



Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

on

National Framework for Climate Services for India (NFCS–India)

5-6 October 2023

Hosted by:

**Office of Climate Research & Services,
India Meteorological Department, Pune**

Concept Note

The **climate of India** has a high degree of variability at various spatial and timescales. The frequency as well as intensity of severe weather events in the country has increased in recent decades, largely attributable to climate change. According to the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as well as the report of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India**, on the assessment of climate change over the Indian region, heat waves, droughts, floods and other extreme weather, climate and hydrological events will be the new normal across India which will exacerbate the societal and environmental risks in the country.

Established with the overarching goal to enable better management of the risks of climate variability and change and adaptation to climate change through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice on the global, regional and national scales, the **Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)** is being coordinated by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, of which India is a founding Member and active co-sponsor. Under the auspices of the GFCS, the concept of **National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)** has been developed to help all climate services stakeholders at the national level to join forces and work together with mutually agreed working arrangements to collectively pursue the common goal of achieving a climate-smart society. The NFCS is a multi-institutional mechanism to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen collaboration among the relevant national institutions and partners to improve the co-design, co-production, tailoring, delivery and use of science-based climate information, predictions and services.

As per the GFCS guidelines, it is envisaged that the NFCS would be initiated and led by the concerned country's National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS), which is typically the government-mandated provider of weather, climate and hydrological services. Within the WMO context, the role of NMHS in India is played by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which is under the MoES. In this context, the IMD is organizing a **Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on NFCS-India in Pune during 5-6 October 2023**. Initial efforts under the proposed NFCS for India are to collaborate with all those agencies to whom IMD is already providing climate services, with a special focus on the five initial priority areas adopted by the GFCS, namely (i) Disaster risk reduction, (ii) Agriculture and food security, (iii) Water resources, (iv) Public health, and (v) Energy. Accordingly, we are inviting various central and state government departments from various ministries related to the above mentioned five climate sensitive sectors.

Though the NFCS is not yet formally established in India, it is encouraging to note that different agencies are already connected through ad-hoc arrangements to facilitate need-based information exchange to some extent. Though considerable exchange of information among the various agencies is already happening, due to some gap areas or communication limitations, the available information is not being effectively used by all the concerned agencies in a mutually consistent and complementary manner. Building on the existing arrangements and pursuing a more comprehensive approach to mainstream full value chain climate services, the NFCS could be realized through the setting up of formal yet flexible arrangements and mechanisms, including high-level governance, for regular and sustained dialogue and collaboration. This stakeholder consultation workshop proposes to bring together the existing and potential partners of IMD spanning the five pillars of the GFCS, viz., (i) observations and monitoring, (ii) research, modelling and prediction, (iii) climate services information system, (iv) user interface platform and (v) capacity development.

The main objectives of this consultation workshop are:

- To provide a brief background and progress on the development of the concept of National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) to consolidate the efforts of various agencies involved in the climate services in India;
- To seek inputs from all relevant stakeholders and their participation to collectively work towards the development of a well-defined NFCS in India to better support decision making in climate-sensitive sectors;



- To assess the baseline capacities at the national level in both providers and users of climate services, across all the five GFCS pillars and its priority areas;
- To prepare a comprehensive mapping of the existing capacities, draw up a list of key stakeholders and outline their potential contributions to the NFCS;
- To identify the needs and priorities as well as current and projected capabilities for developing climate information and products tailored to the decision-making for different users in the country;
- To bring the core agencies together to consider developing a joint action plan to begin the establishment of NFCS-India.

What the NFCS will do in India:

- Help set up a formal mechanism that may facilitate mutually agreed responsibilities and commitments covering the five pillars of the GFCS and its priority areas, to enable timely and targeted exchange of relevant information;
- Promote improved coordination between service providers and user sectors;
- Create sustainable platforms to enable timely and targeted exchange of climate information leading to significant improvement in the delivery of climate services;
- Facilitate improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different agencies in climate-sensitive decision contexts, which will help further customization of services as needed;
- Enable India to lead by example in the global arena, in improving climate services at the national level.

Expected Participants:

- Representatives from World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Senior officials from various ministries, Government of India
- Subject Matter Experts in various aspects of Climate Services



- Concerned representatives from State Governments and Union Territories
- NGOs/Professional Societies

Expected Outcomes:

- Assessment of the needs and capacities for climate services by the climate sensitive user sectors from the country and recommendations on the adoption of the NFCS concept to Indian context;
- Joint action plan to establish and implement NFCS-India;
- Potential approaches for sustained and regular interaction between service providers and user sectors to support mainstreaming of climate-smart decision making.

NFCS-India is a program of the entire country with the ownership of every participating agency. Key to its effective implementation is, sustained commitment and active collaborative efforts. NFCS-India as mentioned above will enhance the present level of working capabilities in the sectors of climate and weather-related sustainable development programs and thus enabling India to lead by an example at the global level.

