



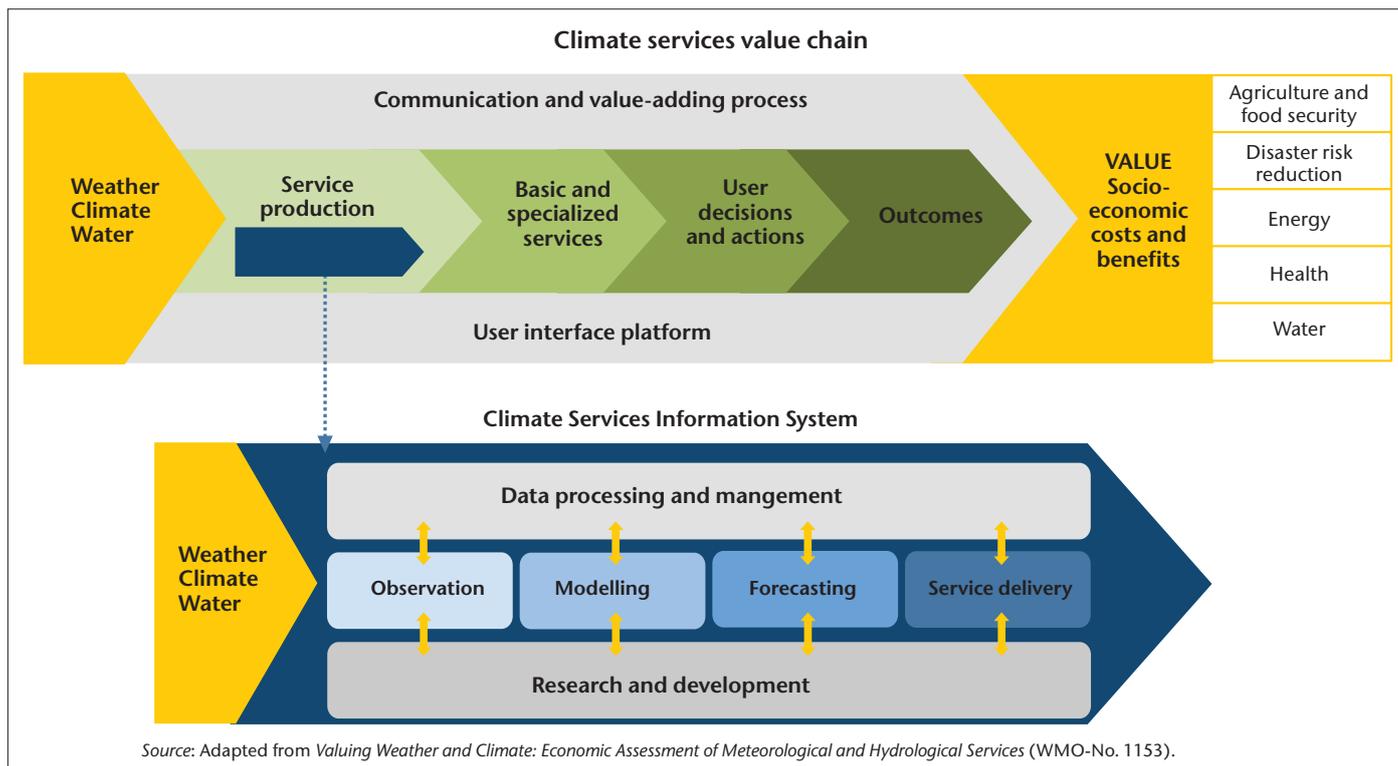
THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES: VALUE PROPOSITION

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009 to enable better management of the risks of climate variability and change, and to facilitate adaptation to climate change, through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction in planning, policy and practice on the global, regional and national scale.

Since the establishment of the GFCS, significant changes have occurred in the climate and policy landscape. In 2015, three international agreements raised the importance of climate issues on the global agenda: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, aimed at substantially reducing disaster risk and losses; the Paris Agreement to limit the rise in global temperature and enhance adaptive capacity and resilience; and the Sustainable Development Goals, which include urgent action to combat climate change and enhance many climate-sensitive development outcomes in areas such as agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, human health and water resources.

These changes bring new opportunities. High-level global and regional climate and development policy initiatives are aligning with the delivery of climate services. The global programme portfolio addressing climate adaptation, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction is growing, and an increasing number of actors are engaging in different areas of the sustainable development discussion. Such growth requires a parallel increase in climate services, as well as coordination to avoid fragmentary and piecemeal implementation. These new opportunities provide the impetus for refining the value proposition of the GFCS to increase its political anchoring, visibility and influence.

