EUMETSAT

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17 USER FORUM IN AFRICA
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ÈME EN AFRIQUE

Online Sessions:
Guidelines for co-moderators

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Weather and Climate
Eswatini
Meteorological Service

#17UFA #EOAfrica

Questions for the working groups

Deployment
Is the ClimSA Station installed and operational? How is the station currently used? What blocks use?

Interoperability
Is there a need to connect the Climate station with other tools? (example: Climweb)

Is there a need to connect the ClimSA Station with other tools?

- Clear interest in connecting the ClimSA Station with existing national tools and workflows.
- Countries want the Station to avoid becoming an isolated platform.
- **General** interest in linking the ClimSA Station with **ClimWeb**.
- Main objective: have data, maps, products, bulletin inputs and dissemination tools in one place.
- Interest also in linking with **ClimSoft** or other station-data systems.
- Interoperability would reduce duplication and support faster bulletin production.

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- The ClimSA Station is installed in several countries, but operational use remains uneven.
- In some cases, the system is available but not yet fully used in regular workflows.
- Main blocking issues reported:
  - Inconsistency in time-series data availability.
  - Difficulties with some existing Station functionalities.
  - Limited number of trained staff.
  - Lack of confidence in using the system independently.
- **Malawi:** three people have been trained, but broader institutional capacity may still be needed.
- **Botswana:** current problems are blocking regular use of the Station.
- **DRC:** Station is already installed, but the operational level still needs clarification.

Questions for the working groups

In-situ data

Are you interested in adding local station data?

- Strong interest in adding national in-situ station data to the ClimSA Station.
- Countries see local data as essential to improve trust and national relevance.
- Many services already collect station observations through systems such as **ClimSoft**.
- The preferred approach is not manual duplication, but connection or ingestion from existing databases.
- **Mauritius:** urgent need for support to ingest a large historical archive, around 50 years of data.
- Manual ingestion would be too time-consuming and not sustainable.
- Main needs:
  - Bulk ingestion procedures.
  - Automation.
  - Support for historical and near-real-time data.
- In-situ data would also support validation of satellite and reanalysis products.

Countries strongly interested in this functionality:

- Mauritius
- Eswatini
- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Malawi

Questions for the working groups

Sustainability

How can the RCC support sustainability? Helpdesk, focal points, regional clinics, training-of-trainers, product validation?

- Sustainability requires more than installation and initial training.
- Several countries need additional training because not all relevant personnel are trained.
- Risk: knowledge remains concentrated in only a few trained people.
- Need for documentation, guidance and training support in **French** for francophone users.
- RCC support could include:
  - National focal points.
  - Regional helpdesk.
  - Regular online clinics.
  - Training-of-trainers. It can be done
  - Product validation support.
  - Troubleshooting sessions.
- Regional clinics could focus on practical issues: data ingestion, maps, graphs, bulletins and interpretation.
- Proposed model:
  - National focal points for day-to-day use.
  - RCC support for regional follow-up and validation.
  - JRC support for upgrades and complex technical issues.

Questions for the working groups

AI support

Are there other similar experiences in your institution? Is the use of AI permitted? What are the possible use cases?

- Interest in AI exists, but institutional readiness may differ across countries.
- AI tools are already permitted within several institutions.
- Important to understand restrictions on:
  - Cloud tools.
  - Data sharing.
  - Internal approval procedures.
  - Use of AI in operational climate services.
- Need to have a session on the use if AI
- AI should be presented as a support layer, not as a replacement for expert judgement.
- Final validation and communication should remain under the responsibility of national experts.

Countries strongly interested :

- Mauritius
- Botswana
- Guinea
- Malawi
- Sudan