Developing Capacities for Effective Climate Services in Bhutan (Climate Services Toolkit)

2017-2018



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Background

Activities carried out NCHM (National Centre for Hydrological and Meteorological Services, Royal Government of Bhutan) in collaboration with WMO, World Bank, Finnish Meteorological Institute, India Meteorological Department (IMD) and RIMES (Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System) in the past three years have resulted in a good understanding of existing capacities and needs, both from NCHM's perspective and from user agencies standpoint. The SASCOF-10 conducted in July, 2017 and the National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOFs) conducted in the past three years (2015-2017) have been instrumental in raising awareness about climate services and provided a basis for implementing systems such as the CST (Climate Services Toolkit) to enable NCHM to provide effective climate services in Bhutan.

NCHM, with the support of WMO, organized a stakeholder workshop recently during 7-9 November 2017 to assess the capacities and needs of providers and users of climate services in support of decision-making by the agriculture sector in Bhutan in Thimphu, Bhutan. The stakeholder workshop convened by NCHM brought together participants from key agencies like Department of Agriculture, Department of Disaster Management, academic institutions, media and development partners (World Bank, JICA, UNDP). Technical partners such as the

RIMES, involved in the Canada Government funded WMO project to implement the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in South

One of the clear recommendations from the NCHM convened stakeholder workshop of November 2017 was to customize CST to enable NCHM to generate sector-specific climate products and services.

Asian countries including Bhutan and the IMD, with its extensive experience in agromet services were also present at the workshop. The meeting focused on available climate information and services for agriculture at global, regional and national scales. The emphasis of the event was also to understand specific requirements of Bhutanese agricultural sector users facilitated by group discussions and consultations with individual participants.

(Refer report of the 7-9 November 2017 Stakeholder workshop held in Bhutan in Thimphu, Bhutan)

The core operational component of the GFCS is the CSIS (Climate Services Information System) designed for producing and operationally delivering authoritative climate information data and products at regional and national levels. Its functions include climate analysis and monitoring, assessment and attribution, prediction (monthly, seasonal, decadal) and projection (centennial scale) as well as tailoring the associated products to meet user

requirements. This is done through appropriate operational mechanisms, data exchange, technical standards, authentication, communication and product delivery. At the national level, CSIS is enabled by the Climate Services Toolkit (CST), consisting of a suite of guidance, data, software tools, training resources, and examples.

Objective

This project proposal is to implement effective Climate Services in Bhutan by developing capacities at NCHM through operationalization of the CST components designed to meet user requirements primarily in the sectors of Agriculture, Water Resources, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Implementation Strategy

The project implementation will build on existing and on-going work of development partners, WMO, IMD and RIMES addressing the requirements articulated by users agencies in their interactions with NCHM. Work accomplished in CST aligned initiatives like the ongoing WMO Data Rescue project and the NCOF process could perhaps be directly synthesized into the proposed work.

A two-tiered approach is proposed to be adopted to build capacities and enhance climate services in Bhutan –

<u>Tier-one</u> will be focused on strengthening the GFCS framework by sustaining the regional (South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum –SASCOF), National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF) and subnational flow of climate information. This is expected to be supported by Regional Climate Center (RCC), Pune run by IMD and through continued support to NCOF by RIMES. RIMES will also work with NCHM and other sector level agencies like DoA to take climate information products further to Dzongkhag levels. At NCHM level this shall involve strengthening and sustenance of CST components for Climate Database Management System (CDMS) linked to both rescued data and climate data flowing in from the growing network of meteorological stations. CST components chosen to effectively use this data and translate them to climate information relevant for national and sectoral context will be identified.

<u>Tier-two</u> will work bottom-up and identify sector wise requirements for specific climatelinked decision points. This is expected to lead to targeted capacity development to support the operational use of climate information generated by NCHM. Design and development of decision support tools based on CST guidance for each of the key sectors (Agriculture, Health, Water/Energy and DRR) co-developed by sector agency, NCHM, IMD and RIMES will be the main task.

The project will be implemented in two phases, Phase I (Jan 2018 - March 2018) and Phase-II (April 2018 – March 2019).

