



ClimDev-Africa Phase II Strategy (2026–2030)

Bridging the Climate Information Services (CIS) Capacity Gap for Africa

I. Summary

Faced with a significant climate information gap that leaves over 60% of Africans without early warnings, the ClimDev-Africa Phase II Strategy (2026-2030) presents a targeted, continent-wide initiative to bridge this divide. Supported by an initial resource mobilization target of US\$57.3 million, this strategy enhances climate resilience by implementing AI-driven forecasting, launching a centralized digital knowledge platform (ACRIS), and creating youth innovation hubs. Building on key investments from its first phase, this plan aims to greatly increase access to life-saving climate information services, enabling decision-makers from local communities to national governments to build a climate-resilient future for Africa.

II. Strategic Context

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s *State of the Climate in Africa 2024* report, over 60% of Africa's population remains unprotected by effective early warning systems, despite the continent facing increasingly frequent and severe climate shocks. The year 2024 was one of the warmest on record, with unprecedented sea surface temperatures, widespread droughts, and deadly floods that disrupted livelihoods and displaced millions. These impacts are worsened by limited access to high-quality climate data and forecasting tools, especially in rural and vulnerable regions. Scaling Climate Information Services (CIS) is key to protecting lives, strengthening food systems, and supporting adaptation across Africa.

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme was launched in 2010 to address vulnerabilities by enhancing the generation, access, and use of climate information for development planning and risk-based decision-making. Phase I (2010–2021) achieved key results: over 130 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) were installed across 17 countries, along with four satellite data retransmission stations that facilitated direct access to low-orbit data from the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). Historical climate data were digitized across more than 15 countries, and new regional centers, including the Central Africa Climate Center and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), became fully operational. Over \$74 million was invested in hydrometeorological infrastructure and early warning services, including High-Performance Computing Systems (HPCs) that supported advanced modeling and real-time forecasting. These investments enabled

the development of real-time forecast platforms, enhanced seasonal predictions, and the deployment of flood- and drought-monitoring stations in vulnerable regions. Notably, ICPAC's HPC capacity was vital during the 2019–2021 locust crisis, helping to protect food security for millions across East Africa.

Phase I also enhanced institutional capacity through 48 formal cooperation agreements between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) agencies, more than doubling the initial target, and supported the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in countries such as Cameroon, Malawi, Liberia, and Eswatini. Under the Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) initiative, over 200 peer-reviewed publications were produced, 21 postdoctoral fellows were trained, and 17 African scholars completed postgraduate hydrology programs. More than 400 decision-makers participated in regional workshops focused on climate services and policy integration.

Building on these achievements, ClimDev-Africa Phase II (2026–2030) introduces a revitalized strategy to bridge the CIS capacity gap across the continent. It will expand Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered forecasting tools, implement early warning systems in at least 25 countries, and increase CIS coverage by 80%. The strategy features youth-led innovation hubs, a centralized digital platform, the Africa Climate Resource and Information System (ACRIS) for climate knowledge sharing, and training for over 100 policymakers in CIS mainstreaming. Supported by US\$57.3 million by 2026 to start its activities and a total long-term funding need of US\$191 million, a resource mobilization plan and a reformed governance structure — Phase II positions Africa to lead in climate resilience, data-driven adaptation, and inclusive decision-making.

The launch of this strategy at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30), during the African Day event, marks a pivotal moment to reaffirm continental leadership, mobilize global support, and accelerate Africa's transition toward a climate-informed future.

III. Vision & Mission

ClimDev-Africa Phase II is guided by a bold and inclusive vision and mission that reflects Africa's evolving climate resilience agenda:

- **Vision:** A climate-resilient Africa where all communities and institutions have access to and utilize high-quality climate information for decision-making.
- **Mission:** To close the CIS capacity gap by expanding infrastructure, enhancing institutional and human capacity, and leveraging innovation for inclusive climate resilience.

This mission is based on the belief that equitable access to climate information is vital for sustainable development, disaster preparedness, and policy coherence across the continent.

