



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



Early Warning > Early Action: The Next Frontier



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The Challenge: Bridging The Gap

What do they need from us? What can we possibly offer them? We don't have time, so many more models to run!!!

What can they possibly offer us? How could they help us? It is just words and words again, plus they speak such a bizarre language!

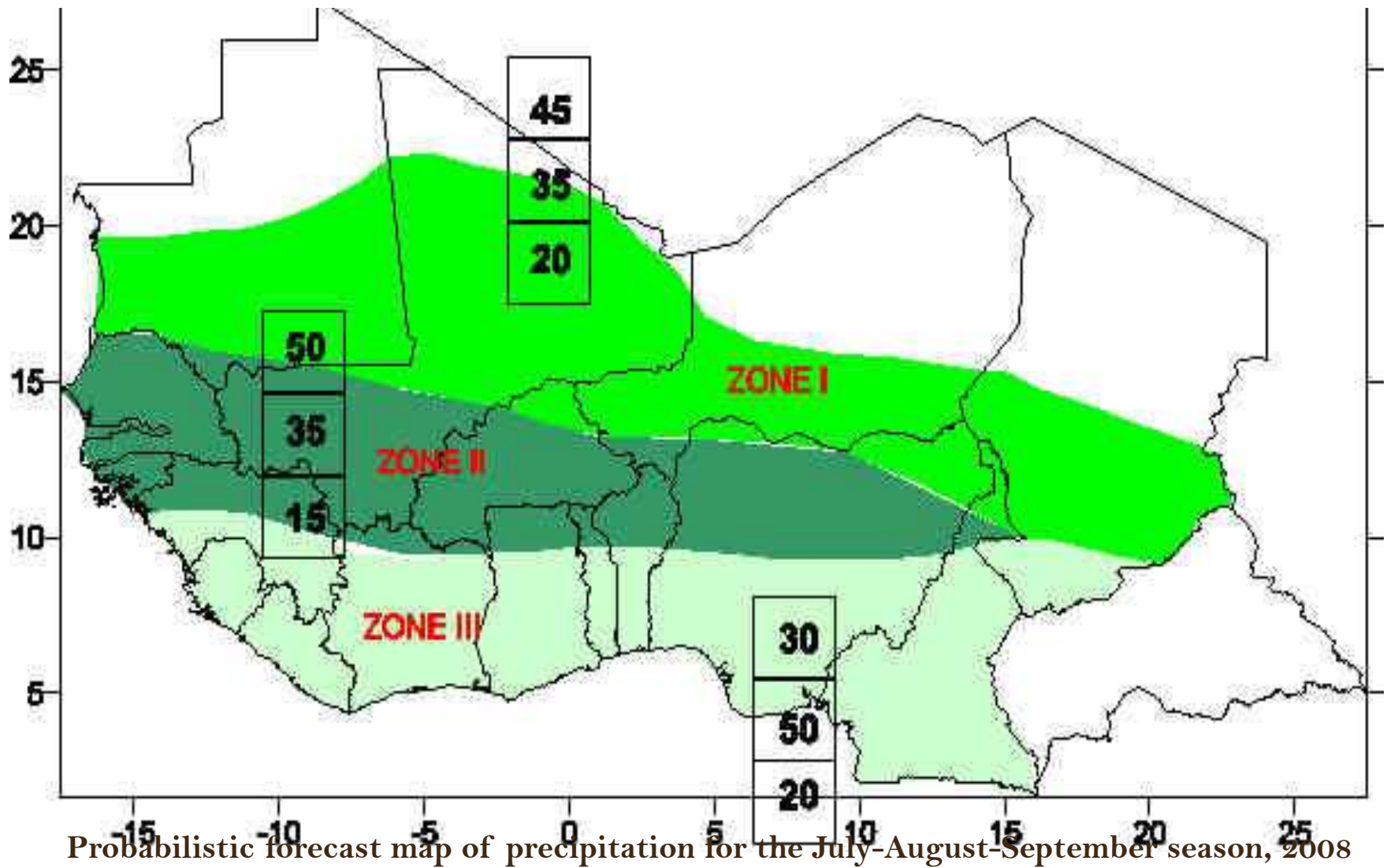
**CLIMATE
SCIENTISTS**

**COMMU-
NITIES
AT RISK**

**THE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE SCIENTISTS
AND COMMUNITIES AT RISK**

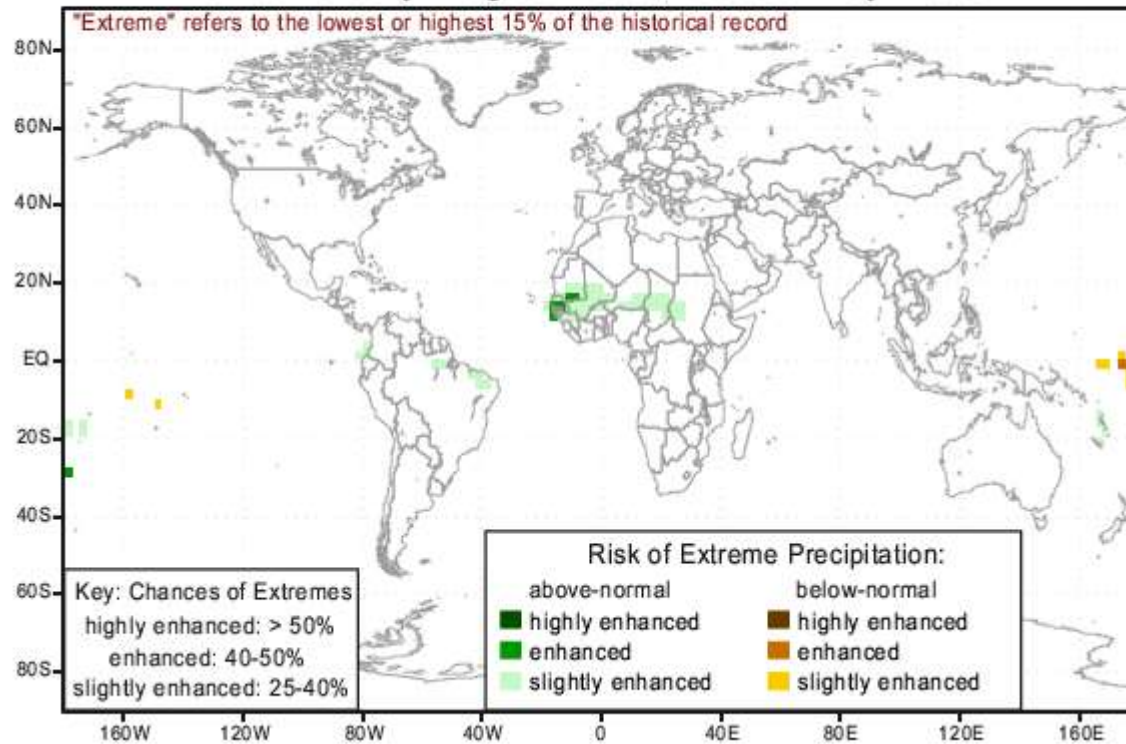
EO FISCHER

Seasonal Precipitation Forecast 2008



Source: ACMAD

IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast of Extreme Precipitation for June-July-August 2008, Issued May 2008



Linking Early Warning with Early Action



- ❑ Emergency Appeal for Flood Preparedness: First pre-emptive appeal in RC history based on seasonal forecast
- ❑ Relief Items pre-positioned in Dakar, Accra and Yaounde to reach up to 7,500 families in the advent of floods (no-regret strategy)
- ❑ Regional Disaster Response Team trained, ready to be deployed within 48 hours



West and Central Africa: Flood preparedness

Emergency appeal n° MDR61003
11 July 2008

This preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 750,000 (USD 731,134 or EUR 462,475) in cash, kind, or services to support the National Societies of West and Central Africa to assist 47,500 beneficiaries.

