



THIRD MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST AFRICAN NMHSs Banjul, The Gambia - 03 to 05 February 2010



REPORT

THE CONTEXT

1. The Directors of NMHSs of West African Countries adopted the “Las Palmas Action Plan” within the framework of the Cooperation Programme financed by the Government of Spain in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in October 2007. The overall objective of the Action Plan is “to enhance the capacity of the NMHSs of West and North African countries and provide them with the relevant tools that will enhance the delivery of products and services to various socioeconomic sectors and thereby allow them to contribute to the sustainable development of their respective countries and enhance the delivery of products and services to the various socioeconomic sectors”.

2. The Government of Spain is continuing its support, through the WMO, to the African Cooperation Programme and together with the State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET), the Permanent Representative of The Gambia with the WMO and the WMO hosted a meeting in Banjul, The Gambia, 03 to 05 February 2010 to review progress within

the framework of the Cooperation Programme for 2009 and agreed on further actions for 2010. The meeting was preceded by a two-days Workshop for which proceedings are attached in annex 4.

3. The meeting was attended by the Directors of the NMHSs of West African countries and invited regional organizations. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, Mr Amadou Saine chaired the opening of the meeting in the presence of the Representative of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Javier Benosa, the Minister of Works, Construction and Infrastructure, Mr Lamin Bojang, representing the Ministry of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, the Minister of Forestry and the Environment, Mr Jato Sillah, the WMO representative by Mr. Alioune Ndiaye, Director, Africa and Mr. Francisco Cadarso, President of AEMET. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

4. The Objectives of the Meeting were to:

- Review decisions made at Las Palmas in October 2007, including the progress made in 2009 against the actions identified in the Niamey Action Plan.
- Agree on ongoing and additional actions and mechanisms for cooperation during the 2010 period.
- Revise the Action Plan as appropriate
- Explore new areas of activities.

5. The meeting discussed the different issues in meteorology in the West Africa region. The various agenda items discussed by the meeting are attached as **Annex 2**.

6. The meeting reviewed the progress made on the actions of the Niamey action plan, decided that many actions were ongoing and also determined to add some new actions such as Climate-Health working groups, specific capacity building and training activities, tools for management and planning.

7. The Meeting considered a new organizational structure of activities in three strategic lines, in addition to the Programme Monitoring activities :

1- Core Technical Capacity Building activities will include :

- Observation / telecommunication network
- Weather Watch : Data collection, weather monitoring (Nowcasting), Forecasting
- Climate : Data bases, Climate services, Climate Change monitoring and reports

2- Applied Technical Capacity Building will include :

- MARINEMET
- METAGRI
- CLIMATE-HEALTH

3- Management and Capacity Building activities aiming at strengthening NMHS, such as

- Management practices improvements (Strategic plans...)
- Mobilization of Resources Initiatives Support
- Marketing / visibility increase of NMHSs
- Training activities
- Others..

8. In view of the presentations from the regional initiatives of relevance to West African NMHSs such as ClimDEv, Agriis, Amesd, Ocean forecasting, Greek Government Supported Programme on Climate Change Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the opportunities that emanated from these, the Meeting recommended that WMO conducts in the West African region an assessment of the overall training needs particularly those expressed in the technical levels, and consider the funding mechanisms, including evaluating the potential training partners.

9. The Directors of the West African NMHSs presented projects being undertaken in their countries relating to the Niamey Action plan, and also made proposals of projects that could be funded by the WACP. It was agreed that projects that are within the WACP scope will be considered in 2010 within the limits of available funds. It was recommended that the other proposed projects which are beyond the scope of WACP, shall be presented to other funding agencies, with the help of AEMET and WMO.

10. The major Output of the meeting was an Agreed Banjul Work Plan for 2010 (**Annex 3**)

11. The Conference of Directors expressed their gratitude to the Government of The Gambia and the Permanent Representative to WMO, Mr Bernard Gomez for the excellent hosting of the meeting. It also expressed their gratitude to WMO and to the Spanish Government.

12. It was agreed that the next meeting of Directors of NMHSs of West Africa countries will take place in Cabo Verde in February 2011.

THE STATEMENT

We, the Directors of West Africa NMHSs, meeting in Banjul, The Gambia 03-05 February 2010,

Recognizing the contribution of the Spanish Government to the modernization of the NMHSs in West Africa in support of sustainable development,

Recognizing the support of WMO to the process,

Recognizing the progress made in 2009 in the implementation of the Niamey Action Plan,

Recognizing the importance of staff training for the development of the West Africa NMHSs institutional capabilities,

Recognizing that priority shall be given to WMO Regional Centers such as WMO RTCs (Lagos, Niamey), Agrhymet Regional Center, EAMAC, ... when conducting the target training programmes.

