



**World
Meteorological
Organization**
Weather • Climate • Water

CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRUSSELS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

“ SECTORAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2001 - 2005”

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to support and contribute to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2001-2010, WMO, in 2003 established the WMO Programme for the Least Developed Countries with the main objective of enhancing the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to contribute efficiently and in a timely manner to the social and economic development of the respective countries, including meeting the commitments of the BPoA. The WMO Programme for the LDCs was integrated into the WMO Sixth Long Term Plan (2004 – 2005). A summary on WMO's activities towards the implementation of the BPoA during the period 2001 - 2005 is as follows.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework

2.1 Considering that human and property losses associated with weather, climate and water-related events can affect the macro-economic policies and economic growth of LDCs, studies were initiated for the mainstreaming of meteorological and hydrological services into their development strategies, including national development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers.

2.2 Assistance was provided to the Central African Republic to organize a seminar for women in meteorology, hydrology and related sciences with the main objective of enhancing the activities of the Association of Female Meteorologists and Hydrologists (OFMHYCA) and of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service to provide better services to the nation.

Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

2.3 Support was provided to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of most of the 50 LDCs through the implementation of WMO Technical and Scientific Programmes, including:

- (a) The development of Community approach to Flood Management, implementation of Hydrological Cycles Observing System (HYCOS) projects, and organization of workshops on groundwater management;
- (b) Development and initiation of projects to establish websites for NMHSs of LDCs in cooperation with the Hong Kong Observatory;
- (c) Organization of workshops on Public weather services, instrumentation, aviation and cost recovery;
- (d) Provision of climate data rescue equipment to 23 LDCs;
- (e) Award of fellowships for education and training;
- (f) Support for the participation of experts from LDCs in WMO and related meetings, and
- (g) The development of projects to support NMHSs of LDCs affected by the December 2004, Indian Ocean Tsunami.

2.4 A WMO Trust Fund for the LDCs was established in 2003 to which several Member countries have made cash and in-kind contributions. Funds from the Trust Fund and the WMO Voluntary Co-operation Programme (VCP) were used to carry out missions to a number of LDCs to sensitize and raise Government awareness on the role and function of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in sustainable development. The countries visited include Burundi, Eritrea, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Haiti, Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu.

2.5 A workshop was organised in Niamey, Niger in 2004 for the Directors of National Meteorological Services (NMSs) of LDCs on strategic planning and resource mobilisation.

2.6 A meeting on the WMO Programme for the LDCs was organized in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2005 to develop a Strategic Action Plan aimed at enhancing the effective implementation of the Programme. Thereafter, the fifty- seventh session of the Executive Council in June 2005 endorsed the Strategic Action Plan and the specific recommendations of the meeting, in particular those relating to the need for adopting an integrated but country-specific strategic approach in the implementation of the Programme, and establishing an appropriate structure and funding mechanism considering the cross-cutting nature of the Programme.

2.7 A Strategic Action Plan for Small Island Developing States among which 12 are LDCs was developed in 2005 to assist NMHSs to contribute to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs

2.8 Agricultural meteorology and weather and climate prediction services were improved in several African LDCs to support enhanced food security and agricultural production.

2.9 A workshop was organized in Bamako, Mali to share experiences with seven other LDCs (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal) on good practices on the use of meteorological information and products by rural communities in Mali leading to increased crop yields.

Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

2.10 Internet connectivity projects were implemented in the NMHSs of Sierra Leone and Zambia to facilitate the dissemination of early warning information and products to the user community.

2.11 Projects were implemented in several LDCs to enhance the capability of respective NMHSs to provide weather/climate products and services and early warning advisories including seasonal to interannual prediction.

2.12 Evaluation reports on the major natural disaster, risks and mitigation capabilities were elaborated for 41 LDCs including the identification of gaps and weaknesses in the capabilities of NMHSs to provide required weather, climate and water products and services.

Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources

2.13 WMO missions and workshops were organised in several LDCs to enhance resource mobilisation efforts of the respective NMHSs.

2.14 A WMO Trust Fund was established to support capacity building activities of NMHSs of several LDCs.

2.15 Assessment and fact-finding missions were carried out to several LDCs leading to the development of appropriate project proposals. Efforts are ongoing to assist the LDCs concerned to mobilize resources to support these projects.

3. CHALLENGES

The LDCs policy-makers still need to be made aware of the usefulness and relevance of weather, climate and water services for achieving most of the commitments of the BPoA. WMO will continue to assist and strengthen NMHSs in LDCs accordingly, in order to enhance the provision of weather, climate and water related services to support countries efforts in achieving commitments 1,3,4,6 and 7, among other things.