CHF 483,047 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start the planned activities. Discussions are currently taking place to reallocate approximately CHF 550,000 remaining from the 2007 West Africa floods appeal to support this appeal. While these discussions are underway, partners are encouraged to provide timely support to this appeal.



Red Cross Volunteer, Lomé, Togo, June, 2008

Summary: Given the evolving climatic forecasts, this preliminary Emergency Appeal responds to a request from National Societies in West and Central Africa, and focuses on providing timely and appropriate support to pre-emptively prepare to provide rapid flood relief during the 2008 rainy season. Preparations will be carried out through contingency plan development, flood relief supply pre-positioning, and volunteer training. With this appeal the Federation is providing creative and flexible tactical support to National Societies in the region to take action before the disaster occurs, with the main component being the creation of relief stocks strategically located in Dakar, Senegal, Accra, Ghana, and Yaoundé, Cameroon. This will enable the Federation to provide timely and qualitative support to National Societies emergency interventions on an as needed basis. Depending on the actual flood occurrence, the Federation will encourage a country-based approach, with the launch of separate country appeals, separate project codes, and respective operations updates.

This operation will be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by September 2008. [Click here to view the attached preliminary Emergency Appeal Budget; or here to view contact details](#)

Putting Early Warning - Early Action into practice: Preliminary results (2007-08)

TOGO:

30% more Red Cross volunteers trained

New early warning system enabled Attiegou Zogbeji to evacuate just in time



GAMBIA:

Funding request submitted within 2 days of flooding

SENEGAL:

Red Cross Response Team trained on EW-EA

Helped flood-prone households fill sandbags

GHANA:

Bagre Dam excess spillage warning issued--> 2 dead (30+ in 2007)

