

Parallel Session B4

Observations for Monitoring, Understanding and Predicting Climate
Attribution of Climate/Weather Events and Climate Impacts

Before Tea: Observations and Impacts

- It is clear from all the presentations that physical climate science and VIA science is critically dependent of observations
- While there are areas with good quality observing and reporting networks, there are many areas for improvement:
 - Improvement of existing observation systems (climatic and non-climatic)
 - Data rescue (such as WACA-DARE)
 - Data sharing and (common) archiving / access platforms
 - Use of remote sensing and modelling to “infill” data gaps
 - Targeted observing campaigns that shift understanding of key aspects of African climate (e.g. Lake Victoria; Congo Basin)
 - Incorporation of indigenous knowledge

After Tea: Attribution

- Attribution studies have great potential for:
 - providing evidence for Loss and Damage discussions, negotiations and claims
 - Improving understanding of causes and mechanisms weather and climate events, and their impacts
- Attribution is critically dependent on observations, but can also complement observations:
 - Long records needed for attribution of rare events
 - Can help motivation for improved observations
 - In absence of long observations, modelling can characterise rare events
- Concept of a global/African weather event impacts inventory was discussed
 - Need to move from current general inventory to one that also includes the attributable events/impacts

Priorities: Observations

- Develop an understanding of the observational needs and priorities for different users – observing system has to date been driven by climate science
- Improvement of existing observing systems – CLIMDEV?
- Data rescue and data sharing/access (political and physical barriers)
- Develop a list of prioritised intensive campaigns

Priorities: Attribution

- Inform African UNFCCC community of relevance to Loss and Damage
- Undertake more African attribution studies that are of relevance to users
- Build capacity to undertake attribution studies – secondments, PhDs, post-docs
- Coordinated experiments adopting open data standards and data dissemination to allow African investigators to address attribution questions