



## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program **Result Area 2**

African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs

### Activity Report **July 2020 – June 2021**



Building Disaster  
Resilience in  
Sub-Saharan Africa



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



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## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program:

### Result Area 2

#### Activity Report 2020–2021

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the **Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program**: African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>CERFE</b>	Febbraio Research Center ( <i>Centre de Recherche et Documentation</i> )
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DiMSUR</b>	Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience
<b>DRF</b>	Disaster Recovery Framework
<b>DRM TAC</b>	Technical Advisory Committee
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>GFDRR</b>	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
<b>GHACOF</b>	Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum
<b>ICPAC</b>	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>IRD</b>	French institute for development ( <i>Institut de Recherche pour le Développement</i> )
<b>NBS</b>	Nature-Based Solutions
<b>NDMOs</b>	National Disaster Management Organizations
<b>NDRR</b>	ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental Organizations
<b>NMHS</b>	National Hydro-Meteorological Services
<b>OACPS</b>	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>PDNA</b>	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
<b>R2</b>	Result Area 2 Program
<b>RECs</b>	African Regional Economic Communities
<b>REPARC</b>	Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa – <i>Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Résilience aux Catastrophes dans la Sous-Région Afrique Centrale</i>
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization

## Executive Summary



Man with his son and daughter on a farm. South Africa  
Source: iStock.com

The Result Area 2 Program (the Program) is part of the *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries, and Communities* Program launched in 2015 by the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU). The Program implements a comprehensive African Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework, covering risk identification, risk assessment, risk reduction, disaster preparedness, disaster risk financing, and resilient recovery and reconstruction. Since 2015, the Program has been enhancing and strengthening the capacities of four African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African

Development Community (SADC) – in improving their coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination, advancing regional DRM agendas, and better assisting their respective member states in taking informed decisions to build better resilience to disasters.

This Activity Report provides an overview of activities implemented between July 2020 and June 2021 (Fiscal Year 21; FY21) under the Program. It highlights how RECs have continued (i) expanding their DRM portfolios despite the multiple challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and (ii) taking the lead on advising and supporting their respective member states with technical assistance to improve their human, institutional, and financial capacities to build disaster risk reduction (DRR).

During FY21, the RECs have prioritized developing **effective hydrological and hydrometeorological services** when working to prevent and mitigate the impacts of heavy rains and flooding. Several flooding events happened across sub-Saharan Africa in the past year and are only expected to become more frequent as a result of climate change, with wide-reaching consequences. Aside from being a significant hazard to urban residents living in exposed neighborhoods in fast-growing cities, flooding disrupts rural communities and agriculture, thereby contributing to rising food insecurity. RECs have thus worked to modernize their member states' hydromet capacities to ensure that they have access to the latest innovations in data collection and management as well as expert networks and knowledge resources.

**ECCAS** held its second Hydromet Forum in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Bank, attracting experts from regional research institutions such as the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development, the Congo River Basin Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and the Lake Tanganyika Authority. **ECOWAS** also held the second edition of its own Hydromet Forum, where participants endorsed new policy initiatives such as the ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategy. **IGAD** continued to use the Greater Horn of Africa Outlook Forums (GHACOFs) to develop contingency plans for flooding scenarios. It also issued an advisory for a wetter-than-expected season over farming regions in central and southern East Africa from March to May 2021. **SADC**, for its part, held its first ever Hydromet Forum where participants discussed approaches to modernize hydromet services and early warning systems.

The RECs have also noted substantial improvements in their respective member states' **data collection and analysis capacities**. This is a result of the opportunities made available to country and regional experts to expand their knowledge and to collaborate with their peers across networks. With improved access to specialized trainings, disruptive technologies, and knowledge products such as atlases of natural hazards and digital information libraries, DRM experts, policymakers, and stakeholders can take better risk-informed decisions. The increasing accessibility of accurate disaster risk data has opened DRM to more stakeholders, including women and youth.

Results obtained under the Program in FY21 reflect increased regional cooperation both within and between RECs as they advance their efforts to build resilience to disaster risks. The COVID-19 pandemic has further spurred cooperation on public health hazards and the integration of epidemiological risks in disaster recovery frameworks. Efforts to modernize DRM institutions as well as response and recovery frameworks are becoming even more valued as specialized and flexible responses will be needed to respond to new and emerging risks, especially as the effects of climate change continue to disrupt livelihoods across the continent.

## Program Overview

### Program Description

The Result Area 2 Program contributes to the achievements of the 2015–2020 Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program, which was established in 2015 by the EU and the OACPS and financed under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund. The Program has the overall objective of **strengthening the resilience of Sub-Saharan African regions, countries, and communities to the impacts of natural disasters**. These include the potential impacts of climate change on poverty reduction and sustainable development. To achieve this, five results areas were identified, and implemented by several partners and together make up a complete cycle of DRM measures and capacity building. These are as follows:



#### R1

Extended Program of Action is developed for the implementation of the Africa regional strategy for DRR. *Implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).*

#### R2

**African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional- and sub-regional Programs. *Implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).***

#### R3

Core capacities of the specialized national and regional climate center are improved to meet the needs of DRM agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services and community-focused and real-time early warning systems. *Implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB).*

#### R4

African countries have improved knowledge of risks through the compilation of historical disaster-related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks. *Implemented by UNDRR.*

#### R5

Multi-risk financing strategies are developed at regional, national, and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions and to mitigate the socioeconomic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters. *Implemented by GFDRR.*

GFDRR is responsible for the implementation of Result Areas 2 and 5.<sup>1</sup> This Activity Report covers the achievements of the Result Area 2 Program. Activities under the Program are implemented by the four RECs and World Bank teams. GFDRR ensures day-to-day coordination with the European Commission, the OACPS Secretariat, the implementing partners of the ACP-EU Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program, and other relevant stakeholders.

### Administrative arrangements:

The Program is financed through an additional contribution of €20 million to the Single Donor Trust Fund of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Program, under which it also falls administratively under.<sup>2</sup> A separate Activity Report presents the activities of the ACP-EU NDRR Program in FY21. For this reason, the Result Area 2 Program has gone beyond the timeframe of the 2015–2020 *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program*. The closing date of the ACP-EU NDRR Program is December 2021, which is therefore the closing date of the Result Area 2 Program.

### Steering Committee meetings:

Result Area 2 governance operates through the Steering Committee of the ACP-EU NDRR Program — consisting of representatives from the European Commission, the OACPS Secretariat, and the World Bank — which meets regularly to review progress, provide advice and guidance, and address needs arising from program implementation. During the meetings, the overall portfolio, financial overview, and status of the monitoring framework of the Program

are presented. The Steering Committee meeting for FY21 took place virtually on April 28, 2021. This was an opportunity to present the latest results and achievements under the Program for the four RECs.

### Coordination with other partners:

Various program-wide activities require — and encourage — regular coordination among development partners, particularly among the partners implementing the other four Result Areas of the Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program. In FY21, the World Bank and GFDRR worked closely with other regional partners on engagements related to hydrological and hydrometeorological services, such as with the WMO on the organization of the Hydromet Forums for ECCAS, ECOWAS, and SADC. Coordination with United Nations agencies also continued on the ground, such as with UNDRR on activities to support RECs on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, or with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the scope of activities related to post-disaster and resilient recovery.

## Program Objective

The specific objective of the Program is **to strengthen and accelerate the effective implementation of a comprehensive African DRR and DRM framework at the regional level in the following African RECs:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> The Economic Community of Central African States based in Libreville, Gabon (<a href="http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/">http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/</a>);</p> | <p><b>2</b> The Economic Community of West African States based in Abuja, Nigeria (<a href="http://www.ecowas.int/">http://www.ecowas.int/</a>);</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> The Intergovernmental Authority on Development based in Nairobi, Kenya (<a href="http://www.igad.int">http://www.igad.int</a>);</p>                      | <p><b>4</b> The Southern African Development Community based in Gaborone, Botswana (<a href="http://www.sadc.int">www.sadc.int</a>).</p>             |

### The Program is achieving its objective by:

- > Strengthening the coordination capacity of RECs to advance the regional DRM agenda;
- > Reinforcing RECs' capacities for planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination so RECs can better support their (a) member states in making informed decisions about building resilience to disasters and (b) their regional and sub-regional programs in implementing DRM;
- > Facilitating an advocacy platform and improving cooperation and networking among global, regional, and national technical institutions. RECs, their member states' governments, decision makers, and DRM practitioners will get access to technical knowledge and best operational practices from a wide range of stakeholders.

These activities support the strategic approach articulated by the AUC's Plan of Action, the RECs' DRR Strategies, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. They target the four RECs and their key partners, such as African universities and research centers, river basin authorities, and technical organizations.

