



Proposal for a SAHF Working Group on Climate Services (2025-2027)

Related document(s): 1) [SAHF Climate Service Working Group Terms of Reference \(Info Doc XX_1\)](#), 2) [Workshop report: SAHF Planning Workshop on Impact Based Forecasting and Climate Services \(Info Doc XX_2\)](#)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Climate variability and change pose significant challenges to societies, economies, and ecosystems across South Asia. Effective climate services provide reliable, user-centric, and actionable climate information to support decision-making in key sectors such as agriculture, health, water resources, energy, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Given the interconnected nature of climate risks, a regional approach to climate services is essential to enhance data accessibility, cross-border knowledge exchange, and sectoral coordination.
- 1.2 The SAHF Executive Council (EC) declaration (November 2023) and subsequent SAHF IV declaration (February 2024), endorsed broadening the role of SAHF in priority areas, including a new activity and working group (WG) focusing on climate services.
- 1.3 To inform planning for this new priority, the SAHF IV conference included a side session on climate services to explore the status, needs, and priorities for climate services in South Asia and to scope the potential role and remit of a new SAHF WG on Climate Services. Outcomes from this session were further developed through online consultation with national focal points for climate services within the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of SAHF Member Countries and various regional organisations (December 2024) and at the SAHF Planning workshop on Impact-Based Forecasting and Climate Services (January 2025) resulting in:
 - Agreement on requirement to establish a dedicated WG on Climate Services with Terms of Reference (ToR) that give it a clear mandate to support the coordination of regional (i.e. South Asian) efforts, identify sectoral priorities, and guide the development and integration of climate services across SAHF Member Countries,
 - Identification of priority 'themes' to be addressed by the WG on Climate Services, initially over the period 2025-27.

Further details for the above are provided in the discussion section below.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 A draft ToR for the SAHF WG on Climate Services ([see info doc. XX.1](#)) with request for nominations has been shared with NMHSs in all SAHF Member Countries, with 7 of the 9 countries confirming nominations to date.
- 2.2 The WG on Climate Services will act as a regional platform to strengthen the delivery and application of climate services. It will ensure that NMHSs and key stakeholders can effectively anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate-related risks, as well as inform long-term policy and interventions to adapt to climate change, complementing and regionalising the existing WMO frameworks. This will be achieved through enhancing regional collaboration, supporting capacity development and sharing, and promoting resource mobilization across donors, NMHSs and their stakeholders.
- 2.3 Specific objectives of the WG include:
 1. Strengthening regional collaboration to enhance climate services and promote cross-border knowledge exchange.
 2. Improving access to and uptake of climate data and forecasting tools for better service delivery.
 3. Strengthening NMHS and stakeholder technical expertise, infrastructure, and operational capabilities to deliver robust and user-driven climate services.
 4. Supporting integration of climate services into national and regional adaptation and resilience strategies.
 5. Establishing a phased WG work plan, identifying short-term and long-term actions for implementation.
- 2.4 Initial 'themes' and priorities for the WG include:
 1. *Establishing a Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS)*
 - Establish a regional coordination mechanism to align national climate services efforts and foster collaboration across South Asia.
 - Integrate WG activities with existing frameworks such as Regional Association II (Asia) of WMO and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), including the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) and Climate Services User Forum (CSUF).
 - Support policy alignment and institutional linkages through National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCSS) to ensure climate services contribute effectively to national adaptation and DRR strategies.
 2. *Improving Climate Data Access and Standardization*

- Strengthen historical, seasonal, and longer-term climate data-sharing protocols across NMHSs.
- Facilitate the development of interoperable, user-friendly digital platforms for climate data dissemination and uptake.
- Promote WMO quality assurance standards for climate information, ensuring consistency and reliability, and developing regionally-relevant standards for climate services.

3. Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Development

- Facilitate training programmes and workshops to enhance NMHSs' capacity in developing and delivering climate services, in line with WMO standards and guidance.
- Engage with government agencies, private sector actors, NGOs, and civil society to promote the uptake of climate services.
- Promote co-production of climate services, ensuring they are demand-driven, context-appropriate, and user-focused.
- Advocate for gender-sensitive and socially inclusive approaches in climate service development.
- Compile and disseminate case studies on best practices in climate service implementation.

4. Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability

- Develop a regional resource mobilization strategy, engaging donors and development partners (e.g., World Bank, WMO, RIMES).
- Coordinate funding efforts to avoid duplication and optimize investments in climate services.
- Promote sustainable public-private partnerships to enhance climate service innovation and delivery.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Work Plan Implementation

- Develop a structured work plan with clear near-term and long-term goals.
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track progress and impact.
- Ensure regular WG meetings, progress reports, and feedback mechanisms to improve climate services implementation.

2.5 In terms of governance and resourcing:

- The WG on Climate Services will be composed of representatives from NMHSs of SAHF Member Countries, other technical experts including from sectoral agencies, and development partners.
- The WG will work in close coordination with RIMES as the SAHF technical secretariat, WMO, the UK Met Office, and relevant regional and international organisations.
- Resourcing for the WG will initially be provided under the UK Government, Met Office WISER Asia Pacific Programme. And noting the above requirement to mobilize additional

resources, and investment at regional-national levels in line with proposals set out in the [*SAHF – Sustainability, Resources and Funding*](#) paper.

2.6 Next steps:

- Approval to establish the SAHF WG on Climate Services by the SAHF EC.
- Finalisation of the ToR, formal establishment of the WG, and conduct of an inception meeting (June-August 2025).
- Development of a structured and resourced work plan with priorities for short-term (2025-27) goals, ensuring phased, achievable, and sustained implementation.

3 ACTIONS REQUIRED BY SAHF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

3.1 The SAHF EC is invited to:

- i. Review the related documents (Info [Doc XX_1](#), Info [Doc XX_2](#)).
- ii. Review, modify, and agree to the proposed approach and work outlined in paragraphs 2.1-2.6.
- iii. Approve the establishment of SAHF WG on Climate Services.
- iv. Agree on the participation of SAHF NMHSs in the WG.

3.2 The SAHF EC is invited to consider, and revise, if necessary, the following resolution for adoption:

- Requests NMHSs of SAHF Member Countries and RIMES in its capacity as the SAHF Secretariat to formally establish the WG and to develop a prioritised and resourced work plan (2025-27) by September 2025.