IV. Strategic Objectives

To realize its vision, ClimDev-Africa Phase II will focus on five interconnected strategic goals. These goals aim to address both the technical and institutional aspects of the CIS capacity gap.

1. **Expand CIS Infrastructure:** Increase the scale of AWS, AMSS, HPCs, and satellite retransmission stations in underserved areas to ensure real-time data collection and forecasting capabilities.
2. **Strengthen Capacity:** Train NMHSs, DRM experts, and policymakers in CIS generation, interpretation, and application, focusing on sustainability and local ownership.
3. **Enhance Governance and Coordination:** Clarify roles among ACPC, CDSF, and CCDU; streamline procurement and oversight processes to boost efficiency and accountability.
4. **Improve Monitoring & Accountability:** Deploy live dashboards and results-based M&E frameworks to track performance, funding flows, and impact metrics.
5. **Leverage innovation:** by integrating AI and digital platforms to improve forecasting, early warning systems, and stakeholder-specific CIS products, including mobile dissemination tools.

V. Flagship Initiatives

To achieve its strategic goals, ClimDev-Africa Phase II will launch a series of high-impact flagship initiatives. These initiatives are intended to be scalable, regionally distributed, and aligned with Africa's climate and development priorities.

The table below details the main flagships, their purpose, and the primary units responsible for implementation.

Flagship	Description	Lead Unit
Africa Climate Resource & Information System (ACRIS)	A centralized digital portal hosting CIS products, usage analytics, decision dashboards, and knowledge resources. It will support real-time access and visibility across sectors.	ACPC
Youth Innovation Hubs for CIS	Regional hubs will incubate youth-led climate tech solutions and integrate into ClimDev platforms. These hubs will promote entrepreneurship, local ownership, and innovation.	CCDU
AI-Driven Early Warning Systems	Machine learning tools for predictive analytics, risk mapping, and customized alerts for agriculture, water, health, and disaster response.	ACPC + RCCs

Flagship	Description	Lead Unit
CIS Mainstreaming for Policymakers	Targeted workshops, toolkits, and policy briefs to integrate CIS into national development plans, budgets, and legislation.	CDSF
Hydromet Infrastructure Expansion	Ongoing installation and maintenance of AWS, AMSS, HPCs, and satellite stations, along with sustainability plans after the vendor warranty.	RCCs + NMHSs

These flagship projects will be supported by regional demonstration sites, training programs, and strategic partnerships to ensure adoption, long-term success, and sustainability.

VI. Planned Outcomes

ClimDev-Africa Phase II is focused on results, with a clear set of measurable outcomes aimed at closing the CIS capacity gap. These outcomes align with the African Union’s Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the AUC/ECA Climate Action Plan.

The following targets will guide implementation and performance tracking:

- **Coverage:** 80% increase in CIS access across African regions by 2030.
- **Technology:** 25+ countries with operational AI-enhanced early warning systems.
- **Youth Engagement:** 5 regional youth innovation hubs integrated into ClimDev platforms.
- **Policy Impact:** 100+ policymakers trained in CIS mainstreaming.
- **Efficiency:** 50% improvement in fund utilization rate across CDA projects.
- **Transparency:** Live dashboard tracking CIS delivery, funding flows, and performance metrics.

These outcomes will be validated through mid-term reviews, independent evaluations, and stakeholder feedback loops.

VII. Workplan Highlights (2026–2030)

The five-year work plan for ClimDev-Africa Phase II is centered on annual milestones that show steady growth, institutional progress, and the adoption of innovations. Each year builds on the previous one, with clear deliverables and review steps.

Year	Key Milestones
2026	Launch ACRIS; pilot AI dashboards across five countries; initiate setup of a youth hub.
2027	Scale AWS installations; operationalize youth hubs; conduct regional CIS trainings.
2028	Mid-term review; expand CIS mainstreaming workshops; deploy dashboard tracking
2029	Integrate CIS into national planning frameworks; strengthen regional coordination.
2030	Final evaluation; develop Phase III transition strategy; consolidate sustainability plans

This phased approach ensures flexibility, adaptive learning, and alignment with emerging climate and development frameworks.