<sup>1</sup> Result Area 5, also known as the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative, completed its activities and was closed in February 2020.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.gfdr.org/en/acp-eu>.

## Outcomes – Expected Results & Targets

The main expected results of the Program are:

- DRR strategies of RECs have become operational in line with their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
- Regional knowledge and understanding of DRM is enhanced, with a particular focus on strengthening national decision-making capacities;
- Cooperation and networking are improved among RECs while global, regional, and national research institutions and technical centers are enhanced to strengthen DRM and integrate it into sustainable development;
- Advice and technical assistance are provided to RECs' member states for the development of national DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs; and
- Regional capacities for the support of Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) and recovery/reconstruction planning are improved.

The achievement of the expected results is monitored against the following targets, to be reached by December 2021:

- The four African RECs have operationalized their DRR strategies according to their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
- At least eight sub-regional training events have been organized under the leadership of the respective RECs;
- The four African RECs have developed capacity to advise and provide technical assistance to their member states in developing national DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs; and
- The four RECs have developed and/or improved their capacity to support respective member states undertaking PDNAs and recovery planning.



Market, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Source: iStock.com

## Implementation Progress – FY21 Highlights

Through the Result Area 2 Program,  
**2,100 stakeholders**  
 including more than **350 women**  
 participated in **42 capacity-building**  
 events during FY21.

Among the stakeholders  
**586** people were trained on DRM  
**33** were trained on PDNAs and  
 Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) methodologies  
 and **1,481** attended conferences



Fisherman village in Ghana.  
 Source: iStock.com



**ECCAS** continued to produce knowledge resources on climate and disaster risks that are prevalent across Central Africa and that require effective intraregional cooperation. In FY21, it supported the **development of several key publications**, including: (i) a report analyzing the state of technical and institutional capacities dedicated to DRM and DRR in Central Africa; (ii) an atlas of hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks for the ECCAS region; and (iii) a suite of reports on hydrometeorological services and flood and drought management in Central Africa. In addition, ECCAS, the WMO, and the World Bank co-organized in May 2021 the **second ECCAS Hydromet Forum**, which aimed to share and consolidate achievements in the field of hydromet services at the regional level. In addition, ECCAS supported the governments of **Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe** to adopt their **respective national DRM strategies and action plans**.



**ECOWAS** has placed a continued emphasis on **strengthening flood management capacities and coordinating the regional hydrometeorological services** of member states. This materialized with the organization of several capacity building activities, as well as the second edition of the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and ECOWAS Subregional DRR Platform in April 2021. ECOWAS also continued to enhance **regional post-disaster recovery planning** through key institutional support such as: (i) a detailed assessment of vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic in **Nigeria**; (ii) training sessions in **Ghana** on assessing COVID-19 recovery needs and planning and enhancing local emergency preparedness capacities; (iii) a detailed risk assessment for **Cabo Verde's** Brava Island; and (iv) a PDNA/DRF training in **Senegal**.



**IGAD** provided strategic guidance to its member states through the **Greater Horn of Africa Outlook Forums**, giving participants updates on seasonal climate forecasts and on the implementation of DRM activities. IGAD also continued to address food insecurity through preventive policies in East Africa, including through the implementation of **climate-smart agriculture activities** in IGAD member states. In addition, IGAD continued to provide strategic guidance to strengthen its member states' capacities and coordinate their efforts to advance a regional DRM agenda, through support on post-disaster activities, including recurring floods in **Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan**.



**SADC** organized in June 2021 its **first Hydromet Forum for Southern Africa**. This event represented a significant milestone in the development of hydromet resources and capacities in the region, as it was the first ever regional forum dedicated to hydromet issues. SADC has also been working to strengthen regional efforts to enhance **emergency preparedness** by organizing a series of virtual trainings and meetings on this theme for the entire region. It also presented several key reports on this topic that enables DRM stakeholders and practitioners across Southern Africa to consult and share vital knowledge and to support improved decision-making.



Bicycle crosses a flooded road, Burkina Faso.  
Source: iStock.com

## Cross-cutting Issues: Gender Inclusion and Engagement with Civil Society

Gender is increasingly recognized as an indispensable component of building inclusive resilience, as the specific needs, experiences, and knowledge of women and girls are progressively integrated into DRM policies and planning. GFDRR has been committed to the empowerment of women and girls in resilience building as seen through its **Gender Action Plan for 2016–2021**,<sup>3</sup> which outlines steps that can be taken to lead to more gender-inclusive resilience. Using this action plan, GFDRR has been offering technical assistance and advisory services on how to ensure investments contribute to closing the gender gap in DRM.

Progress in gender mainstreaming for DRM has been visible across Africa in FY21 as the RECs began implementing their respective **gender action plans** that they adopted in FY20 for the 2020–2030 decade.<sup>4</sup> The RECs have begun to follow these roadmaps and take concrete steps, such as collecting gender-differentiated data, incorporating women’s knowledge and experiences of disaster hazards, emergency situations, and recovery efforts, sharing information through gender-sensitive channels, promoting gender-inclusive reconstruction and recovery, and ensuring equal opportunities for women and men to participate in all stages of the DRM cycle. For instance, during the second edition of the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum held on April 20–22, 2021, a panel discussion led by gender experts was held on financing gender-oriented initiatives and activities. More information on the outcome of this forum can be found in the In Focus story on page 35.

Civil society organizations have continued to be essential partners for the RECs in designing and implementing regional DRM policies and playing a key role in involving groups representing women and youth. The importance of civil society in building community-led resilience is laid out in GFDRR’s **Citizen Engagement Action Plan of 2019–2023**,<sup>5</sup> which advocates for additional grants that are oriented toward directly engaging citizens and grassroots organizations in GFDRR’s portfolio.

In FY21, RECs **continued to engage with CSOs** by holding capacity building workshops and supporting their participation at international events. In addition to their involvement in the second ECOWAS Hydromet Forum, civil society groups have been prominently represented in workshops that led to the validation of national DRR strategies and action plans in **Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe**. Civil society representatives from East Africa continued to be key participants in the quarterly GHACOFs and contributed to policy decisions based on climate forecasts. Their input has been vital in reporting on conditions that are indicative of imminent food shortages and they have advocated on behalf of smallholder farmers and agricultural workers whose livelihoods are dependent on accurate and timely weather forecasts. Civil society has played a crucial role in building local resilience to food insecurity — a role that is captured by a short documentary produced by IGAD. More on this documentary and on IGAD’s partnership with the Result Area 2 Program can be found in the In Focus story on page 41.

<sup>3</sup> The GFDRR Gender Action Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/3jchhFN>

<sup>4</sup> The **ECCAS** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/37iVuF3> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3czTDhV>. The **ECOWAS** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2BTyvF2> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3hcYgQM>. The **SADC** strategy is available at <https://bit.ly/30uPFmO>. The **IGAD** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/332jGLZ> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3f9zBud>.

<sup>5</sup> The GFDRR Citizen Action Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/2R2mSjt>

## Program-Wide Activities

### Drawing a regional picture of hydromet and early warning services in Africa



Johnson Boanuh, Desire Ndemazagoa, Keflemariam Sebhatu, Prithiviraj Booneedy, Marieke de Groen, Carl Dingel



The discussion on *Drawing a regional picture of Hydromet and early warning services in Africa*<sup>6</sup> was organized on December 3, 2020 as one of the events of the virtual Understanding Risk Forum 2020.<sup>7</sup> The session convened around 40 experts from ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, and SADC to reflect on the status of hydromet and early warning services in their respective sub-regions while linking this theme

with other areas, such as climate-smart agriculture. It featured some achievements from the Result Area 2 Program, including support to the ECOWAS flood risk management policy, the ECCAS Hydromet Forum, the stocktaking by SADC of weather, water, climate and early warning services in Southern Africa, as well as IGAD's climate outlooks and climate-smart agriculture activities.

<sup>6</sup> More information about the session and the recording can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3qig7cX>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, please see: [https://understandrisk.org/event/ur2020\\_forum/](https://understandrisk.org/event/ur2020_forum/).

## The Program in ECCAS



Road between cities, Angola.  
Source: iStock.com

ECCAS brings together 11 Central African member states with a total population of over 181 million: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The mandate of ECCAS is to promote regional cooperation among, and the integration of, its member states. This involves — among other activities — leading the political dialogue on DRR and climate change, on which regional cooperation is still developing. Collaboration has previously focused on questions of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region and the Central African Republic.

The region, which has a wide geographic footprint, is vulnerable to a large variety of natural disaster risks. The Central African Republic, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are flagged in the 2020 INFORM Index for Risk Management as among the 10 countries most vulnerable to natural disaster risks,

based on factors such as socio-economic vulnerability. Natural hazards in the region are exacerbated by environmental degradation, such as the deforestation of the Congo Basin Forest.