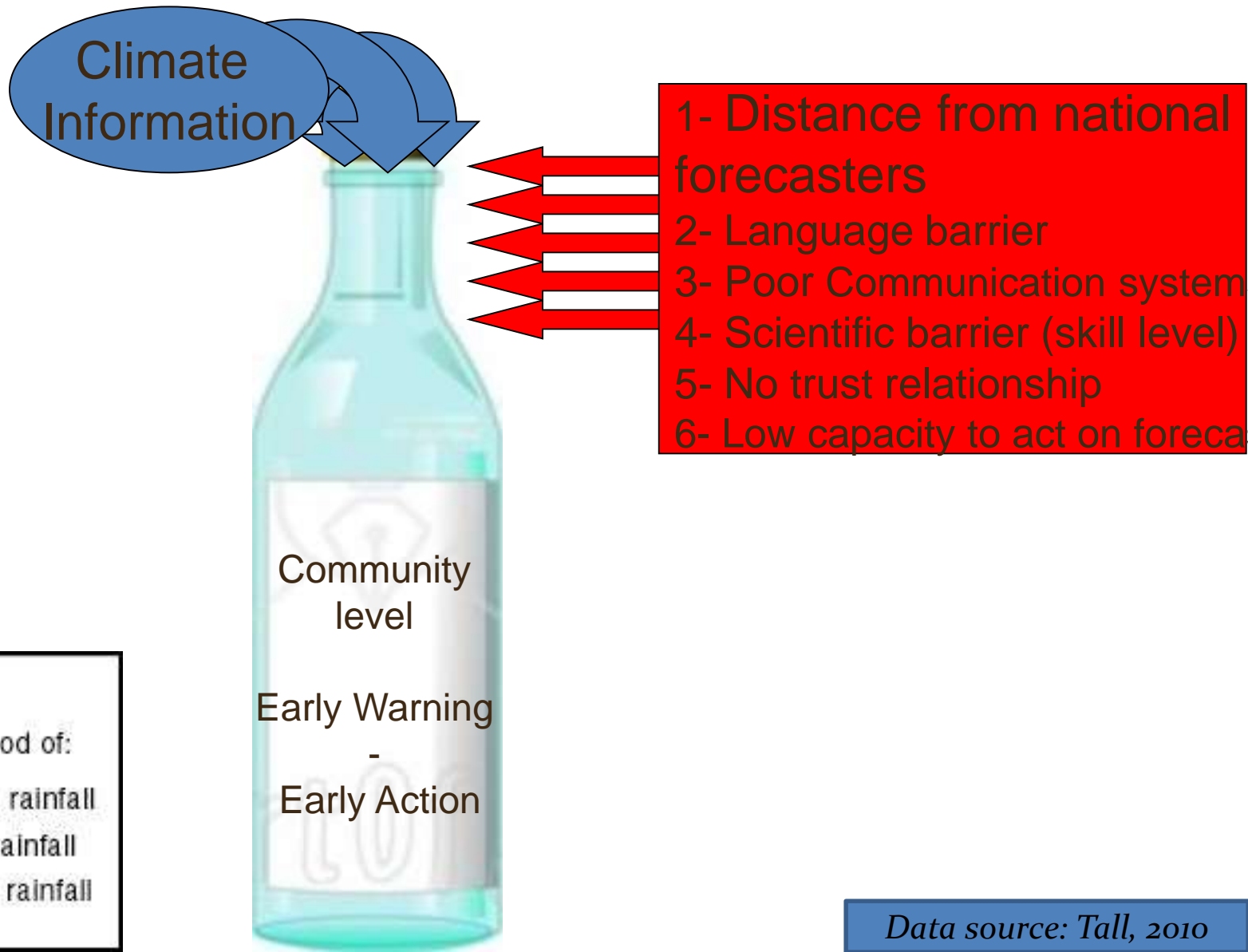


Across zone:

Most countries received supplies within days of flooding (vs. 40 days in 2007)

***In 2007, we were just being asked to do things;
In 2008 we were initiating action by raising awareness and sharing forecast information
- Jerry Niati (IFRC/Dakar)***