The value added by the GFCS to the climate and policy landscape is reflected in the climate services value chain.



Within the value chain, the production and delivery of climate services is supported by the Climate Services Information System (lower section of the figure above), which is operationalized by the community of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a lead GFCS partner. However, the full climate services value chain encompasses also user actions and outcomes, and involves the routine evaluation of associated socioeconomic costs and benefits. These elements require National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to engage with stakeholders from sectors affected by climate, such as agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, health and water. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services would also benefit from engaging with global and regional stakeholders that support elements of the value chain, including United Nations and other international organizations, economic commissions, financial institutions and the private sector. The GFCS adds value in this regard by:

- Providing guidance on major implementation priorities and capacity development needs in light of countries' adaptation and resilience objectives, and on how stakeholders can systematically leverage each other's contributions to assist countries in generating socioeconomic benefits;
- Ensuring that climate investments systematically and sustainably strengthen operational systems, providing an overarching framework and tracking mechanism;
- Enhancing coordination, guiding and supporting the activities of climate services worldwide;

- Providing an overview of climate service implementation that spans the entire value chain from the global to the national level, and systematically assessing and documenting the socioeconomic benefits of using those services.

This will help ensure that resources dedicated to climate activities are used effectively and efficiently, reducing the current ad hoc, piecemeal and duplicative implementation of climate change projects and programme portfolio.

In support of this value proposition, the GFCS review highlighted a number of priority functions for the GFCS:

Partnership	Technical coordination support	Monitoring and review	Resource mobilization
Enable coordination of initiatives and communication regarding climate services	Facilitate and coordinate identification of capacity development needs for provision of climate services, applications and climate information	Publish an evaluation of climate services regularly, building on systematic assessments, and reporting globally, regionally and nationally	Promote, enable, articulate and facilitate countries' and regions' access to climate finance
Organize knowledge sharing events with key partners and stakeholders, including the private sector	Track support to climate service implementation and promote advisory services to address areas where additional support is needed		Strengthen rationale for proposals related to climate services
Attend relevant climate events such as Conference of the Parties (COP) sessions to enable a unified framework, alliance or other mechanism to coordinate and strengthen climate services worldwide	Identify unmet needs for additional standards, and promote development of standards for climate services through the appropriate standard-setting entities		
Global/regional platform for climate services			

These functions are backed by the proposed fit-for-purpose governance structure, staffing profile for the GFCS Office, and decentralized financing arrangements. The proposed governance structure will leverage the capabilities and capacities of a wide-ranging set of organizations actively engaged in the area of climate services. It will include relevant organizations representing GFCS pillars and priority areas, as well as financing institutions, regional organizations, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. As such, the proposed governance structure is meant to increase overall ownership and commitment to the GFCS. Without the suggested modifications in the GFCS governance, there is a risk that relevant stakeholders not directly involved in the WMO decision-making structures start organizing themselves outside the GFCS,

accelerating an already chaotic programmatic landscape. Conversely, the proposed new GFCS governance structure, with appropriate management and financing arrangements, has the potential to serve as a platform for harmonization of international efforts.

Beyond a revised and fit-for-purpose governance structure, additional GFCS assets that could facilitate the attainment of the objectives described above include:

- A formal engagement by major international organizations supporting the implementation of climate services globally;
- An implementation plan based on an extensive consultation process involving more than 2 500 top experts, who work on the pillars and priority areas of the GFCS over a three-year period;
- National and regional frameworks for climate services, which provide institutional mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and coordination at all levels, detailing priority needs and evaluating the socioeconomic benefits of climate services;
- Formal recognition under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (CMA¹), as an implementation mechanism for adaptation contributing to the Paris Agreement;
- Strong continuing support from WMO, which will align its contributions to the GFCS with those of non-hydromet stakeholders at all levels; WMO itself has agreements with the UNFCCC, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other bodies.

These assets, in combination with the proposed governance, management and financial arrangements, will enable the GFCS to improve the effectiveness of climate investments and enhance climate-related socioeconomic outcomes.

¹ The Conference of the Parties, the supreme body of the Convention, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. All States that are Parties to the Paris Agreement are represented at the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), while States that are not Parties participate as observers. The CMA oversees the implementation of the Paris Agreement and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation.

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