At ECCAS, the DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Unit is housed within the Department for Environment and Natural Resources under the Department for Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development. DRR is addressed through three strategic priorities in the ECCAS General Policy on Environment and Natural Resource Management adopted in 2007: the fight against land degradation, drought and desertification; climate change; and the assessment of and early warning for natural or manmade disasters. In 2017, Ministers adopted a revised version of the 2012 Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and CCA, bringing it in line with the priorities of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

Five components are implemented under the Result Area 2 Program in the ECCAS region:

- 1 Building regional knowledge of hazards, vulnerability, and risks through the mapping of transboundary hazards.
- 2 Reinforcing regional and national capacities in DRR and CCA.
- 3 Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation dealing with DRR and CCA.
- 4 Enhancing regional capacity for disaster response and post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning (All Component 4 activities had already been completed prior to FY21).
- 5 Strengthening technical and managerial capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat.

Activities carried out by ECCAS under these components are described in detail in the following section.



Flooded houses after a cyclone, Mozambique.  
Source: iStock.com

## Activities in ECCAS, FY21

### Component 1

**Building regional knowledge of hazards, vulnerability, and risks through the mapping of transboundary hazards.**

The ECCAS Secretariat has continued to develop knowledge products on climate and disaster risks that are prevalent across Central Africa and that require effective intraregional cooperation. In FY21, it led the development and publication of a report analyzing the **state of technical and institutional capacities dedicated to DRR and DRM in Central Africa**<sup>8</sup> as well as the region's most pressing needs in terms of capacity building. The report highlighted the crucial role played by key stakeholders, including regional organizations, universities, and research networks. Several intervention areas were identified and recommended to further strengthen and professionalize the field of DRR in Central Africa and to support regional practitioners and experts, including through education programs, inter-university collaboration and South-South cooperation. Furthermore, the report provided examples of good capacity building practices and described the contents of all master's programs related to DRM in several ECCAS member states, including **Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African**

**Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gabon.** In a display of the valuable contributions provided to ECCAS by DRM institutions, this report, titled "Technical and institutional knowledge and capacity in the field of Disaster Risk Management in Central Africa: Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses," was developed by several organizations, including the French Institute for Development (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement or IRD), the Febbraio research center (Centre de Recherche et Documentation Febbraio or CERFE), the University of Buea-Peri Peri U, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Center.

The ECCAS Secretariat has also significantly contributed in FY21 to a **base of DRM-related knowledge available to policymakers, experts, and communities** affected by natural hazards to help them design risk-resilient approaches to development. This is described in greater detail in the In Focus feature on page 26.

### Component 2

**Reinforcing regional and national capacities on DRR and CCA**

The Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (*Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Résilience aux Catastrophes dans la Sous-Région Afrique Centrale - REPARC*) is a key institution in promoting regional exchanges in Central Africa on DRR. It has been a vital partner of the Program in **bringing stakeholders together to participate in**

**thematic discussions, capacity building activities and other knowledge exchanges** and in carrying out regional and national DRR and CCA activities. In its 2019-2020 Annual Report, REPARC reflected on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its activities and emphasized the key progress that was nonetheless achieved, including continuous outreach and advocacy

<sup>8</sup> The report is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/2XDQ9Eu>.

efforts made with local parliamentarians and their constituents. For example, the report highlighted the launch of a new civil society network dedicated to DRR in the **Republic of Congo**, Gabon's DRM Bill under consideration in the National Assembly, and the introduction of DRR in both Gabon's new Hydrocarbon Code and the new Urban Planning Code.

The key role played by research institutions and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) was also evident as ECCAS member states continued working with the ECCAS Secretariat to develop and carry out DRM activities with the help of several new **DRM training modules**. These were developed by the research consortium mentioned in the previous component (including IRD, the CERFE, the University of Buea-Peri Peri U, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Center). The modules covered several DRM-related topics, such as an introduction to risks and hazards, flood risks, landslides, infectious diseases, seismic risks, volcanic activity, and toxic gas emissions from lakes. These will help regional policymakers and stakeholders with DRM activities.



Furthermore, the ECCAS Commission organized a virtual workshop in April 2021 to validate a **guidance note on the introduction and improvement of forecasting and early warning systems in Central Africa** and the regional framework for the modernization of the National Hydro-Meteorological Services (NHMS) agencies of its member states. The draft guidance report was developed by a consortium of private sector actors specializing in natural resource management: Deltares,<sup>9</sup> Concept,<sup>10</sup> and Terea.<sup>11</sup> This workshop gathered 30 participants, including 3 women, representing relevant sectoral focal points from ECCAS member states and experts from water basin commissions, including the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Lake Tanganyika Authority, the International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin, and the WMO.

From May 4–6, 2021, ECCAS, the WMO, and the World Bank co-organized the **second ECCAS Hydromet Forum**.<sup>12</sup> This second edition, which was held virtually, aimed to share and consolidate achievements in the field of hydromet services at the regional level. Participants exchanged ideas on modernizing hydromet services in ECCAS member states to better contribute to climate-resilient development and adaptation planning. The audience was presented with analysis and diagnosis models, namely the ECCAS regional framework and the early-warning services modernization plan of action for NHMS agencies, which was validated in FY21 by ECCAS member states.

<sup>9</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.deltares.nl/en/>.

<sup>10</sup> For more information, please see: <http://www.concept.tn/>.

<sup>11</sup> For more information, please see <http://www.terea.net/en/>.

<sup>12</sup> The agenda and documents related to the second ECCAS Hydromet Forum are available at: <https://www.hydrometforum2021.org/page/1771352/eccas>.

The virtual event was attended by 180 participants — including 40 women — from civil society, academia, parliamentarians from the REPARC network, the private sector, and sub-regional institutions such as the new Center for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa. Also in attendance were the national focal points for DRM and experts on hydrology, meteorology, agriculture, and DRR.

ECCAS issued a series of key recommendations to improve hydromet services in the region. These areas for priority intervention include:

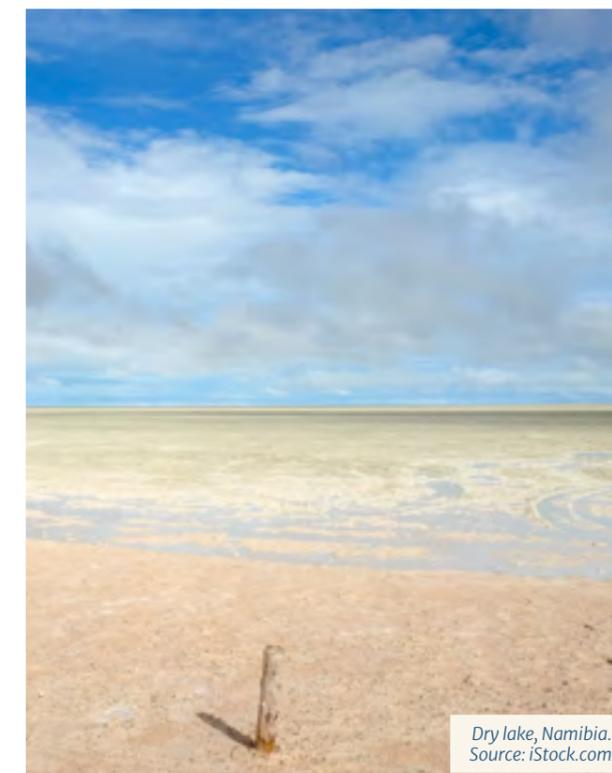
- Designing new training plans to ensure that hydromet products and services can be delivered in short, medium-, or long-term scenarios and use existing training opportunities based in regional centers.

- Developing partnerships between the ECCAS region, organizations responsible for transboundary basins, and other regional and international organizations to share hydromet data and information.
- Creating public-private partnerships to create holistic solutions to ensure the long-term sustainability of hydrometeorological networks and services through cost and revenue sharing arrangements over time.
- Securing these public-private partnerships with an appropriate institutional, legal, and regulatory framework.

### Component 3

#### Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation on DRR and CCA

With support from the Result Area 2 Program, ECCAS has been instituting a series of reforms since 2010 to streamline its decision-making for DRM and improve its institutional response. Some of these changes were formalized in a session held on July 30, 2020 called the **revised ECCAS treaty and restructured ECCAS commission**. Under the new Commission, the DRM Unit is known as the Disaster Risk Management Service and is attached to the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate of the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development Department.



Dry lake, Namibia.  
Source: iStock.com



Participants during the four validation workshops in Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe. Source: ECCAS

A major milestone was reached in FY21 to support ECCAS member states in strengthening their legislation on DRR. The ECCAS Secretariat and the Global Safety and Environment Consortium organized a series of workshops where participants from **Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic** and **São Tomé and Príncipe** were able to adopt their **national DRM strategies and action plans** with support from the Program:

- The first workshop was held on November 10–11, 2020 in Yaoundé, **Cameroon**. It gathered 36 participants, including 14 women, who represented sectoral ministries, civil society, and international partners to approve Cameroon’s National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
- **São Tomé and Príncipe’s** National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan was validated at a workshop held on November 16–17, 2020 in São Tomé, which gathered 32 participants, including 13 women, from civil society and sectoral ministries.

