

CONCEPT NOTE

Central Africa workshop on strengthening coordination and advisory communication mechanisms for the production and dissemination of early warnings

Date: 10-12 February 2026, Location: N'djamena, Chad

1. Background and Context

The [CREWS Central Africa project](#), implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Bank, supports the strengthening of early warning system value chains across the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region. CREWS Central Africa aims to improve countries' capacities on the production of multi-hazard forecasting and national warning services-based and coordinated response to climate-related hazards like storms, floods, and droughts. To achieve this, it is critical to improve the use and adaptation of regional products to national conditions. This requires enhancing coordination and communication between the regional entities, such as Regional Specialized Meteorological centers (RSMCs), River basin organizations (RBO), the ECCAS Situation Room, and mainly National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) entities, which are the primary institutions involved in early warning and disaster risk reduction at national level.

This project is contributing to a broader global framework, supporting the objectives of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, launched by the UN Secretary-General and co-led by WMO and UNDRR, which aims to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by an early warning system by 2027.

In addition, within the framework of the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) initiative, led by the African Union Commission (AUC), several regional and continental situation rooms have been established these recent years (including those at [AUC](#), [ACMAD](#), [ECOWAS](#), [IGAD](#), [SADC](#) and [ECCAS](#)). A recent workshop organized in the SADC region initiated a dialogue by bringing together the SADC Situation Room (hosted at Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre - SHOC) with the SADC Climate Service Center (CSC) and the SADC National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).

This concept note proposes a similar initiative for Central Africa, aiming to define the processes of collaboration and information exchange between regional centers and national institutions, this will, in turn, allow for a common understanding of cooperation between the ECCAS Situation Room and national institutions within the framework of CREWS Central Africa and AMHEWAS. These efforts will maximize collaboration and accelerate actions to ensure Early Warning for all.

2. Objectives

The main objective is to define collaboration mechanisms between regional centers, NMHSs, and DRM entities in ECCAS countries within the framework of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning and facilitate communication between the respective authorities to support warning services.

This will cover the following specific objectives:

1. Update on the support from regional institutions to assist countries in improving weather, climate, hydrological and warning services, as well as on national communication and response mechanisms.
2. Sharing knowledge through case studies on observation data, forecasting, warnings, preparation and response, and advisory communication mechanisms from other African regions and institutions (e.g., AUC, ACMAD, ECOWAS, IGAD).
3. Define roles, responsibilities, and cooperation processes between national early warning institutions and regional centers (type of information, media, and technical and capacity-building support).
4. Establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) for collaboration between the ECCAS situation room and countries to contribute to the EW4All and AMHEWAS frameworks.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Common agreement on the institutional roles, type of products and communication mechanisms across regional centers and the national entities related to Early warning from ECCAS countries.
- Recommendations to feed into:
 - Draft SOPs and interface protocols between ECCAS situation room and national institutions (NMHSs, Civil Protection, DRM).
 - Process for multi-hazard regional advisories and national warning.
 - Continuous support from the Regional Center and AMHEWAS platform to support countries in improving warning services.

4. Participants

- National entities: 11 NMSs and NHSs and Civil Protection from ECCAS Member States
- CREWS Implementing Partners of regional components: WMO, UNDRR
- Continental Centers: ACMAD
- Regional centers: CAPC-AC, AGRHYMET, RSMC Dakar, RSMC-Yaoundé, CICOS, LCBC, LTA
- Collaborating RECs: ECCAS, AUC, SADC (incl SHOC and CSC), IGAD, ECOWAS

5. Format and Approach

The workshop will be interactive and structured over 3 days:

- **Day 1:** Exchange of data and multi-hazard information between regional and national institutions. Status on the national warning structure and requirements
- **Day 2:** Group session on institution roles and development of procedures (SOP) for regional advisory and national warning related to main hazards (e.g. flash floods and other severe weather events, riverine floods, drought)
- **Day 3:** Validation of SOPs between Regional Centers to increase capacity of national institutions to face risks of climate change.

6. Reference:

- Manual WIPPS:
https://library.wmo.int/viewer/35703/download?file=WMO-485-2023-Upd-2024_en.pdf&type=pdf&navigator=1
- AMHEWAS:
[AMHEWAS Programme Technical Guidelines EA.pptx](#)
[AMHEWAS MHEWS Framework 2022.pdf](#)
- CREWS Central Africa SC decisions:

Annex I: Workshop preliminary agenda

General:

- Date: 10–12 February 2026
- Location: Radisson Blu Hotel. Quartier Sabangali, Cité du 1er décembre N'Djamena, Chad.
- Organizers: WMO & UNDRR (CREWS Central Africa)

Participants confirmed

- NMHSs;
- Civil Protection/DRM;
- River Basin Organizations (LCBC, CICOS, LTA);
- Regional Centers (CAPC-AC, ACMAD, AGRHYMET, RSMC Dakar, RSMC-Yaoundé);
- RECs (ECCAS, SADC);
- CREWS partners for regional implementation (WMO, UNDRR).