The Bottlenecks to climate information access & use by communities



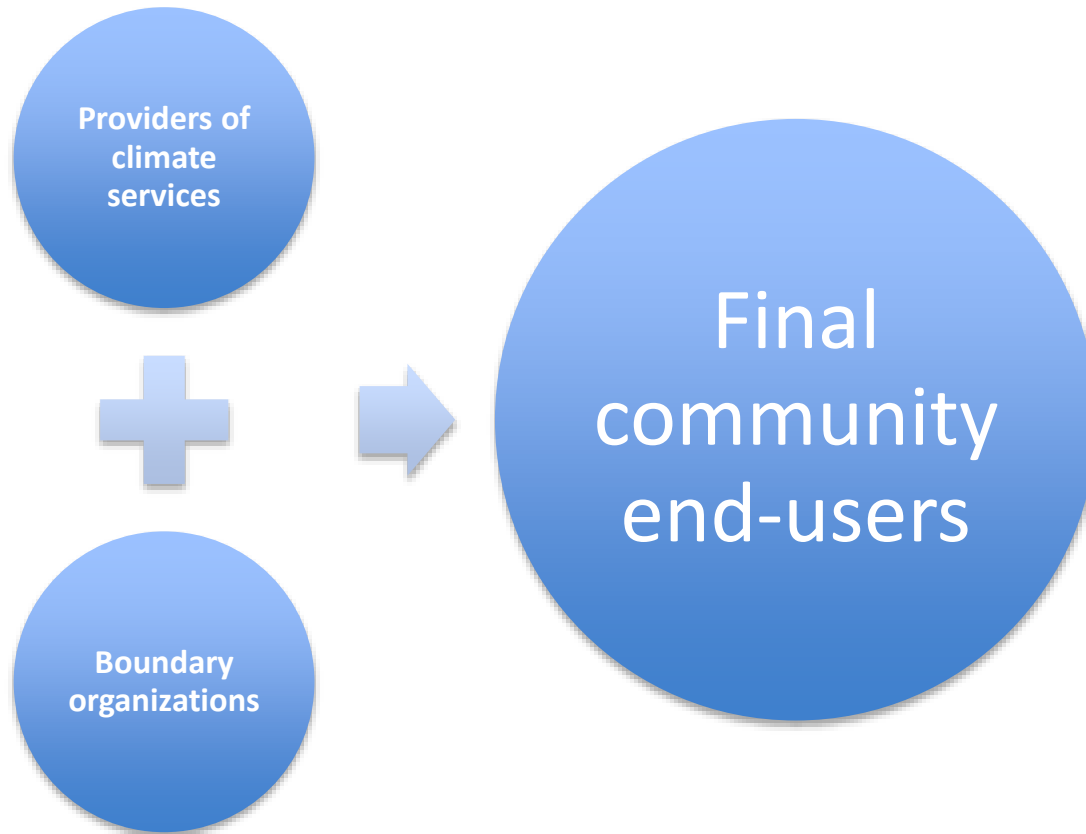
Key

Percentage likelihood of:

A	Above-normal rainfall
N	Near-normal rainfall
B	Below-normal rainfall

Potential Way forward through EW>EA National Workshops

- 2-day and ½ national workshops bringing together



- Around goal of communicating salient EWs to final end-users at community level for disaster prevention



Day 0: The Gap, wide between providers and final end-users of climate services



Day 1: Providers of climate services and end-users aware of each other's value-added



Day 2: The Gap, bridged between providers of climate services and communities at risk
Bridging the Gap between providers and final end-users of climate services

Bridging Gap at National level: PLAY TIME!



Permanent link to file:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87HI66K7nnE>

Saint-Louis EW > EA Workshop, December 2009
(Saint-Louis, Senegal)

Achievements of the EW>EA Workshops

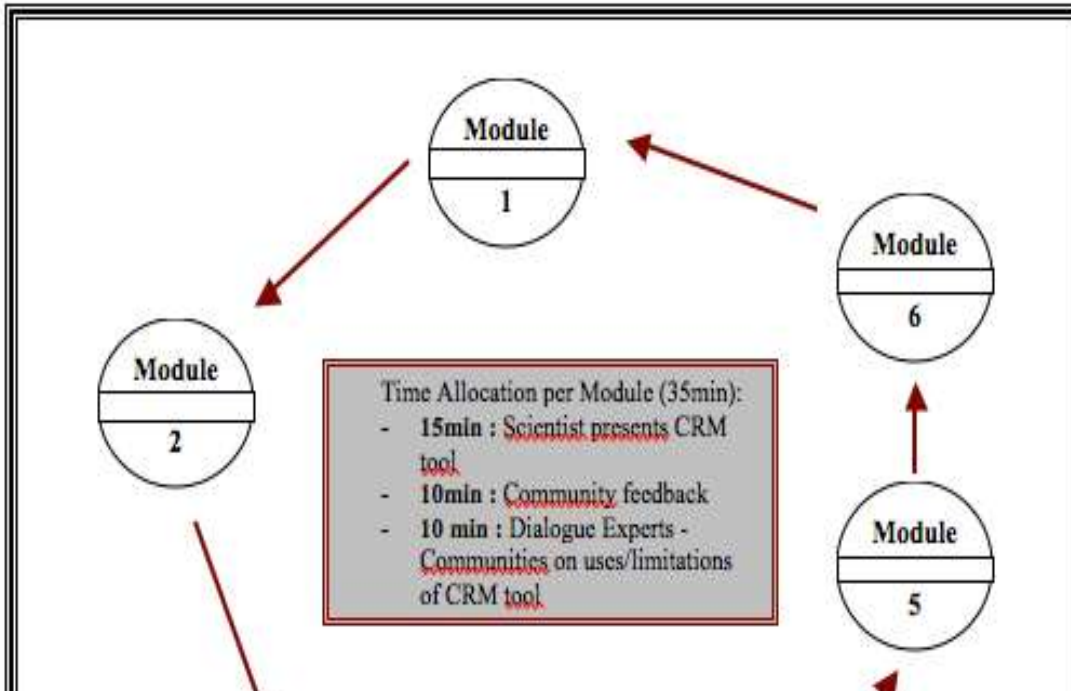


Table: The Ten Steps checklist to Organize a community Early Warning-Early Action Workshop