- A workshop was held on November 25–26, 2020 in Bangui where 40 participants, including 10 women, validated the **Central African Republic’s** National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
- A workshop was held on December 2–3, 2020 in N’Djamena, **Chad**, to validate the country’s National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, which gathered 40 participants, including 10 women.

These national DRM strategies and action plans will help governments of Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe engage in meaningful reforms to enhance DRM strategies and responses to climate shocks.

## Component 5

### Strengthening technical and managerial capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat



Screenshot of the new ECCAS DRR website. Source: ECCAS website

In September 2020 the ECCAS Secretariat **launched its official website**,<sup>13</sup> where relevant documents, videos, and key deliverables are regularly uploaded. This includes information on the Climate Prediction and Application Centre for Central Africa (Centre d’Application et de Prévisions Climatologique de l’Afrique Centrale) based in Douala. This Centre has a crucial role in providing technical assistance to the national meteorological services of the ECCAS member states, thus strengthening the role of the ECCAS Secretariat as a repository for resources that can be called upon by member states.

<sup>13</sup> The new ECCAS DRR website is accessible at <http://www.grc-ceeac.org/>.

**In Focus:**  
ECCAS produces a wealth of disaster risk management knowledge products to share among its member states



In the past year, the ECCAS Secretariat has significantly contributed to a base of DRM-related knowledge available to policymakers, experts, and communities affected by natural hazards to help them design risk-resilient approaches to development. The ability of ECCAS to mobilize experts and strengthen collaborative networks has greatly facilitated the flow of valuable disaster data, expertise, and best practices across Central Africa. The gains made from these exchanges have helped develop new knowledge products which address different vulnerabilities in the region as well as propose policy solutions that take into consideration the growing impact of climate change and mitigate the impact of future disasters.

In addition to the report on technical and institutional knowledge and capacity for DRM in Central Africa outlined earlier in this report (accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/2XDQ9Eu>), one of the new products published in the last year was an **atlas of hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks for the ECCAS region** (the document is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3j6GXo0>). Driven by a need to better understand,

analyze, and contextualize natural hazards, the atlas introduces a range of approaches and maps to explain perceived and experienced risks, their consequences as well as the physical, socio-cultural, historical and geographic factors that contribute to these risks. Data from geographic, geomorphological, climatic, and historical sources provide a level of detail which will improve the understanding users of the atlas have of major risks, while providing a holistic view that considers the multisectoral nature of risk. The atlas was disseminated at a virtual workshop held in March 2021 which brought together technical experts and sectoral focal points from the eleven ECCAS member states, river basin authorities and universities. This atlas was also developed in parallel to an analysis that presents the main natural hazards in the ECCAS region (available in French at <https://bit.ly/3ixfA66>).

ECCAS also provided insight on the state of **hydrometeorological services and flood and drought management in Central Africa**, as well as on current efforts to strengthen these services. Specifically, five reports were produced on the state of the National

Hydro Meteorological Services by a consortium managed by the independent institute for applied research in the field of water and subsurface, Deltares. These reports, which cover hydromet services at the **regional level** (available in French at <https://bit.ly/38FBbUx>), as well as in **Angola** (available in French at <https://bit.ly/3i7DzXg>), **Burundi** (available in French at <https://bit.ly/35BCYrL>), **Equatorial Guinea** (available in French at <https://bit.ly/3sm1hUx>), and **Rwanda** (available in French at <https://bit.ly/38GX5qo>), provide a detailed assessment of the current strengths and weaknesses of these services. They also provide frameworks that can guide efforts to modernize these services and improve decision-making for flood and drought management.

Efforts to promote and develop detailed knowledge products on specialized topics have continued into 2021, with the launch of an expression of interest for a study that aims to develop better knowledge and information on the **effects of natural disasters in the agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors in the ECCAS region** and on possible coping solutions. This study, which will be finalized and delivered in August 2021, will estimate the damage and losses caused by natural hazards in agriculture and fisheries

sectors of ECCAS member states, identify specific sectoral needs for hydrometeorological services, and propose an appropriate mechanism to strengthen and build the livelihoods of rural populations affected by natural hazards in ECCAS member states. Another study was launched to explore how **ecosystems and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)** can be promoted to reduce and mitigate natural disaster impacts in the ECCAS region. This study will develop an overview of the major ecosystems in DRM in the ECCAS region, present relevant NBS case studies from Central Africa, and identify opportunities and gaps in the legal and regulatory environments for the promotion of NBS in the region.

The development and dissemination of these knowledge products solidifies the gains made by the Result Area 2 Program and will ensure their sustainability. DRM stakeholders and practitioners across Central Africa are able to consult and share vital knowledge on a broad range of topics covering different aspects of disaster risks. This knowledge commons will support improved decision-making when it comes to risk prevention, and improve the quality and quantity of resilience strategies available to the region.



Luanda, Angola.  
Source: iStock.com

## The Program in ECOWAS



High water season, Niger.  
Source: iStock.com

ECOWAS brings together 15 West African member states with a total population of over 349 million: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. ECOWAS' Vision 2020 calls for a borderless region where people have the capacity to access and harness resources through the creation of opportunities for sustainable development and environmental preservation. In addition, in June 2020, ECOWAS commenced the process of developing its Vision 2050 to firm up the aspirations and development priorities of the West African region for the next 30 years, while consolidating the gains made in the implementation of programs and projects identified under the Vision 2020.

Natural hazards pose a real threat in West Africa, with about 75 percent of its population living in areas that are affected at least once every two years by a tropical cyclone, drought, flood or earthquake. Some of Africa's

most populous cities, such as Lagos and Abidjan, are located on the West African coast, while major rivers like the Niger, Volta, Senegal, and Gambia crisscross the region, and the vast, drought-vulnerable Sahel and Savannah zones span national borders.

ECOWAS' DRR program is housed within the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, under the overall guidance of the Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender. ECOWAS is committed to fulfilling its peace and security mandate. In its 2006 Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, it stated that disasters and conflicts mutually reinforce each other. ECOWAS is increasingly upscaling its work on DRR, having adopted the DRR Plan of Action 2015–2030 — which builds on the 2010–2015 Regional Policy on DRR and the Sendai Framework for DRR — and a new DRR gender strategy and action plan for the 2020–2030 period approved in February 2020.

Four components are implemented in ECOWAS under the Program. These are:

- 1 Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level;
- 2 Strengthening regional flood management capacity;
- 3 Enhancing regional post-disaster recovery planning; and
- 4 Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM, respectively.

Activities carried out by ECOWAS under these components are described in detail in the following section.



Landscape view, Niger.  
Source: iStock.com

## Activities in ECOWAS, FY21

### Component 1

Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level



Opening ceremony of the workshop to revitalize Senegal's national platform for DRR, December 2020  
Source: ECOWAS

ECOWAS has been striving to strengthen DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional levels. For instance, in FY21, the government of **Senegal** has sought to revitalize its national platform for DRR. With guidance from ECOWAS, it developed a consensus roadmap to implement its National DRR Strategy and

its Action Plan for 2020–2030. A **capacity-building workshop** was held in Dakar on December 8–10, 2020 to discuss how to revitalize the national DRR platform. It was attended by 52 participants, including 8 women, representing different government ministries and civil society organizations.

### Component 2

Strengthening regional flood management capacity

In FY21, ECOWAS made considerable advancements in modernizing hydrometeorological services among its member states and coordinating their efforts

through regional trainings and exchange forums. This is described in greater detail in the In Focus feature on page 35.

### Component 3

Enhancing regional post disaster recovery planning



(Left) Official opening ceremony of the NEMA capacity building workshop in Abuja Nigeria; (Right) Handing over of equipment by the Commissioner Social Affairs to the Director General of NEMA. December 2020  
Source: ECOWAS



One of ECOWAS' most solicited fields of expertise in FY21 was building regional capacities for disaster response, post-disaster assessments, and reconstruction planning. Training events were held across West Africa to provide ECOWAS member states with additional resources to improve their emergency preparedness and response.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted countries to integrate vulnerability and response to public health emergencies in DRM platforms. In Abuja, **Nigeria**, a capacity-building workshop was held on December 1–3, 2020 to develop **a detailed assessment of vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic**. It gathered 41 participants, of which 23 were women. The objective of the training was to strengthen participants' understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods, including environmental and socioeconomic impacts, and address those in a recovery framework designed for the pandemic. This workshop was also an opportunity for the ECOWAS Secretariat to provide Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency with dedicated information, communication, and technological equipment.

