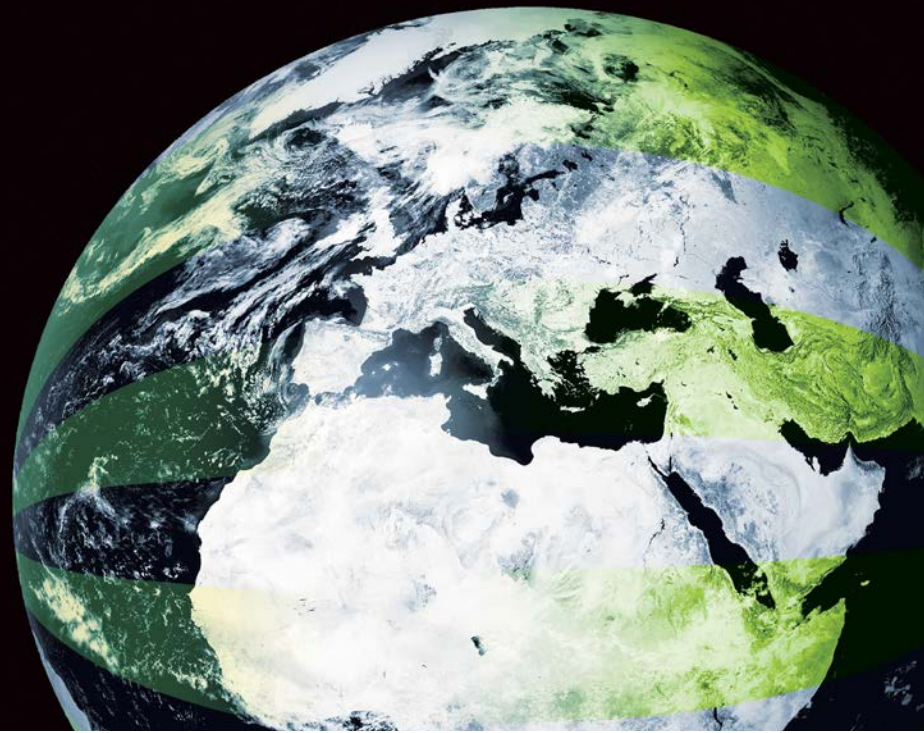


**Met Office**

Case study:  
Capacity  
development  
through  
education and  
training

“Studying at the University of Reading, in collaboration with the Met Office has enriched my experience... these institutions are world class and among leading voices in weather and climate science. At a personal level, I feel happy and privileged that my met service can now consider and recognise me among their skilled personnel with training at international level.”

Mr Zablon Weku Shilenje  
Kenya Meteorological Service



## WMO fellowships supported by the UK Voluntary Co-operation Programme

A strategic priority for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is capacity development. It runs a Voluntary Co-operation Programme (VCP) to provide equipment, services and training to support national meteorological services (NMSs) in developing countries.

As part of this, the Met Office, the UK's meteorological service, supports students from developing countries to complete an MSc in Applied Meteorology and Climate with Management at the University of Reading.

Mr Zablon Weku Shilenje from the Kenya Meteorological Service (KMS) decided to take part in the WMO/UK VCP Fellowship scheme to improve his academic qualification and knowledge of climate science to enable him to undertake more specialised duties within the department.

The degree has a strong emphasis on practical work in terms of weather forecasting and climate modelling for regional climate change impact assessment – key skills that are required by KMS.

The MSc also supports fellows in developing managerial skills that can prove invaluable when looking to progress within an organisation.

In this interview Zablon shares his own thoughts on the Fellowship scheme.

### **Did you need to study further to be able to progress your career?**

“Yes, higher training is required for professional progression to certain positions within KMS. This training now improves my ability for such progression not only in KMS but also within the entire Kenya Civil Service.

“The kind of training received through this program has opened an opportunity that will allow me to engage with local and international efforts to contribute in addressing climate change problems particularly through environmental monitoring, regional climate modelling and scientific research.”

“I am very grateful to WMO / UK VCP for awarding me this Fellowship. I sincerely appreciate that they gave me a world platform to learn. It is indeed the greatest gift I have received in my training and professional career. I will use this knowledge to better meteorological and environmental service delivery in Kenya and beyond.”

Mr Zablon Weku Shilenje  
Kenya Meteorological Service

## How did the MSc help you overcome these challenges?

“This MSc has helped me broaden my understanding of the scientific basis on the behaviour of the atmosphere and its interaction with the land and ocean surfaces... I will now undertake my current duties with a deeper understanding and more confidence.

“...we were introduced to practical aspects in hydrological modelling from the Walker Institute and the Met Office Hadley Centre during hydrology and global environmental change sessions. The training has increased my confidence in addressing members of the public visiting our service on weather and the climate system, a duty I undertake in my station almost on a daily basis.

“I also had a unique opportunity to work with Africa Climate Exchange Group (AfClix) a research group on Africa climate, based at the university during my research phase of the MSc program. This introduced me to the practical aspects of research on climate and climate change impacts in Africa. I got to appreciate the link between integration of practical science to policy.”

## How can you apply your newly developed skills at KMS?

“... over the last several years, I have been undertaking duties such as data collection, analysis and report writing in various divisions ... I have also been carrying out upper air radio sonde soundings at Nairobi on a daily basis and helping produce daily weather forecasts in the department. Later, while working with the Public Education division within the department I have helped create public awareness on generation and interpretation of weather and climate information and products to the public. I have

also participated in teaching and training of meteorologists at the Institute of Meteorological Training and Research in Nairobi.

“Currently, I am working with the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) division where we undertake climate change and pollution monitoring services. I undertake systematic monitoring and analysis of environmental pollutant gases.

“This MSc program has enhanced my knowledge in the above fields. I will apply the training in improving service delivery. I now intend to work more on detection and attribution problems of climate change especially in terms of the trends and occurrence of severe weather and extreme climate events in Kenya. I will also concentrate on regional climate change impact studies. My met service will therefore be more effective and efficient because of the education I acquired through this Fellowship.”

## What next?

“I wish to get involved more in scientific research, particularly on Africa Climate System and how its variation impacts on the local residents on the continent. How can we as the department of met service play a significant role in addressing, at least in terms of early warning, the expected impacts of these climate oscillations in the short and long-term timescales? Eventually, I believe this MSc programme through your sponsorship, has given me a good academic background to pursue Phd studies in future.”

For more information please visit:

[www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/etrp/fellowships/fellowsintouch.php](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/etrp/fellowships/fellowsintouch.php)

or

[www.reading.ac.uk/Study/taught/mscpgdipAppliedMeteorologyandClimatewithManagement.aspx?accy=2013/4](http://www.reading.ac.uk/Study/taught/mscpgdipAppliedMeteorologyandClimatewithManagement.aspx?accy=2013/4)