<p>STEP 1: Identification of all relevant national actors on disaster prevention and careful participant selection</p> <p><i>Take the time to carefully select participants at both ends of the discussion table. Careful participant selection is key to the success of the workshop. Indeed, the rich mix of selected participants (both on the end-user and the climate experts side), who bring to the meeting a range of different experiences and expertise, gives the gathering all of its dynamism and richness. As one end-user participant commented in his feedback: "the incredible availability of scientists and all trainers is what made the interactions very fruitful".</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>STEP 2: Careful consensual definition of the training curriculum</p> <p><i>See Box 1: Recommended list of training modules</i></p>	
<p>STEP 3: Training of Trainers</p> <p><i>Hold a mandatory pre-workshop training of trainers (ToT) session for all invited climate scientists to introduce scientists to their interlocutors- the users (who they are, what they do, how they function) and have them keep them in mind as they prepare their module presentations. Installing a no Powerpoint-rule also forces them to adapt their modules to needs of their audience, and keep the clinic "user-focused". Finally hosting the ToT in a user setting is instrumental to bring the trainers into the users' reality.</i></p>	
<p>STEP 4: Pre-clinic Briefing of participants from Communities at Risk and definition of possible Early Actions</p> <p><i>It is important address end-users (CR participants) separately prior to the beginning of the clinic and work with them to define a provisional list of early actions they could potentially carry out in response to a forecast (from Response to Preparedness). Ensure that CR participants arrive early enough to partake in this pre-clinic briefing.</i></p>	
<p>STEP 5: Dispense modules on Early Warning tools using the participatory methodology</p> <p><i>Dispense modules in small groups using the participatory methodology (see fig. 2, pg), a proposed participatory methodology for group work activity/dispensing of training modules in small mixed groups of climate scientists and end-users.</i></p> <p><i>Following modules, hold a restitution on</i></p>	
<p>STEP 6: Hold end-user restitutions on usefulness and learning from Early Warning modules using the participatory methodology</p>	

EW>EA Workshop / Modules List and Training Curriculum:

- 1) Climate Change: what is it? Causes and consequences, CC projections for country
- 2) The anatomy of a seasonal forecast: uses, applications and limitations
- 3) Probabilities 101 and uncertainties in forecasting
- 4) The anatomy of mid- and short-range weather forecasts (24h up to 10days): uses, applications and limitations
- 5) Agro-meteorological advisories: uses, applications and limitations
- 6) Monitoring & Forecasting of river basin floods: uses, applications and limitations
- 7) Vulnerability mapping using remote sensing: uses, applications and limitations

EW>EA **National** Workshops in Africa 2009-2014

- 10 workshops across Africa
 - **West Africa, July 2009 – July 2011**
 - Senegal- (x2)
 - Regional: Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Mauritania (x1)
 - **East Africa, October – November 2011 (UNISDR)**
 - Kenya - (x2)
 - Uganda - (x1)
 - Ethiopia - (x1)
 - **West Africa, June – October 2012 (WMO GFCS)**
 - Mali
 - Burkina Faso
 - Niger