Another **training on assessing COVID-19 recovery needs and planning** was held on March 22–25, 2021 in Accra, **Ghana**. This national training gathered 25 participants, including 5 women, representing different government ministries and CSOs. It was an opportunity to familiarize the officials on PDNA, COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment, and disaster recovery framework (DRF) methodologies.



PDNA, CRNA and DRF training in Accra, Ghana in March 2021.  
Source: ECOWAS

A detailed **risk assessment** for **Cabo Verde's Brava Island** was launched during a validation workshop held in Brava Island from March 29, 2021 to April 1, 2021. The workshop gathered 17 participants, including 3 women, and disseminated the results of the assessment, which provides vital information to enhance preparedness to disaster shocks for the island. It also enabled participants to initiate a conversation with local representatives and authorities on the appropriate instruments for managing risks, preventing disasters, minimizing damage and associated losses, and preventing new disaster risks.



Validation workshop for the Brava Island risk assessment in March/April 2021.  
Source: Cabo Verde Civil Protection.



Ghana Disaster Management Organization training workshop in April 2021.  
Source: Ghana National Disaster Management Organization – NADMO.

A training workshop in Accra, **Ghana** on April 6–7, 2021 focused on **enhancing local emergency preparedness capacities** for local-level district disaster management committees and community-based organizations specializing in climate and disaster risks. Attracting 25 participants, including 6 women, the workshop was

organized in collaboration with the Ghana National Disaster Management Organization and included interactive lectures and group discussions that aimed to build participants' capacity for disaster management and resilience at the local level.

Under the leadership of ECOWAS and with technical support from the European Union, UNDP, and the World Bank, a **PDNA and DRF training** was organized in Dakar, **Senegal**, on May 19–21, 2021. This training introduced 33 participants, including 7 women, to PDNA and DRF methodologies and illustrated how these methodologies could be applied through case studies from relevant sectors such as agriculture, health, water and sanitation, employment, and sanitation.



PDNA training in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2021.  
Source: ECOWAS.



ECOWAS also worked with UNDP and the World Bank to formulate and disseminate guidelines for recovery planning. One of the main accomplishments of this collaboration has been **the establishment of a roster of experts for disaster recovery activities** that is operated and managed by the ECOWAS Secretariat. This roster of experts is a rapid post-disaster recovery deployment mechanism that maintains trained and

pre-vetted experts on PDNA and DRF, ready to be quickly deployed to support ECOWAS member states in an emergency. A workshop was held on June 23, 2021 by ECOWAS, UNDP, and the World Bank to finalize this roster of experts and discuss its operationalization, bringing together 18 participants, including three women.

**Component 4**

**Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM**



Handover of technical equipment to the Director of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Niger in presence of the EU delegation, August 2020

ECOWAS has continued to support efforts to improve the operational and technical capacities of the National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) of its member states. **New technical and office management equipment was delivered in August 2020 by ECOWAS** through their Recipient-executed component to the NDMOs of **Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Togo**. This equipment will help these NDMOs improve their data collection and management practices as well as strengthen early warning systems.

**In Focus:**  
Strengthening flood resilience across West Africa



ECOWAS has made considerable advancements in hydrometeorological services across West Africa, thanks to the support from the Result Area 2 Program. These include improved data collection and exchanges and the use of technological advancements in flood forecasting and modeling for more effective and timely early warning systems. This work had previously led to the development of a formalized Flood Management Strategy for West Africa, which serves as a guiding policy document informing member states on recommended approaches for flood mitigation.

FY21 has seen a continued emphasis on strengthening flood management capacities and coordinating the regional hydrometeorological services of member states. A **virtual training course on flood forecasting and flood impact assessments** was organized from September 14–17, 2020 and was attended by 94 participants, including 19 women. This training course was the third of a series and was organized by the West Africa Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the AGRHYMET Regional Centre.\* Participants followed modules on early-warning practices for floods and country-specific geospatial open-source data preparation and analysis, geospatial information technology for flood impact analysis, and hydrological and hydraulic modelling for flood forecasting workflows. The course was part of an initiative to promote a common flood management

policy for ECOWAS member states.

Following the success of its first edition in 2018, the **second edition of the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and ECOWAS Subregional DRR Platform** was held virtually from April 20–22, 2021. This second edition was co-organized by ECOWAS, the government of the **Gambia**, WMO and the World Bank. It gathered 502 participants representing governments, regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and gender groups to discuss and design the future of hydromet service modernization to strengthen DRM in West Africa and beyond.

The Forum served as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas as well as stock-taking of progress in modernizing the hydromet landscape of the region. It created an opportunity for development partners to customize programs and investments based on the needs of sectors and user groups as well as discuss regional and national initiatives and program to support these needs. The Forum also enabled the endorsement of crucial policy documents, including the ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategy, the ECOWAS Gender Strategy, and the ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative. The agenda and documents related to the second ECCAS Hydromet Forum are available at: <https://www.hydrometforum2021.org/page/1771351/ecowas>.

These consultations have a crucial role in building resilience in West Africa, as the region confronts more extreme weather events due to climate change. Despite the logistical challenges imposed by the current public health emergency, ECOWAS has continued to provide vital platforms for exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices. The ability to draw upon regional resources to design a preventive flood management strategy is essential for the protection of lives and development gains, as evidenced by the strong interest that hydromet services have garnered from several economic sectors.

\*The AGRHYMET Regional Centre was established in 1974 as a specialized institute of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and composed of nine member states (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal). It is an interstate public institute with a legal status and financial autonomy. It has an international status and is based in Niamey, Niger. Its main objectives are contributing to achieving food security and increased agricultural production in the CILSS member states and improving natural resources management in the Sahelian region.



Main market, Cotonou, Benin.  
Source: iStock.com

## The Program in IGAD



Asmara, Eritrea.  
Source: iStock.com

IGAD brings together 8 East African member states, with a combined population of around 230 million people: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. Its mandate is to lead the general political dialogue on food security, environmental protection, peace, and humanitarian affairs in those countries.

Some 70 percent of the IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands that receive less than 600 millimeters of rain annually, leaving the main economic activity of agriculture vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and potentially affecting food security. In 2011, the region was hit by the worst drought in 60 years, showing the devastating effects of climate change. In 2019–2020, the worst desert locust infestation in decades ravaged the region, destroying vegetation and crops and threatening food security in a region where 24 million people are already food insecure.

The IGAD DRM Unit is hosted by the Nairobi, Kenya-

based IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). In 2016, IGAD presented its new Regional Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2016–2020, which places resilience at the heart of the DRM approach. This Plan states that IGAD will promote the collection of climate data and the availability of early warning information as well as the mainstreaming of climate information in key sectors. Since 2020, IGAD has also been integrating gender considerations into its DRM planning and the adoption of its strategy and action plan. Under the leadership of the IGAD Secretariat, and in close collaboration with the World Bank, IGAD undertook the formulation of a customized Gender Strategy and Action Plan in Disaster and Climate Risk Management (2020–2030). This entailed a comprehensive desk review of existing gender policies, plans, and guidelines within the IGAD Secretariat and its member states. The IGAD Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change adaptation was validated on May 14, 2020.

Three components are implemented in IGAD under the Result Area 2 Program. They contribute to:

- 1 Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda and the capacity of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards;
- 2 Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region;
- 3 Strengthening IGAD's DRM Unit.

Activities carried out by IGAD under these components are described in detail in the section below.