Programme overview

	Day #1	Day #2	Day #3
9:00 12:30	Opening Ceremony Session #1 Context: EW4All & AMHEWAS—Regi, Natl Interface	Working Group session #1: What is needed for effective MHEWS? /Identify actions Working Group session #2: Operational procedures (SOP) for production and communication of regional to national information	Plenary discussions Review results from Working groups Validation of SOPs
13:30 17:30	Session #2: Current state of MHEWS in the ECCAS region	Working Group session #3: Guidance to develop hazard-specific products as support for warning decisions	Roadmap Join collaboration to improve national EWS Closing Ceremony

Annex II: Detailed programme

1. Day 1 — Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Theme: MHEWS and understanding the support of regional entities to countries (NMHSs, and NDMOs) for warning services.

08:30–09:00 | Registration

09:00–09:35 | Opening Ceremony

(Moderator: PR Chad)

- Welcome remarks: WMO Rep. for North, Central & Western Africa; UNDRR; ECCAS Secretariat, Representative of Chad (Ministère NMS).

WMO/UNDRR

- Workshop overview:
 - Objectives, expected outcomes on SOPs, advisory processes, collaboration agreements
 - CREWS Central Africa project

09:35–10:45 | Session 1. Context EW4All & AMHEWAS

(Moderator: WMO Rep)

WMO

- EW4ALL joins effort (10')
- Roles of WMO centres / RSMC severe weather (10')
- MHEWS (10')

UNDRR / ECCAS

- AMHEWAS support (10')
- Update on African Working Group on DRR (5')
- Experience of coordinated mechanisms to support warning services in regions:
 - Southern African: MHEWS SADC coordination (10')
 - Europe: MeteoAlarm platform (10')
- Q&A (10')

10:45–11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 | Session 1. Context EW4All & AMHEWAS Regional–National Interface

Plenary discussion

(Moderator: Chair of SC CREW Central Africa)

- **Topic 1: Information flows and collaboration**
 - How should information/advisory products flow for effective early warning support?

- What type of information should move upstream (national → regional) and downstream (regional → national), and at what frequency?
- **Topic 2: Architecture and enabling mechanisms**
 - What technical, institutional and operational architecture is needed to better leverage information produced at national, regional and continental levels?
 - How can existing platforms (e.g. RCCs, RSMCs, RBOs, Situation Rooms) be better connected and operationally used at country level?
- **Topic 3: Drafting joint gaps and priorities**
 - What are the main gaps and bottlenecks currently limiting effective regional–national collaboration?
 - What should be prioritized to strengthen interfaces?

12:30–13:30 | Lunch

13:30–14:30 | Session 2. Current state of MHEWS in the ECCAS region

(Moderator: ECCAS representative)

- Experience of country support
 - RCC (ACMAD / CAPC-CA)
 - RSMC (Dakar, Yaoundé)
 - River basin authorities: LTA, CICOS, CLBC
 - ECCAS situation room
 - Q&A
- Experience of national service / benefiting from regional support
 - National early warning chain (NMHS/NDMO Chad, DRC, Cameroon) 10' each
 - Q&A

14:30 – 17:00 | Session #2: Current state of MHEWS in the ECCAS region (Con't)

Plenary discussion

(Moderator: MHEWS specialist)

Theme: Mapping the critical elements required to foster MHEWS services in the regions based on improved collaboration.

- **Topic 1: Mandates, roles and responsibilities**
 - How are mandates and responsibilities for forecasting, advisories and warnings currently defined between regional centres, situation rooms, and national institutions (NMHSs, NDMOs)?

- Where do roles work well in practice, and where are they perceived as overlapping, unclear or contested?
- **Topic 2: Hazard-specific information needs and authority**
 - For key hazards (e.g. severe weather, flash floods, riverine floods, drought), which information and products are most critical at national level?
 - Which products should be considered authoritative at national level, and which should remain in regional advisory products?
 - How can regional products best support national decision-making?
- **Topic 3: Fitness for purpose and quality**
 - To what extent are the existing regional and national products fit for operational use of NDMOs and NMHSs when relevant?
 - Are current products representative, timely, and understandable for decision-makers and responders?
 - What improvements are needed to strengthen ownership and operational uptake?
- **Topic 4: Information**
 - How should information flow upstream and downstream between national, regional, routine operations and high-impact events?
 - What role should regional institutions play in information aggregation, coordination, and communication?
- **Topic 5: Priorities for clarification through SOPs**
 - Which mandate-related issues need to be explicitly addressed through SOPs or interface protocols?
 - What minimum set of rules is needed to clarify:
 - who produces what, who issues guidelines, advisories vs warnings,
 - who communicates with whom, and when?
 - What should be the first priorities for strengthening coordination under CREWS, EW4All and AMHEWAS?
 - What improvements are needed in terms of quality, resolution, timeliness, reliability, language, or format?