Phase I Activities

- Review and consolidation of ongoing activities that could be incorporated into the CST Guidance framework
- Workshop and training sessions at the national and Dzongkha level, particularly focused on agriculture sector to promote awareness on climate information – IMD's extensive experience will be useful; IITM extended and monthly range products details can be shared
- The main aim of activities within this phase would be to devise end-to-end designs to deliver climate information products to ultimate users in each of the identified sectors viz., Agriculture, Water Resources, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Level of customization required, to deliver such products that can effectively assist decision making at the location and sector-specific levels, will be assessed. Based on this assessment – test-bed cases shall be identified by NCHM and other involved sector agencies in Bhutan. Final identification of the test-bed cases will be made for each of the four sectors based on consultative discussions of all collaborating partners.
- Design solutions shall be essentially based on the CST resources and decision-points to be identified within operational systems in the various sectors at national, Dzongkha and community levels tailored to contexts. Such systems will source information and data available from NCHM, IMD, IITM, Pune, RCCs, GPCs and other agencies to implement climate services.
- A prototype system for agriculture sector will be set-up for demonstration at the end of Phase I (April 2018).

Phase II Activities

- Regular conduct of NCOFs at national and at identified Dzongkha levels.
- Sector-wise implementation of all the CST guided solutions, one for each of the identified sector
- Training workshops for both NCHM officers and sector level experts who will be using the systems. NCHM officials will undergo hands-on training at IMD, IITM, Pune, KMA

and RIMES while the tools are being customized. For the sector, this will be a two-stage process, one to discuss the systems and solutions being designed and the other when the tools are fully developed and being deployed for field testing.

• Phase II activities in each sector will conclude with detailed plans and approach to scaling up systems to other locations and forward-looking strategies to constantly imbibe new sources of information, data and analytics.

Climate information needs:

Current utilization of DHMS products, and gaps in climate information utilization based on desktop reviews and consultations/meetings/focused group discussion with the stakeholder institutions during the course of the WMO GFCS project are summarized in Annex I.

Work Plan

	Tasks	Schedule	Approach	
Phas	e I Jan-Mar., 2018			
1.	Review of climate information needs of Department of Agriculture and NCHM capacity development needed to fill gaps in a priority driven manner. Identification of location and issues.	3 rd week Feb 2018	A systematic review of existing reports, ongoing work and consultation meetings with DoA, RGB	
2.	Agriculture sector Dzongkhag level awareness meetings and identification of needs, availability of agricultural data	2 nd week of Mar 2018	consultation with NCHM and DoA, RGB	
3.	Assess data rescued under the ongoing WMO project and QC datasets available with NCHM & RIMES. Compile and share it with RCC, IMD, Pune for customized climate information products for Bhutan	3 rd week Feb to 2 nd week March 2018	In consultation with IMD, Pune NCHM and RIMES	
4.	Identify suitable CST components for implementation	March 2018 In consultation with IMD, Put NCHM and RIMES		
5.	Design prototype system for agromet advisory services at identified Dzongkhags. (ref Annex II for a schematic of components)	end of Mar. 2018		
The	budget for tasks 1-5 to be implemented durin	ng Jan-Mar, 20	018 will be met from WMO GFCS	
	ada Government project funds available with R			
	e II Apr. 2018 to Apr. 2019 [funding suppor	v		
6.	Integration of ensemble seasonal predictive extended and sub-seasonal products from K Lead Centre, IITM, Pune		ot, 2018 Through secondment training (duration to be decided by NCHM) of NCHM officers at RCC, IMD, Pune, IITM, Pune,	

7.	Sector level meetings and consultations to design and implement customized CST in Health, Water and DRR sectors Data collection, development and deployment of prototype systems for Health, Water and DRR sectors; operational testing of the Agricultural sector system	Apr-May, 2018 Apr-Dec, 2018	KMA and RIMES – to be discussed and decided. Concerned departments of the RGB, NCHM, IMD and RIMES Concerned departments of the RGB, NCHM and RIMES
9.	sector system. NCOFs to be conducted at national level and Dzongkhag level	Apr and Oct. 2018	NCHM and RIMES with resource persons from IMD/IITM, Pune, KMA
10.	Mid-term meeting to discuss the design of the DSS with respective sector level agency to ensure acceptability and participation of decision-making level officials and also to build effective links with NCHM for long term work and scale-up at the national level.	Apr. to Oct 2018	NCHM, RIMES and IMD
11.	Sector level training workshops for each sector viz. Agriculture, Health, water and DRR	Jan-Mar., 2019	Concerned departments of the RGB, NCHM, IMD and RIMES
12.	Preparation of reports and hand over of systems to NCHM and concerned sectors at National and Dzongkhags levels	Mar. – Apr. 2019	NCHM, RIMES and IMD

Annex I

Summary of the climate information utilization and needs of various sectors and the gaps that limit the full utilization of available climate information and forecast products