Street in Kikuub, Uganda.  
Source: iStock.com

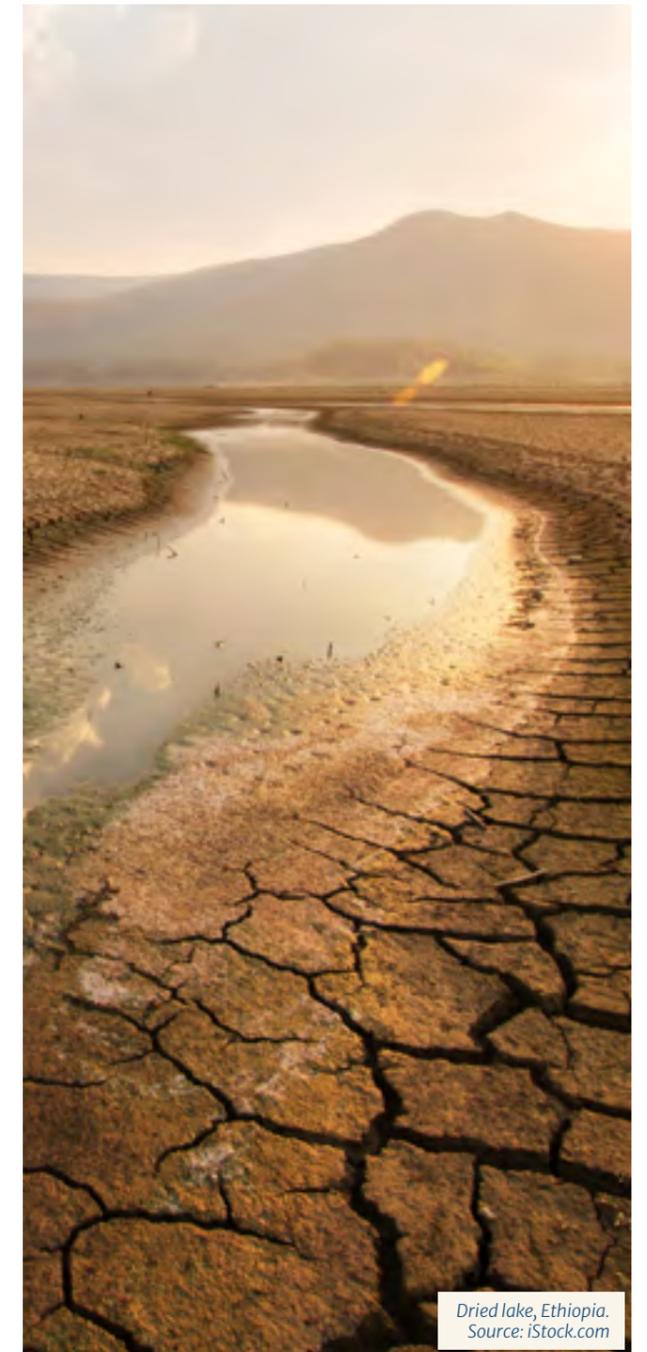
## Activities in IGAD, FY21

### Component 1

**Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda and the capacity of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards**

The **Greater Horn of Africa Outlook Forums** (GHACOF) serve as an indispensable resource provided by the ICPAC for any regional DRM experts and professional sectors depending on reliable climate forecasts, especially in the agricultural sector. GHACOF participants represent different sectors concerned with DRM, including scientists, policymakers, government officials, parliamentary representatives, NGOs, community leaders, and IGAD staff. These platforms have provided key strategic guidance in strengthening East Africa's DRM and CCA capacities and have continued to provide updates on the implementation of DRM activities in the region despite the logistical problems imposed by the pandemic. Three editions of GHACOF were held during FY21:

- The 56<sup>th</sup> edition of GHACOF was convened virtually on August 25–26, 2020, to present participants with an overview of climate predictions for October to December 2020. The theme was “Climate Services amidst Covid-19 and multiple climatic risks.” It was attended by 300 participants, including 75 women. Prior to this edition, IGAD's DRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met to prepare ministerial meetings.
- The 57<sup>th</sup> edition of GHACOF was held virtually on February 15–17, 2021. It presented a climate outlook for March to May 2021 and gathered 185 participants, including 46 women. The 58<sup>th</sup> edition of GHACOF was convened virtually on May 25–27, 2021. It included a presentation on seasonal climate forecasts for the June to August 2021 period and attracted 250 participants, including 62 women.



Dried lake, Ethiopia.  
Source: iStock.com

## Component 2

### Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region

The implementation of **climate-smart agriculture activities** in IGAD member states has continued in FY21 through the Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative. This is described in greater detail in the In Focus feature on page 41.

In addition, IGAD continued to provide strategic guidance to strengthen its member states' capacities and coordinate their efforts to advance a regional DRM agenda. FY21 has seen an emphasis on improving the effectiveness of post-disaster interventions, in response to several disaster events that occurred throughout East Africa. For instance, in response to the region's unprecedented desert locust invasion in the first half of 2020, the IGAD Secretariat helped develop and launch the **Food Security and Nutrition Response Strategy** in August 2020. Several other specific activities were undertaken to strengthen DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region:

- The IGAD Secretariat supported the development of a **situational analysis report** for **Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan** following the devastating floods

that affected these countries in early September 2020. In addition, the Secretariat helped Sudan and South Sudan to prepare a disaster response appeal following these floods. This also prompted IGAD to provide additional support to plan regional risk profiles.

- A **DRM policy validation workshop** was held on December 21–22, 2020 in Mogadishu, **Somalia**, gathering 95 participants, including 17 women. The objective was to review the final draft of the Somalia DRM Strategy developed by the Somali government through the Department of Disaster Management, under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, in collaboration with IGAD. The Somalia DRM Strategy was reviewed and updated so it could be aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union's Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa, and the IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management.

## Component 3

### Strengthening IGAD's DRM Unit

The IGAD DRM Unit co-organized with UNDRR on September 10, 2020 a **virtual regional workshop** for its focal points on the Sendai Framework. This workshop, which gathered 12 participants, also contributed to the launch of the Africa Biennial Report on DRR.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The report is accessible at: <https://bit.ly/3G33b35>.



**In Focus:**  
Addressing food insecurity through preventive policies in East Africa

Farmer watering cabbage planting, Angola.  
Source: iStock.com

IGAD has been improving over the past years its capacities for coordination, planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination, advancing a regional DRM agenda; and assisting its member states in taking informed decisions to build climate and disaster resilience. As a result, the regional organization has been able to provide more resources and technical assistance to at-risk communities, helping them adopt a more proactive approach to preparing for droughts, flooding, disease, and locust outbreaks.

One of the sectors where this partnership has had a transformational impact is in **agriculture**. Smallholder farms across the region frequently bear crippling costs from disaster events, resulting in the destruction of vital crops, livestock, and farm buildings and infrastructure. While farmers used to be able to predict climate forecasts based on traditional seasons, climate change has resulted in significant weather fluctuations, leaving agricultural communities unable to make long-term plans and leaving their incomes vulnerable to these fluctuations. For this reason, IGAD, with the support of the European Union and

the World Bank, has made considerable investments in developing the region's forecasting and early warning capacities. IGAD has been able to collect and share with affected communities high-quality meteorological data from IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Center.

**Investments in capacity building for prevention and early warnings** have resulted in more stable livelihoods for agriculture-dependent communities. The ability to share critical data has been greatly improved by IGAD's encouragement of greater intra-regional cooperation through training events and conferences. This cooperation has extended to NGOs working directly with these communities, facilitating efforts to strengthen local risk resilience. For example, the Kenyan Red Cross has been working with IGAD to guide local communities on how to adopt a preventive approach and how to adapt to, mitigate, and prevent the impacts of disasters, such as building resilient irrigation systems that can withstand drought conditions.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership between IGAD, the European Union, and the World Bank has continued unabated to reinforce regional risk management. There are promising signs that the technical achievements developed under this partnership will be self-sustaining, as the region continues to develop institutional knowledge that can be shared and expanded.

A documentary produced by IGAD provides an insight on the impact of disasters caused by natural hazards in the IGAD region and presents activities and achievements of the Result Area 2 Program. A long version of the documentary is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3yFxr6Z> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2SvZrmF>. A short version of the documentary is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2TozR3v> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3yFGL4o>.



## The Program in SADC



SADC brings together 16 Southern African member states, with a total population of over 345 million: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. SADC's goal is to alleviate poverty and support socioeconomic development, peace, and security through cooperation and regional integration.

SADC has made substantial progress toward the achievement of development goals. However, differences between countries remain and the gains from development are under pressure from the increasing threat of natural disasters. Aside from an increase in the frequency, magnitude, and impact of drought and flood events since 2000, climate change brings additional problems to island states such as the Seychelles. In 2019, tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth successively affected several SADC members, including Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, bringing widespread flooding and destruction in both urban

and rural areas. These disaster events were a reminder of the need for regional efforts to be reinforced to improve coordination and networking among regional and technical institutions in Southern Africa.

The SADC DRR Unit, which became operational in 2009, is responsible for coordinating regional preparedness and response programs for transboundary hazards and disasters, working closely with the SADC Climate Services Center. The project implementation unit of the SADC DRR Unit consists of: (i) an Executive Secretary Assistant heading the unit; (ii) a Senior Program Officer; (iii) a Liaison Officer; and (iv) a Financial Management Expert.

SADC has identified key DRM challenges for the region, including under-funded and ill-coordinated institutional frameworks for DRR at different levels of government; the lack of comprehensive and constantly updated risk assessments and analysis; and weak information and knowledge management systems. In November 2016, SADC ministers responsible for DRM

adopted the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which builds on the DRM program that was endorsed in 2008 by the SADC summit of heads of state and government and in 2009 by the SADC Council.

Under the leadership of the SADC Secretariat, and in close collaboration with the World Bank,

SADC undertook the activity for the formulation of a customized Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan & Action (2020–2030). The SADC Gender Strategy and Action Plan (2020–30) for mainstreaming gender in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation was formulated and validated in February 2020.

