals will be circulated, rapidly thereafter, for a no objection approval for financing.

Decision 4: The Steering Committee accepts the proposed modifications to the list of pipeline countries with the inclusion of Haiti, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

Decision 5: The Steering Committee invites the lead Implementing Partners to initiate project proposals for Haiti (USD 1.5 million) and West Africa as additional financing to the current project (USD 3.5 million), in line with the procedures set-out in the *CREWS Operational Procedures Note No1 Programming and Project Development*, and to submit proposals ahead of the next meeting of the Steering Committee, through the Secretariat, for consideration, review and approval for funding depending on availability of funds in the FIF.

Decision 6: The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to update the *CREWS Operational Procedures Note No.1 Programming and Project Development* to reflect current practices and to circulate the revised draft for comments and approval at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 5 – Coherence and advocacy

41. The Chair outlined the significance for the CREWS initiative to be aligned and coherent with other programmes. He referred participants to the paper entitled *CREWS Alignment with Relevant International Initiatives*, which shows how CREWS links with the Global Framework for Climate Services, as well as the soon to be launched Hydromet Alliance for Development and the WMO Country Support Initiative (CSI). The Chair stated that these discussions are in continuation of

previous discussions of the Steering Committee regarding alignment with InsuResilience and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

42. The Chair mentioned opportunities, this year, to reflect CREWS as a contribution to an accelerated adaptation agenda. Specifically, the Global Commission for Adaptation (GCA) and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Summit.
43. The Director DPO/WMO addressed the positioning of CREWS with regard to the Hydromet Development Alliance and WMO's Country Support Initiative. In the broader context of development effectiveness, he referred to the role of CREWS, as a financing mechanisms, to foster coordination with other investments in its country project and to prepare the ground for larger climate or other financing.
44. He reminded the participants that the Alliance, to be launched later this year, will provide a higher level of commitment and accountability by the main development partners working in this field and WMO. CREWS is expected to contribute to the Alliance as a practice for country programming and as a targeted financing mechanisms for LDCs and SIDS on early warning.
45. He informed about WMO's Country Support Initiative which is expected to be endorsed by WMO's 18th Congress in June 2019 and will provide a mechanisms for aligning best available expertise and advisory services with country needs.
46. Participants commented on importance of alignment and complementarity. Switzerland referred to an initiative entitled HydroHub which can contribute to CREWS projects.
47. The CREWS Secretariat referred to emerging action track on early warning and early action for the GCA and the SG's Climate Summit. This action track is initiated by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In this context, CREWS can contribute to such efforts given: (i) is an adaptation action agenda at UNFCCC COP21; (ii) has a focused objective on early warning systems for SIDS and LDCs; (iii) has an existing list of pipeline countries to scale-up and proven operational modalities.
48. The representative of the Netherlands referred to a recent preparatory meeting for the SG's Climate Summit, held in the Netherlands which acknowledge CREWS as examples of an existing initiative contributing to the Summits objectives.
49. The representative of the World Bank informed of ongoing support by GFDRR to the GCA and suggested to use these processes to reflect CREWS contributions rather than to initiate new ones.
50. The Chair welcome the proposed inputs contributing to coherence and referred explicitly to the consultations initiated by the GCF on a new sector strategy on climate information and early warning services and the need to ensure alignment with CREWS.

Decision 7: The Steering Committee invites the CREWS Secretariat to prepare a one-pager on CREWS as a contribution to accelerating action towards a climate resilient future in the context of the SG's Climate Summit.

Agenda Item 6 – AOB and wrap-up

51. The representative of Switzerland referred to a perceived liability gap in the current CREWS Governance Document under paragraph 19, responsibilities of the Trustee and Secretariat. In

particular, Switzerland is seeking clarity on the mechanisms that are applicable if CREWS project funds are not used as intended by the Implementing Partners.