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
Agriculture and F	 activities, and ongoing projects ood Security Sector o Setting of annual and cumulative targets for cereal production as the basis of plans, activities, and project planning 	 Data: Quality-checked historical climate data with good coverage of stations where missing data does not exceed 3% of the total daily dataset (particularly for the weather index-based insurance scheme) Climate and Synoptic data Climatic zone-wise agrometeorological and hydrological data for irrigation planning and management Important parameters: rainfall amounts and intensity, wind, solar radiation, soil temperature and soil moisture 	v	
		 Products: Localized seasonal forecast, at least at the district level Localized Weather forecasts of longer timescales (i.e. 10-14 days) 		

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
		 Constant monitoring of weather in defining a trigger for payment in the insurance scheme Early warning and advisory for unusual weather conditions or hazards i.e. drought, flood, pest outbreaks, hail, frost Agro-advisory bulletins with information specific to different crops in different agro-ecological zones Climate services for different agro-climatic zones Documented experts' views and assessment of climate-related risks and challenges Bhutan 		
Farmers	 Planning of farm activities Requesting for seeds from the government Sowing Transplanting Fertilizer application Pesticide application Harvesting Sun drying 	 Information about dry spells, wet spells, or clear days without rain, and rainfall events Localized Weather forecasts of short to longer timescales (i.e. 3 days, 10-14 days) 	Very few farmers use 1- day forecast, mainly for deciding whether to proceed with harvesting the following day	 Low level of awareness on climate information Lack access to forecasts and other climate information Credible channels for dissemination of weather and climate forecasts/information to farmers are not in place
Water Sector National Environment Commission (NEC)	 Planning of water resources at the national level Formulation of water policy and required legislation International Water cooperation 	 Climatology and climate map of Bhutan reflecting the annual average rainfall and temperature of the country. Data and analysis of changes in 	Historical Data	 Focused on medium- to long- term planning so seasonal and short-term forecasts are not utilized Existing water user

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
	 Licensing and regulating activities Report to the Government/National Assembly Collaboration with other relevant institutions on: Research, development planning and support Capacity building and technical backstopping Data collection and distribution Flood and disaster management related to water resources Activities under the Water Resource Adaptation Plan Survey, mapping and assessment of quality and quantity of water resources Analysis of glacial and seasonal snow covers Hydrological modelling for vulnerability assessment of water resources to climate change Construction of multi-purpose impoundments to store water during lean season Rural Water Harvesting 	 seasonal averages and changes or trends in extreme event frequency and intensity Analysis of sediment load data to determine disturbances in the upstream watershed for the state of environment reporting Documentation of the drying up of some water sources, analysis of trends in sedimentation, and water flow volume Indicators for climate-related hazards (e.g. flashfloods) including maximum total 1-week precipitation, inventory of potential hazardous GLOF Rivers, and frequency of days with more than 100 mm rainfall per year Seasonal forecasts for activities/projects involving tapping of stream water Climate change scenarios for National Adaptation Plans Downscaled climate scenarios for medium to long term adaptation planning 		institutions have weak functional linkages at policy, planning and programming levels. • Needs capacity building in GIS and modelling

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
	 (RWH) for rural and urban areas Water demand management Establishment of EWS and upgrading weather forecasting centre Extension of meteorological stations in the northern highlands with snow gauging 			
Watershed Management Division (WMD), MoWHS	• Watershed Management • Integrated Water Resource	 Stream discharge and sediment data Rainfall data of high temporal resolution i.e. 15 minutes or shorter for understanding the impact of high intensity rainfall on Bhutan's watersheds. Depth duration frequency and analysis curves Other parameters needed: rainfall intensity, duration, magnitude, volume, evapotranspiration, runoff, sediment loss, water and sediment discharge, infiltration, water storage Local information/data on the rainfall quantity and flooding for customization of the irrigation engineering manual guide to different areas Climate Forecasts 	 Stream discharge data Stream sediment data Climate data Data on wind direction and other climate variables for categorizing watersheds 	 Weak databases used as the basis for planning models thus resulting in unrealistic and less credible results Knowledge and data gaps include extreme weather and climate and climate change, among others