Everyone has a role to Play in Linking Information to Action

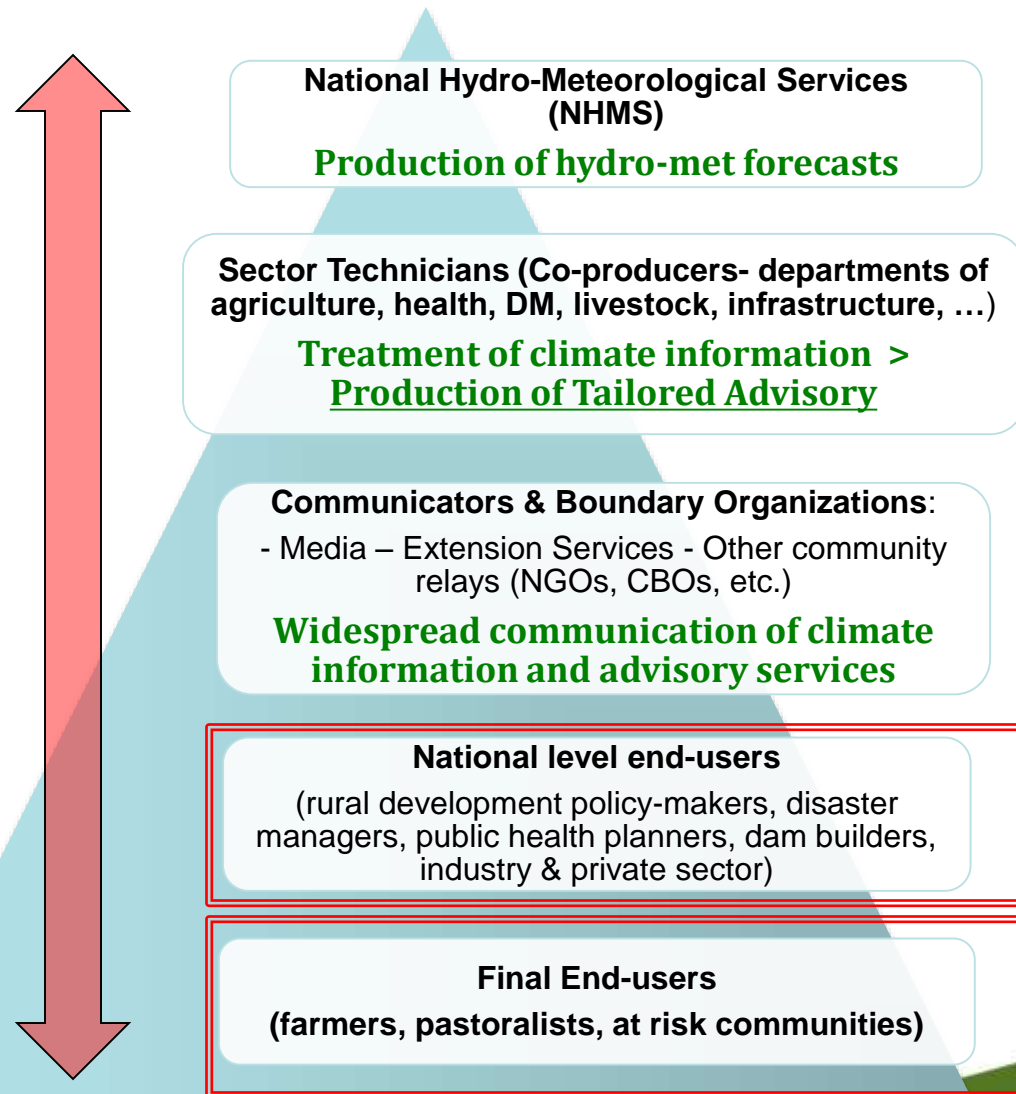



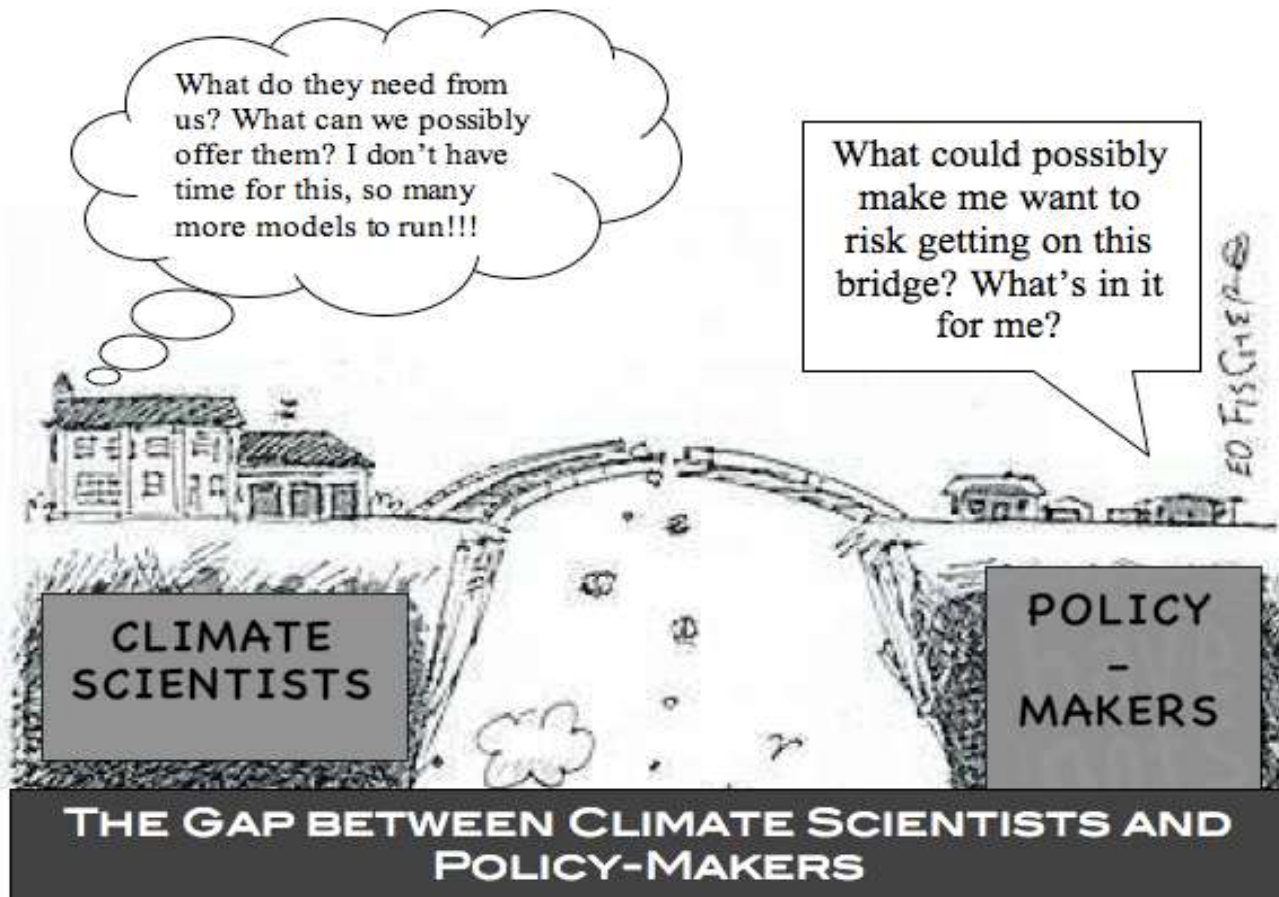
Fig. 3:
Different Roles in the Chain of Climate Information Production and Communication

Source: Tall & Lucio 2013

Lessons Learnt

- 1) **The Gap is bridgeable**: Climate scientists and Decision-makers can understand each other
 - + are natural partners in endeavor to save lives under CC
 - ❖ Probabilistic nature of forecasts understood
 - ❖ Communities need operational alerts, not probabilities (will act on all received forecasts)
 - 2) Face to face interaction is a needed add-on to COFs
 - 3) Process of interaction will not happen in a vacuum, it needs to be mediated and supported
 - 4) It takes **partnerships – and investing in the Interface**
 - 5) **The Gap remains wide..**
 - ❖ Scientific barriers (onset, intra-seasonal rainfall distribution)
 - ❖ Low capacity to act on received forecasts
 - ❖ Gap between National-level agencies
- 

Need to build Continue to Build Common Ground..



Thank you for your attention
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