Five components are implemented in SADC under the Result Area 2 Program. These contribute to:

- 1 Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response institutional and coordination mechanisms;
- 2 Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems;
- 3 Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program;
- 4 Enhancing the mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies; and
- 5 Strengthening the implementation and coordination capacity of the SADC Secretariat.

Activities carried out by SADC under these components are described in detail in the section below.



Market, Manzini, Swaziland. Source: iStock.com

## Activities in SADC, FY21

### Component 1

Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response; institutional and coordination mechanisms



Virtual validation meeting with SADC and its member states. Source: SADC.

**Emergency preparedness** has been a central theme in FY21 for SADC, which has guided its member states in improving the effectiveness of their responses to disasters. It hosted a series of virtual trainings and meetings on this theme for the entire region:

- On February 10, 2021, the first virtual simulation exercise on emergency operations was held and gathered 71 participants including 22 women.
- On March 25, 2021, a virtual validation meeting was held to discuss the findings of a series of

reports on emergency management policies in the region, which gathered 45 participants including 16 women. The reports that were presented were: i) the *Regional Disaster Risk Situational Assessment Report*; (ii) the *Roadmap for the Transit of Humanitarian Resources*; (iii) the *SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre Standard Operational Procedures*; (iv) the *SADC Emergency Response Team Standard Operational Procedure*; and (v) the *SADC Standby Force Contingency Plan*.

## Component 2

### Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems

The SADC Secretariat, together with the European Union, the WMO and the World Bank organized the **first SADC Hydromet Forum for Southern Africa** on

June 22–23, 2021. This event is described in greater detail in the “In-Focus” feature on page 48.

## Component 3

### Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program

SADC continued to organize several key events to provide regional DRR advocacy and strategic guidance to its member states on DRR capacity development. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the **Understanding Risk Forum** was held virtually on December 1–3, 2020. One of the community sessions held as part of the Forum, entitled *Building urban resilience in Southern Africa*, gathered 40 regional experts, and

highlighted the analytical work carried out by the Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) sub-regional technical centre,<sup>15</sup> with support from the Result Area 2 Program. The aim of this particular session was to facilitate urban vulnerability and resilience capacity-building activities for SADC member states.



Maputo, Mozambique.  
Source: iStock.com

<sup>14</sup> For more information about DiMSUR, please see <http://dimsur.org/>. DiMSUR was supported by the ACP-EU NDRR Program between 2013–2015. For more information, please see <https://bit.ly/2VN20xt>.

## Component 4

### Enhancing the mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies

The SADC Hydromet Forum was held virtually on June 22–23, 2021, hosted by the World Bank in partnership with SADC, the EU, and the WMO. The Forum included a presentation of the key findings of a regional analysis on the status of **weather, climate, water and early warning services in southern Africa** that was conducted between April 2020 and June 2021. Several regional consultation meetings were conducted since January 2021 to validate these findings and a related investment framework. These workshops gathered

the views of expert representatives from national hydrological, meteorological and DRM entities of all SADC member states on the status of the services and opportunities for strengthening regional collaboration on early warning systems. With its focus on private sector engagement, the analysis drew a business case canvas for collaboration on early warning with experts from Eswatini and representatives of private sector companies, such as insurance, mobile phone providers and energy utilities.

## Component 5

### Strengthening the implementation and coordination capacity of the SADC Secretariat

SADC hosted a **virtual consultation with its member states** on September 28–29, 2020, bringing together 35 experts from SADC countries and other regional organizations. This consultation provided a venue to discuss draft reports and technical and strategic feedback on consultancy assignments. These aimed at strengthening SADC’s regional and national disaster risk reduction information management system, developing a regional disaster risk reduction policy advocacy and capacity development program, reinforcing regional disaster preparedness and response institutional and coordination mechanisms,

and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development plans and strategies. These assignments provided the analytical backbone for SADC’s policy and capacity development. This included analytical insights and policy recommendations for mainstreaming DRR as well as organizational and institutional arrangements for SADC’s Humanitarian Operation Center. Virtual simulation exercises were also carried out to strengthen regional disaster preparedness capacities. These consultancy assignments were completed in December 2020.

### In Focus: Inaugural Hydromet Forum for Southern Africa



The SADC Secretariat, together with the European Union, the WMO, and the World Bank organized the first **SADC Hydromet Forum** for Southern Africa on June 22–23, 2021. This event represented a significant milestone in the development of hydromet resources and capacities in the region, as it was the first ever regional forum dedicated to hydromet issues. The Forum was organized entirely virtually and was attended by 340 participants.

This event was an opportunity for participants to discuss the status and the future of strengthening hydromet and early warning services in the SADC region and share regional approaches for early warning, impact-based forecasting, private sector engagement, and partnerships with universities. Speakers included representatives from the national weather, water and early warning services in the region, regional organizations, and river basin organizations as well as development partners. Among the topics discussed during this forum were using climate information for applications in food security, agriculture, and insurance, public-private engagement in modernizing hydromet services, strengthening hydrological

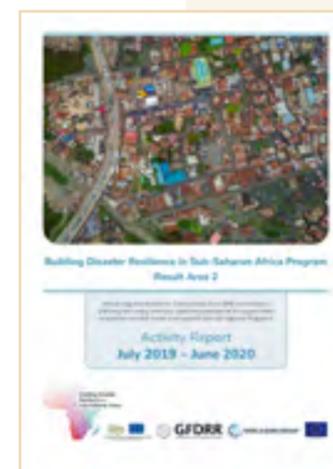
forecasting capacities, and integrating women and youth-led initiatives in early warning systems.

Forum participants identified what investments were needed first to ensure the effectiveness of hydromet services. Moving beyond designing new policies, Forum participants called for accelerated investment in infrastructure and services specializing in weather, climate, water, and early warning services. Stakeholders also called for increased cooperation with international experts and organizations, namely in the context of the UNFCCC COP26 Summit on October 31 to November 12, 2021, to create new streams of financing for these initiatives.

The outcomes of the Forum served as a roadmap for discussions between the SADC's ministers responsible for meteorology during a meeting held in July 2021.

More information on the outcomes of the first SADC Hydromet Forum, including the Forum's Agenda and Conference Outcome Statement, is available at: <https://bit.ly/3Afbx4c>.

## Annex: Communication and visibility outputs



### Result Area 2 Program – Activity Report 2019–2020

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program for 2019–2020. The FY20 edition highlights the efforts of the African Regional Economic Communities to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges resulting from the pandemic, the RECs continued to provide their respective member states with key technical assistance to improve their human, institutional, and financial resources dedicated to strengthening resilience to disaster risk and climate change. FY20 also saw each REC endorse an action plan to fully integrate gender considerations into their DRM policies, laying the foundations for long-term regional resilience frameworks for the 2020–2030 decade.

The report is available both in English at <https://bit.ly/39RQsTI> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3zMfv3K>.



### Towards disaster resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Building regional capacity, planning and policy advice in disaster risk management

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Result Area 2 of the Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program, implemented with support from the World Bank and its Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The report is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3bww5dY>, in French at <https://bit.ly/3GC2nm6>, and in Portuguese at <https://bit.ly/3Eun4i6>.



### Video – Result Area 2 – Achievements of the Africa Regional Economic Communities Disaster Risk Management Program

Activities under this Program leveraged regional expertise and reinforced a collaborative approach to DRM through improved knowledge-sharing and more effective advocacy. RECs have been able to develop long-term disaster resilience strategies to address specific intervention areas — such as hydrometeorological capacities, early warning mechanisms for floods and drought, and climate-smart agriculture — to protect people from food insecurity caused by disasters. The RECs have also integrated gender considerations into DRM strategies as an essential aspect of building inclusive resilience to natural hazards.

Learn more about the accomplishments and lessons learned from the African RECs Disaster Risk Management Program in the following video accessible at <https://bit.ly/3ms7rQU>.

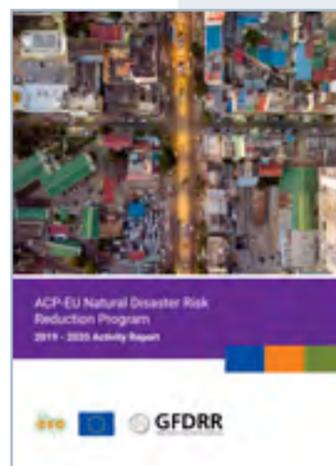


### Report on technical and institutional knowledge and capacity for DRM in Central Africa – August 2020

This report entitled Knowledge and technical and institutional capacities in the field of Disaster Risk Management in Central Africa presents the results of a baseline study analysis for capacity building in DRR within ECCAS. This activity contributes to building the capacities of DRM experts to better support the implementation of DRR activities in Central Africa and sharing knowledge and best practices in disaster risk management.