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMSproductsandservicescurrentlyutilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
Community/ village leader- farmers	Operation, planning, and maintenance of irrigation facilities including irrigation canals and intake facilities	 Information during the pre- and post-monsoon season for irrigation management during these low flow periods River flow discharge amount during the wet season, with a monthly breakdown 		Needs capacity building in utilizing relevant climate information and forecast products for their activities
Health Sector				
Ministry of Health (MoH)	 Conduct studies on the trend of risk factors in Climate-Sensitive Diseases (CSDs) (e.g. diarrheal diseases, malaria, and dengue) Analyze weather/climate-health relationship Intensified Surveillance and Response, specific activities under which include: Collection of environmental and climatic data in collaboration with Environmental Health and DHMS Meeting with Hydromet Division, Department of Energy on climatic data collection and data sharing Integration of climate and vector data into the web-based reporting system 	 Historical Data Needs Historical data of daily, weekly, monthly and annual timescale Data parameters: Relative Humidity Wind speed and direction Rainfall Solar Radiation Air Quality Water Quality Water Discharge Products: Weather information on temperature and precipitation of real-time, daily, and weekly timescales Seasonal forecast with information on temperature and precipitation and unusual rainfall pattern especially around the end of monsoon season 	Historical Data: • Monthly/Annual Average temperature • Monthly/annual average rainfall • Relative humidity	 Limited surveillance data Representativeness of weather data and quality Methods and tools for analyzing climate and health data Lack of proper mechanism for collaboration and information delivery Weak collaboration and interaction between DPH and DHMS Low capacity in understanding and translating climate information, impact forecasting, and decision support systems in the health sector

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
		 Climate summaries or climate/seasonal trends Climate projections Risk Mapping Early warning for natural hazards including events of extremely low temperature 		
	uction/Management Sector			
Disaster Management Committees (Dzongkhag, Thromdes, Gewog)	 Prepare, review, update and implement Disaster Risk Management and Contingency Plan Promote education, awareness, capacity building, and community training, with the support of DDM, on hazard, risk, vulnerability and measures to be taken by the community to prevent, mitigate and respond to disaster Conduct a regular mock drill Implement cross-sectoral risk reduction initiatives and build capacities to respond to disasters in their respective jurisdiction; Monitor and evaluate measures taken for prevent, mitigation, preparedness, response and capacity building by each sector in their respective jurisdiction 	intensity of various hazards in their area of jurisdiction for hazard, vulnerability, and risk profiling/ assessment	None	

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
	 Ensure compliance with approved hazard zonation and vulnerability mapping Maintain continuous contact with NEOC and disseminate information to the Dungkhags, Gewogs, and/or Thromdes under its jurisdiction, in case of an emergency Ensure that information about an event or disaster is promptly communicated to the NDMA, DDM, and all concerned Assess the requirements, mobilize/summon resources and manpower to respond to a disaster and extend all assistance the Dzongkhag, Gewogs, and Thromdes within its jurisdiction 			
Department of Disaster Management (DDM)	 Develop, review, and update the Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework Formulate National Standards, guidelines, and standard operating procedures Develop and implement the national DM and Contingency plan Facilitate the formulation of 	 including past disasters Multi-hazard zonation and vulnerability maps/ information etc. 	 Announcement/ advance information on extreme events such as cyclones, windstorms, and floods 	 Current forecast products are mainly based on global climate information, whereby information on localised events are not readily available Forecasts only include temperature and rain and lack the storm/ cyclone/ windstorm event information The currently available 24-

Institution/ StakeholdersClimate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	-	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
facets of disaster management • Facilitate and ensure the development and implementation of sectoral Disaster Management and Contingency Plan and disaster management activities • Risk assessment • Training on awareness and advocacy • DM planning and mainstreaming • Training on translating disaster	 Forecast for thunderstorms and severe weather (heavy rains) Location-specific storm/ cyclone/ windstorm warning specifying gust and mean wind speed Wind advisory Flood advisory Flood forecast Flash flood forecast Fire weather outlook Red flag forecast GLOF early warning Cyclone forecasts Landslide warning Seasonal forecast Climate change-related disaster scenarios 		 hour weather forecast does not provide sufficient leadtime for responding to hazardous weather events. Lack of coordination and sharing, particularly of daily climate information, with relevant sectors; there is no common platform where information, particularly of threatening situations, can be immediately shared between DMM and responsible agencies Lack of capacity to analyze information received from responsible agencies. Improper channel of information dissemination from DDM to vulnerable communities, particularly to farmers during harvesting seasons. Climate information currently provided to the public is mostly general, does not include any graphical climate information, and thus, not useful in raising public awareness on climate variability and change.