17:00–17:30 | Day 1 Wrap-Up

- Explaining methods for working groups and assigning participants

2. Day 2 — Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Theme: Institutional Roles & procedures (SOPs) for regional advisories and national warnings by hazard

09:00–09:30 | Introduction

(Moderator: TBD)

- Recap
- Presentation of digital tool for communication & Q/A

09:30–10:45 | Working Group 1: What is needed for effective MHEWS and action?

(Moderator: TBD)

Theme: Identify the essential elements required to move from forecasts to warnings and action, across institutional levels.

Format: 1 Keynote (15') and 2-3 breakout groups by hazard or mixed institutional groups or per language.

Keynote: *Open Data, Digital Communication Tools and Impact-Based Forecasting for Effective MHEWS (WMO)*

Guiding questions (to be refined based on the discussions during Day #1):

- What is missing to meet the minimum requirements for an effective MHEWS for the main hazards in the ECCAS region (data, products, institutions, coordination)?
- What information is needed to trigger early actions, and by whom?
- Where do current, systems break down between forecast, advisory, warning and response?
- What roles should regional centres play in anticipatory support, without encroaching on national mandates?
- A shared list of critical elements for effective MHEWS and early action
- Identification of key gaps and bottlenecks (technical, institutional, coordination)
- Inputs for SOP sections on triggers, thresholds and decision points (Hazard-Specific SOP Drafting)

10:45–11:00| Plenary discussion of group outcomes

11:00-12:30 | Working Group session 2: Procedures for production and communication of regional and national information

(Moderator: TBD)

Theme: Review current procedures and propose improvements for timely, consistent and trusted information flows.

Guiding questions (to be refined based on the discussions during Day #1)

- How are forecasts, advisories and warnings currently produced, validated and communicated at national and regional levels?
- What information flows today (who sends what, to whom, how, and when)?
- Where do procedures create delays, duplication or confusion?
- What minimum set of procedures is needed to ensure:
 - consistency between regional advisories and national warnings,
 - clarity for decision-makers and responders?

12:30-13:30 | Lunch

13:30-14:00 | Plenary discussion of group outcomes

14:00-15:30 | Working Group session 3: Hazard-Specific breakout groups

(Moderator: TBD)

Theme: Translate generic procedures into hazard-specific operational practices. Define end-to-end workflow from data ingestion → advisory generation (regional) → national warning issuance → public communication & response.

Groups:

(Leads and rapporteurs from NMHSs and DRR -TBD)

- 1) Flash Floods, Riverine Floods and Landslides
- 2) Drought and Heatwaves
- 3) Severe Weather

15:30-15:45| Coffee break

15:45-16:00 | Plenary discussion of group outcomes

16:00-16:30 | Explaining methods for Day 3

3. Day 3 — Thursday, 12 February 2026

Theme: Validation of SOPs; collaboration agreements; next steps & support mechanisms

09:00–09:30 | Introduction

09:20–10:30 | Plenary discussions on the outcomes of the Working groups

10:30–10:45 | Coffee break

10:45–12:30 | Plenary discussions: Roadmap towards ECCAS–Country Interface Protocols

(Moderator: TBD)

- Agree on standard interface protocol between ECCAS Situation Room and countries (NMHSs, DRM/Civil Protection): roles, triggers, formats, timelines, data sharing agreements.
- Capture consensus decisions and country-specific adaptations.

12:30–13:45 | Lunch

13:45–15:30 | Plenary discussions: Roadmap towards ECCAS–Country Interface Protocols

(Moderator: TBD)

- Outline continuous support (training, drills, technical assistance, systems integration) from regional centers and AMHEWAS platform.
- Identify funding/technical cooperation windows via CREWS Central Africa.

15:30–16:15 | Coffee break

16:15–16:45 | Closing Session

(Moderator: Host NMHS Director)

- Closing remarks (WMO-SG, UNDRR, ECCAS);
- Logistics notes (report circulation, contacts, post-workshop survey).

19:00–21:30 | Diner

Annex III Accronyms

ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
AMHEWAS	Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System
AUC	African Union Commission
CAPC-AC	Central Africa Climate Application and Prediction Centre
CICOS	Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha
CLBC / LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
CREWS	Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
CSC	Climate Services Centre (SADC context)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EW4All	Early Warnings for All
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
NMHSs	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
NDMOs	National Disaster Management Organizations
RBOs	River Basin Organizations
RCCs	Regional Climate Centres
RSMC	Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SHOC	SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WIPPS	WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System