VIII. Governance Framework

Effective governance is key to closing the CIS capacity gap. ClimDev-Africa Phase II introduces an updated governance structure that addresses issues from Phase I, specifically, role overlap, slow decision-making, and fragmented oversight.

The governance structure includes:

- **Chief Executive Board (CEB):** Top body for strategic decisions, alignment with continental frameworks, and high-level partner engagement.
- **Executive Management Committee (EMC):** Coordinates with CEB; includes representatives from WMO Africa Office, RECs, PACJA, and other strategic partners.
- **ClimDev Steering Committee (CDSC):** Merged with the Joint Working Group (JWG) to allow flexible oversight, virtual and in-person meetings, and policy guidance.
- **ACPC (Secretariat):** Manages technical operations, reporting, and coordination across delivery units.
- **CDSF** manages fund mobilization, disbursement, and fiduciary oversight, with enhanced transparency measures.
- **CCDU:** Oversees the implementation, stakeholder engagement, and delivery of CIS services, including youth and gender integration.

This structure guarantees coherence, accountability, and responsiveness at every level of implementation.

VIII. Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships are the cornerstone of ClimDev-Africa Phase II. Building on more than 40 alliances established in Phase I, the program will expand and deepen collaborations to enhance delivery, sustainability, and policy impact.

Key partnership categories include:

- **Technical Partners:** WMO, GFCS, RCCs, EUMETSAT for data access, forecasting tools, and training.
- **Policy Institutions:** AUDA-NEPAD, KIPPRA, UNU-INRA to align CIS with national development strategies and promote local ownership.
- **Advocacy & Civil Society:** PACJA, ACTs, CCDA to amplify outreach, community engagement, and policy influence.
- **Academic & Research:** African Academy of Sciences, CR4D fellows to support evidence-based policymaking and innovation.

- **Private Sector:** AI firms, telecoms, and analytics providers for innovation, scalability, and co-financing.
- **Donors:** AfDB, EU, GCF, SIDA, DFID/FCDO, USAID, GEF to support diversified and sustainable financing.

These partnerships will be established through MOUs, joint work plans, and co-investment frameworks.

X. Resource Needs

To achieve its objectives, ClimDev-Africa aims to raise US\$57.3 million by 2026, as shown in the table below.

Category	Amount (US\$ Millions)	Description / Key Items
Hydromet Infrastructure & CIS	27	Initial procurement & installation of Advanced Weather Stations (AWS), foundational HPC systems, and site preparation for satellite data stations. Focus on high-priority, high-risk zones.
Research & Capacity Building	10.5	Launch of the fellowship program, initial stakeholder workshops, and first-round training for NMHSs on core forecasting and early warning systems.
Policy, Governance & Advocacy	6	Initial policy analyses, support for AGN pre-COP negotiations, and planning/launch of the first major conference (e.g., CCDA) and communication campaigns.
Knowledge Platform (ACRIS)	3.8	Feasibility studies, platform architecture design, and the initial development phase of the Africa Climate Resource & Information System (ACRIS).
Programme Management & Secretariat	10	Initial recruitment of core secretariat staff, establishment of governance portals, and first-year operational costs for coordination, M&E framework setup, and financial management.
Total Initial Funding Requirement	57.3	The consolidated funding target is to be secured to launch all program components effectively.

Table of Applications and Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
ACRIS	Africa Climate Resource & Information System
ACMAD	African Center of Meteorological Application for Development
ADRFi	African Disaster Risk Financing Initiative
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGNES	Africa Group of Negotiators Experts Support
AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
AMSS	Automatic Message Switching Systems
ARBE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
AUC	African Union Commission
AWS	Automatic Weather Stations
CIS	Climate Information Services
COP	Conference of the Parties
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
EU	European Union
EUMETSAT	European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HPCs	High-Performance Computers
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre
IMCA	Investment Mobilisation Collaboration Alliance
INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
NDF	Nordic Development Fund
NMHSs	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
NWP	Numerical Weather Prediction
PACJA	Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change