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				 Warnings are currently disseminated only through the televisions, thereby reaching a limited proportion of the population and may not reach people or areas that could be directly affected by the impending event.
Flood Engineering and Management Division (FEMD), Department of Engineering Service (DES), MoWHS	 flood prone rivers. Preparation of flood hazard map Design and construction of appropriate flood protection structures Design and planning of urban 	 Hydrological data for water supply, sanitation, and flood management Flood frequency and analysis of return periods for designing flood walls Systematic rainfall and surface water data to improve the design and management of Bhutan's road system Hourly rainfall data Discharge and rainfall data for conducting studies on cost-efficient flood protection Hydrological and hydraulic data required for the design of bridges and highways Historical hydrometeorological data for hazard mapping of human settlements and cultural heritage Climate Forecast 	Rainfall data and hydrological data including discharge and water	 ○ Lack of reliable long term data ○ Lack of meteorological stations

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
Department of Human Settlement, MoWHS	 ○ Flood analysis and feasibility studies related to settlement planning 		Currently not using DHMS data and products	
Department of Geology and Mines (DGM)	 Monitor geohazards such as landslides Preparation of landslide hazard map Monitors glacial lakes Takes remedial measures for GLOF risk reduction, mainly from the geological and geomorphology perspective 	 Data (collected at short intervals e.g. every 5 minutes or based on the event) Rainfall totals Rainfall intensity Rainfall duration Rainfall data collected at subnetwork stations adjacent to landslide areas (for the design of 	Currently not using DHMS data and products	

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMSproductsandservicescurrentlyutilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
		 structural mitigation measures) Products and Services: Depth duration frequency, depth duration curves Climate reports and special analysis of rainfall data to better determine rainfall characteristics at various landslide areas Other studies of rainfall over a smaller area 		
Energy		·	·	
Department of Renewable Energy (DRE)	Hydropower and Biomass) • Preparation of Renewable	 Discharge, hourly runoff and water level data Storm rainfall data Short interval catchment rainfall and runoff data for flood events 	Historical hydrological data for various basins, where available	 Absence or lack of hydrological data in some river basins Hydrometric network does not cover smaller E-W catchments well Secondary stations (float method) are of poor to medium reliability No data of flood peaks at night (unless the station has Automatic Water Level Recorder or AWLR) Difficulty in obtaining accurate estimates of peak flows and very low flows With only short duration data available, it is difficult to

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Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC)	 Design and selection of sites for lines and poles Preparing for expected repairs, informing customers of possible blackouts, and estimation of possible overload situations during extreme cold spells or heat waves, among others. Demand prediction 	 Solar radiation Products: Climate summaries Wind rose Flood analysis (for dam design) Short-term flood forecast for addressing sedimentation problems Short-term forecast of rainfall/inflow to determine peaking capacity Historical data for wind zone factor for better or optimized design and selection of sites for lines and poles Short- and medium-range weather forecasts Early warning containing information on the intensity of snow and storms would be helpful in improving Lightning forecast Seasonal forecasts for demand prediction 	Available historical information on wind zone factor	predict natural variability of flow and extremes
Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)	 Planning Operation and Maintenance 	 Historical hydrometeorological data for planning Updated information on the station coordinates, elevation, etc. Rainfall maps Accurate real-time observations and hydrometeorological forecasts 	Currently not using DHMS data and products	 There is no assurance that the available data is sufficiently quality-checked. Available data does not sufficiently represent the areas/locations of specific interest to DGPC

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMS products and services currently utilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
		for improving the performance and in short-term revenue forecasting for hydropower plants Green Power • Forecasts and information on the volume of river flow during the pre- and post-monsoon period • Early warning for extreme events, especially floods and cyclone		 Information on catchment area, station coordinates, etc. is not updated. Some project catchments, particularly in E-W rivers, are unmonitored or ungauged Rainfall data is inadequate for rainfall-runoff modelling to fill gaps and for extending flow series Satellite rainfall data is too coarse to demonstrate the complexities of the distribution of rainfall in mountains Lack of instantaneous water level and rainfall data is a constraint for analysis of events less than the 1-day duration

Institution/ Stakeholders	Climate sensitive planning and decision-making process, activities, and ongoing projects	Climate information products and services needed	DHMSproductsandservicescurrentlyutilized	Gaps in climate information utilization and other requirements
Department of Hydropower and Power Systems (DHPS)	 Govern and facilitate integrated, regionally balanced and optimal use of water resources for the development of hydropower with minimal environmental impacts Ensure that hydropower exports generate maximum revenue for the Nation. Ensure secure, reliable and affordable energy for the domestic consumers. 	 Real-time and accurate hydrometeorological data including rainfall, river discharge, suspended sediment Wind speed and wind direction data 	Historical data for design studies and operation of hydropower generation scheme.	 Incomplete data i.e. daily observations of rainfall were not recorded on some weekends or when the observer is not available Data quality is not reliable



Schematic showing components of the Agromet decision support system