

## SOUTH ASIA HYDROMET FORUM

### PLANNING WORKSHOP ON IMPACT BASED FORECASTING AND CLIMATE SERVICES

Venue & Date: Bangkok, 21-24 January 2025

#### Background:

To enhance coordination in managing extreme weather-triggered disasters, and support resilience to climate change in the region, it is crucial for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in South Asia to work closely together. The South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF) facilitates regional collaboration among its member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) is the technical secretariat to the SAHF. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SAHF Executive Council meeting (December 2023) and subsequent SAHF IV conference (February 2024, see Annex A) agreed to deepen and broaden its activities in priority areas, including Impact Based Forecasting (IBF) and climate services. The SAHF IBF Working Group (WG), established in 2021 provides a mechanism to support regional training, learning and knowledge exchange amongst NMHSs and key users of services across South Asia.

**Impact Based Forecasting:** Development and capacity building of IBF approaches has been identified as one of the key priorities for SAHF. Since 2019 a number of partner initiatives such as UK MET Office through the UK Government funded Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate (ARRCC) and World Bank through SAHF Phase 1 and CARE Project have been supporting SAHF IBF. Based on agreements of the SAHF IBF WG meeting (Bangkok, Thailand, 31 July 2024) and climate services side session at SAHF IV (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 8 February 2024) the proposed IBF Workshop to be held in Bangkok from 21-24 January 2025 with support from the Met Office Weather and Climate Services (WISER) Asia Pacific programme (under the UK Government Climate Action for a Resilient Asia initiative) will have following objectives and outcomes.

**Climate services:** A newer priority for SAHF is the enhancement of climate services in the region. During SAHF IV, a side session on climate services, led by the UK Met Office in partnership with RIMES, explored the status, needs, and priorities for a climate services component in SAHF. While there is a clear requirement, more exploration is needed to understand how a SAHF climate services element (and potential working group) will operate and align with related regional mechanisms such as SASCOF.

#### IBF – SESSIONS

##### Objectives:

- Further develop key priorities for the IBF working group, informed by strategic direction from the SAHF EC, outcomes of SAHF IV, and subsequent priorities identified by the working group.
- Take stock of IBF development, needs, opportunities and priorities in SAHF Member Countries, with a view to piloting common hazard/s and approaches across the region.
- Translate priorities into a clear implementation plan(s) for the SAHF IBF working group to enable allocation of partner / programme resources over 2025-28.
- Agree roles of SAHF IBF WG member countries, regional and international partners in supporting delivery of the IBF implementation plans.
- Initiate development of toolkit approach to support the design, development, implementation and sustainability of IBFEWS in the region, under SAHF

- Ensure IBF priorities align with and where relevant support the objectives of other SAHF working groups including climate services.

#### Expected outcomes:

1. Development of clear, resourced implementation plan(s), with defined roles and responsibilities of members and partners addressing priorities of the SAHF IBF WG for the period 2025-28. Aligned and linked to other SAHF WG priorities and plans.
2. Establishment of a regional framework 'toolkit' approach to support implementation, mainstreaming, and sustainability of IBF across South Asia and in SAHF Member Countries.
3. Agreement and initiation of 'piloting' and knowledge sharing mechanisms across common hazard/s and geographies across the South Asia region.
4. IBF linkages with other SAHF working groups identified and established.
5. Informing paper for approval by SAHF EC.

### CLIMATE SERVICES - SESSIONS

#### Objectives

- Improve understanding of availability, application and needs for climate services, at different scales.
- Stocktake of National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS), and identification of opportunities and barriers to advance NFCS development, including role of NMHSs.
- Informed by the above, identification of key priorities for a climate services component under SAHF.
- Agreement of an interim climate services WG.

#### Expected outcomes:

1. Improved understanding of climate services in the South Asia region and identification of initial priorities and outline work plans SAHF.
2. Climate services WG established with agreed roles and responsibilities.
3. Informing paper for approval by SAHF EC.

#### Outline agenda:

Day 1 (IBF)		
Agenda item	Moderator	Comments
Workshop introduction and scene setting	Met Office, RIMES	Overview of workshop objectives and expected outcomes, including motivation for linking IBF and climate services
Review of SAHF drivers and commitments for IBFEWS	RIMES	Covering EC declaration/s, SAHF IV outcomes, FF and IBF WG discussions
Identification of regional and national priorities for IBF development	RIMES or SAHF IBF WG co-chairs	Review of current IBF WG work plan (or needs, priorities reported to last EC meeting.

		<p>Stock-take of IBF development in SAHF Member Countries.</p> <p>Requires input from all SAHF Member Countries – opportunity for interactive or breakout sessions to discuss specific areas, needs or challenges.</p>
<b>Day 2 (IBF)</b>		
IBF WG work plan development	Met Office, RIMES	<p>Review and summary from day 1.</p> <p>Interactive sessions aiming to frame broad activities and priorities for next 2 years (2025-26) with line of sight to next 5 years.</p> <p>Needs to agree roles and responsibilities of all.</p> <p>Needs to consider key stakeholders to be involved at regional-national levels. How do we engage e.g., NDMOs, user sectors, community representatives etc.</p> <p>Suggest a session on interaction with other SAHF WGs – with representation at workshop</p>
<b>Day 3 (IBF)</b>		
IBF framework and toolkit development	Met Office, RIMES	<p>Introduction of IBF toolkit approach.</p> <p>Demonstration and training in toolkit application.</p>
Prioritising piloting and knowledge sharing		<p>Development of common hazard/s for IBF piloting.</p> <p>Consideration of needs for specific geographies, sub-regions.</p>
<b>Day 4 (Climate Services)</b>		
Introduction and further scene setting	Met Office, RIMES	Exploring climate services in SA and links between IBF and climate services

Deep dive: discussion of the SAHF IV Climate Services session recommendations	Met Office, RIMES	Overview of priorities and recommendations that came out of the SAHF IV side session
Perspectives and priorities from regional institutions	Met Office, RIMES	Opportunity for organisations to share perspectives on Climate Services in SA and the SAHF.
A collective vision for climate Services in SAHF	Met Office, RIMES	Exploration session: What do climate services look like in SA? What could be the role of a climate services WG in SAHF?
Agreement and actions	Met Office, RIMES	Prioritising next steps. Drafting a proposal to deliver to SAHF EC.