The report provides an overview of the main disaster risks within ECCAS, including droughts, floods, landslides, volcanic hazards, and epidemics. This report outlines the strengths and weaknesses in preparing for and responding to these risks, and cites the response strategies implemented by ECCAS member countries.

The report is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/2XDQ9Eu>.



### ACP-EU NDRR Activity Report 2019-2020

The ACP-EU NDRR Program Activity Report highlights the results achieved in 2019-2020 across Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. It underscored how the Program adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic but also responded to a high demand for improvements in urban infrastructure to make cities more climate resilient, helping metropolitan hubs such as Accra, Antananarivo, Banjul, Kigali, and Lilongwe adopt policies that strengthen urban resilience. In 2019-20, 17 new projects were funded, bringing the ACP-EU NDRR's total portfolio to 147 projects supporting over 70 ACP countries.

The report is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2LhVPRz> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3icVk9h>.



### Strengthening hydromet services, flood, and drought management in Central Africa

ECCAS has been working alongside the World Bank to evaluate of its member states' NHMS and early warning systems. It produced individual country reports analyzing the services of Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, and Rwanda, as well as an overall assessment of NHMS throughout ECCAS's 11 member countries. These reports evaluate the legislative, institutional, technical, financial, and educational resources dedicated to supporting hydrological and meteorological services.

The regional synthesis report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38FBbUx>, the report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3i7DzXg>, the Burundi report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/35BCyRl>, the Equatorial Guinea report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3sm1hUx>, and the Rwanda report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38GX5qo>.



### Result Area 2 Program – Study on capacity building activities in DRR within ECCAS

This is a report that presents the results of the analysis of the baseline study on capacity building activities in DRR within ECCAS. It is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3wa6Y9o>.



### Result Area 2 Program – Analysis of main hazards in the Central African region

This is a document that presents the main hazards in the ECCAS region. It is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3ixfA66>.



### Risk Atlas for ECCAS countries

This document helps to understand, spatialize, and contextualize natural hazards in the ECCAS region. It introduces a range of approaches and maps to explain perceived and experienced risks, their consequences and their physical, socio-cultural, historical, or geographic determinants. The document is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3j6GXo0>.



### Result Area 2 – Improving the resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems in the face of natural disasters in ECCAS member states

These documents provide a situational analysis and recommendations on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems in the face of natural disasters in ECCAS member states.

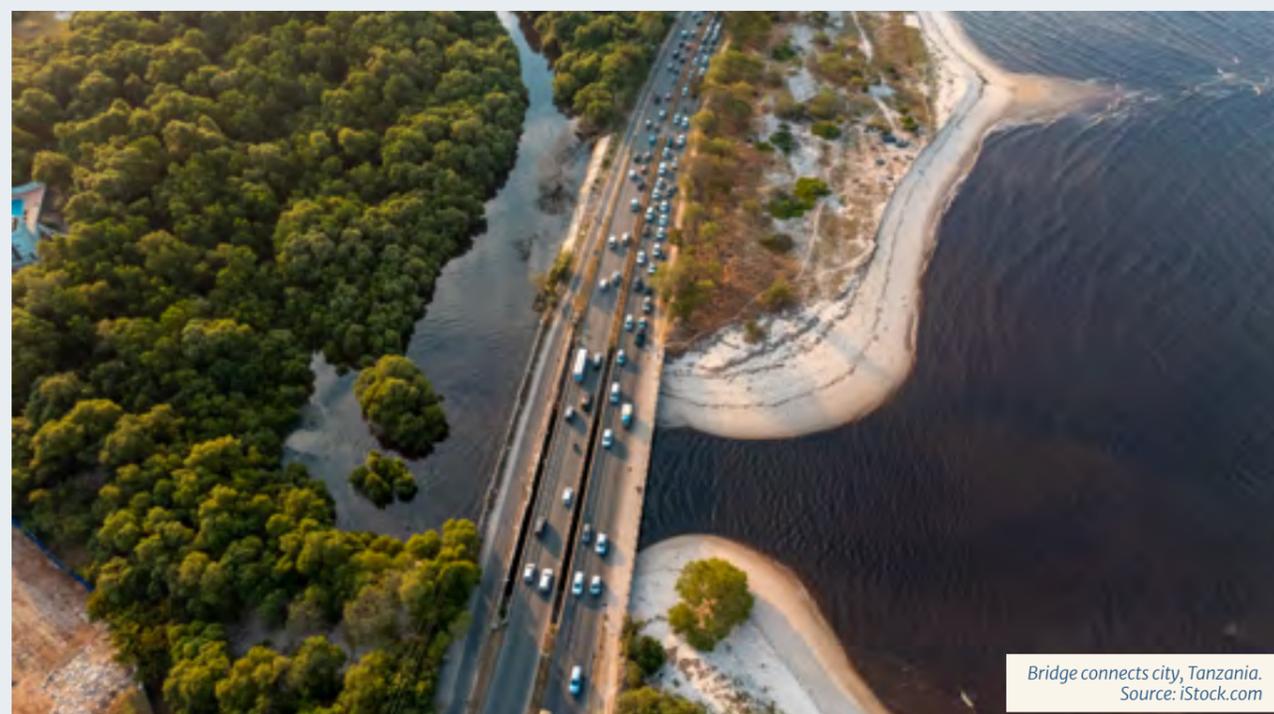
The main document contains recommendations for all actors involved in the management of natural disasters in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector of ECCAS member states. It also includes a draft action plan for ECCAS to support its member states as they aim for efficient natural disaster management in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector. The Recommendation and Action Plan Strategy is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3le5DeZ>.

The recommendations and the action plan are formulated based on the results from three case studies. The first, which is a diagnostic study of natural disasters and their impacts on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector in ECCAS member states, is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3oxG8Hk>. The second is a repository of the existing mechanisms for the resilience of local populations' livelihoods affected by natural disasters and is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3DbE8J1>. The last one is an analysis of ECCAS member states' needs for hydrometeorological services for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector. It is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3Bg3B3n>.



### IGAD Disaster Risk Management video

A documentary produced by IGAD provides an insight into the impact of disasters caused by natural hazards in the IGAD region and presents activities and achievements of the Result Area 2 Program in that region. A long version of the documentary is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3yFxr6Z> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2SvZrmF>. A short version of the documentary is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2TozR3v> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3yFGL4o>.



Bridge connects city, Tanzania.  
Source: iStock.com

## The R2 Program Partners

### ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

For more information:  
[www.acp.int](http://www.acp.int)

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), previously known as ACP Group of States, was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. The OACPS consists of 79 member states and six regions, who are signatories of the Cotonou Agreement, which legally consolidates their partnership with the European Union.

Among the OACPS objectives is the sustainable development of its member states and their gradual integration into the global economy. In this regard, as early as 2004, the OACPS took the initiative to pioneer action on disaster risk reduction and resilience. It achieved this by persuading the European Union to expand its scope from humanitarian assistance and response, to a more pro-active and holistic approach to prevent and manage disaster risks caused by natural hazards.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program is part of a long-standing cooperation between the OACPS and the EU. It brings together disaster risk management and climate resilience entities from the members and regions of the OACPS, with specialised partners such as GFDRR, to address members of the OACPS' vulnerabilities to exogenous shocks, through integrated measures on climate adaptation, resilience building, environmental sustainability & protection, and disaster risk management.

### EUROPEAN UNION

For more information:  
[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

The European Union (EU) is the leading donor of development aid and climate finance. The EU finances the NDRR Program by a grant of €54.5 million to a single-donor Trust Fund, under the 10th European Development Fund.

The EU is at the forefront of the international agenda on climate resilience, supporting developing countries in preparing for, withstanding and recovering from disaster events. The EU is fully engaged in supporting the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

As one of the main priorities of the European Green Deal, the roadmap to transform the EU into a low-carbon and climate-resilient society, the European Commission launched in February 2021 the new and more ambitious EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Reinforcing the call to strengthen the efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness, the strategy calls for action in Europe but also beyond EU borders. This reaffirms that global challenges, such as climate resilience, require a global response.

In its cooperation with the OACPS, the EU has placed at the core of its interventions the need to reduce vulnerability and to build the resilience of regions, countries, and communities.

### GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

For more information:  
[www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership established in 2006 to support developing countries in understanding, managing, and ultimately reducing risks stemming from natural hazards and climate change. GFDRR's mission is to facilitate implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement by ensuring that development policies, plans, and investments—including post-disaster reconstruction—are designed to minimize disaster risks and build the resilience of people and economies to climate change. GFDRR provides grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management in policies and strategies.



Abeokuta, Nigeria.  
Source: iStock.com

**Building Disaster Resilience  
in Sub-Saharan Africa Program  
Result Area 2**

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)  
World Bank Brussels Office  
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For more information: [www.gfdrr.org](http://www.gfdrr.org)