Noting the need to align some of the actions with strategic plans (national and regional) to increase West African NMHSs visibility and performance,

Recognizing that long term sustainability will only be achieved through active fundraising actions and resource mobilisation,

Recognizing that the Climate variability and climate change issues are of utmost importance especially for Least Developed Countries, and the role that the NMHSs should play in support to adaptation and mitigation policies,

Welcoming the presence in the meeting of representatives of regional and international organizations such as AGRHYMET and ACMAD and recognizing their key role in meteorology, hydrology and climate applications in the region,

Recognizing the importance and advantages of mutual cooperation to accomplish the mission of the NMHSs,

Decided :

1. That the Conference of Directors of West African NMHSs shall play a key role in the region RA1 and contribute actively to the events planned in 2010 (African Ministerial Conference and RA1 session).
2. To contribute to the development of the regional strategic plan.
3. To implement the Banjul Action Plan using as a main source of financing the Trust Fund created in the WMO Secretariat by Spain and to look for additional funding resources to complement the plan.
4. To continue promoting the cooperation in meteorology and hydrology within the region with the purpose of increasing multilateral cooperation taking advantage of the existing regional initiatives as appropriate.
5. To submit these conclusions to relevant Ministries in each participating country as well as to WMO.
6. To approve the Banjul Action Plan for 2010, as follows :

ANNEX 1 : List of participants

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ANNEX 2 : Agenda



The Gambia



MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST AFRICAN NMHSs (Banjul, Gambia - 03 to 05 February 2010)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Wednesday 03 February 2010

Opening session

*Chairman: **Gambia***

- 09:00 - 09:30 Opening of the meeting
- 09:30 - 10:00 Agenda Arrangements (N'Diaye / Cotin)

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee-break

Session 1 – Niamey Action Plan

*Chairman: **Niger***

- 10:30 - 11:00 Review of Niamey Action Plan (N'Diaye / Cotin)
- 11:00 - 11:30 Marine Meteorology Project (Irene / Cabrera)
- 11:30 - 12:00 Agricultural Meteorology (Camacho)
- 12:00 - 12:30 Countries emerging from conflict and natural disasters
(F.Villalpando / N'Diaye / Cotin)
- 12.30 - 13.00 Capacity building workshop in “Developing links between weather,
climate and health services” (Niamey) – Recommendations
(Camacho)
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch**
- 14:00 - 15:00 Capacity building workshop in management (Dakar) –
Recommendations and E-Learning Platform for Management
Training (Saho / Ramos)
- 15:00 - 15:30 Website Development. (Delia)

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee-break
16:00 - 17:00 Discussion about ongoing actions of Niamey Action Plan:
Successes, Constraints and Lessons Learned (N'Diaye / Cotin)

Thursday 04 February 2010

Session 2 – Action Plan for 2010

Chairman: **Guinea**

09:00 - 09:15 Overview of regional issues of concern to NMS (President RA I)

09.15 – 10.00 Overview of other regional initiatives of relevance to WA NMS

- Greek Government Supported Programme on Climate Change Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa (**WMO**)
- ClimDev Africa (**ACMAD**)

10:00 - 10:30 Statements from Directors of NMHSs
Directors will give a Statement overviewing the **THREE** highest priority NMS development issues that need to be addressed for their services and the actions they would like to take in the context of the Banjul Action Plan (10 min each)

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee-break

11:00 - 12:00 Statements from Directors of NMHSs contd.

12:00 - 13:00 Round Table Discussion on Regional and Country Priorities and agreement on focus areas for 2010 and establishment of Working Groups

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:30 Working Groups Formulate Actions to be undertaken in 2010 at regional and national levels for the priority areas identified.

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee-break

16:00 - 18:00 Working Groups Report Back to Plenary

Friday 05 February 2010

Session 3 – Adoption of Banjul Action Plan 2010

Chairman: **Gambia**

09:00 – 10:30 Adoption of Banjul Action Plan for 2010

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee-break

11:00 - 12:00 Adoption of Meeting Statement

12:00 Closure.

Annex 3 : BANJUL ACTION PLAN FOR 2010

Annex 4 : Workshop proceedings