52. The representative of the Trustee outlined the current procedures and oversight function of the Steering Committee, Implementing Partners, Secretariat and Trustee. The Trustee noted that if the Steering Committee believes Implementing Partners are not following their respective policies and procedures, it can instruct the Trustee to stop the transfer of funds for any projects. The representative of the Trustee offered to assist the Steering Committee's understanding of the issue with information on the current governance structure of the CREWs and Implementing Partner's relevant policies and procedures.

53. The Chair invites the Secretariat to explore the need for a half-day Steering Committee meeting of the Contributing Partners, by video-link, in September 2019 to review the next round of project proposals and related operational procedures and output indicators, review progress on the practice compilations, assess the status of pledges to the CREWS Trust Fund for 2020 and prepare the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit and UNFCCC COP25.

54. The Chair reiterated its appreciation to France for Chairing the Steering Committee for the first two years of operation. He invited Contributing Members to express interest in serving as Chair of the Steering Committee for 2020. Interested countries can express interest to the Chair or the Secretariat in advance of the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

Decision 8: The Steering Committee invites the Trustee to prepare a summary note on the mechanism for addressing misuse of funds and submit to Members through the Secretariat ahead of the next meeting.

Decision 9: The Steering Committee requests the CREWS Secretariat to explore the need and, if required, propose a date and topics for discussion for a meeting of the Steering Committee in September 2019.

Decision 10: The ensuing Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will be a half day meeting, open to observers, in the margins of UNFCCC COP25, Santiago, Chile, tentatively on the morning of 5 December 2019 (the first Thursday of COP25).

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	STATUS
Australia	Russell Miles	Online
	Margalit Levin	Online
France	Vincent Szeleper	Online
	Arnaut Rayar	Online
Germany	Christoph Stechow	Online
	Tuga Alaskary	Online
Luxembourg (Chair)	Georges Gehl	In person
	Cherryl Dentzer	In person
The Netherlands	Gé Verver	Online
Switzerland	Sergio Perez	In person
OBSERVERS	NAMES	STATUS
Canada	Marie-Elaine Boivin	In person
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAMES	STATUS
UNDRR	Shoko Arakaki	In person
	Sandra Amlang	Online
WB	Julie Dana	In person
	Vladimir Tsirkunov	Online
	Niels Holm Nielsen	Online
	Henriette Mampuya	In person
	Lorenzo Carrera	Online
	Anna Maria Bogdanova	Online
	Victoire Carrasco	Online
WMO	Maxx Dilley	In person
	Jean-Baptiste Migraine	In person
	Fatih Kaya	In person
	Josephine Wilson	In person
	Lina Sjaavik	In person
TRUSTEE	NAMES	STATUS
	Jonathan Caldicott	In person

WMO/DPO	NAMES	STATUS
	Markus Repnik	In person
	Tamara Comment	In person
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	STATUS
	John Harding	In person
	Catherine Thompson	In person
	Donna Pierre	In person
	Silvi Llosa	In person

Annex 2 - Provisional Agenda | 10 May 2019

- 1.00 – 1.20 Item 1 – Opening**
- Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting
 - Review of Decisions taken at the 7th Meeting
 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.20– 1.45 Item 2 – Status of CREWS**
- Activity report by the CREWS Secretariat
 - Report by the Trustee on status of the CREWS Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)
 - Presentation of proposed simplified and harmonized CREWS Secretariat staff appointment modalities
- 1.45 – 2.15 Item 3 – Portfolio status**
- Overview and analysis of the status of the portfolio of CREWS projects
- 2.15 – 3.30 Item 4 – Country project decisions**
- Presentation of the CREWS Project Proposals for Afghanistan, Chad and Togo
 - Modifications to the existing list of CREWS pipeline countries
 - Proposed countries with whom projects proposals are to be initiated in FY 2020
- 3.30 – 3.50 Item 5 – Coherence and Advocacy**
- Positioning CREWS with regard to global initiatives of relevance
 - Identification of upcoming opportunities for promoting CREWS
- 3.50– 4.30 Item 6 – Wrap-up**
- Objectives and dates for the 9th Meetings
 - Steering Committee Chair for 2020
 - Approval by the Steering Committee of the Decisions taken at the meeting
 - Any other business

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, Resilience, Well-being



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