

CARE for South Asia

Supported by the World Bank, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia Project aims to contribute to an enabling environment for climate-resilient policies and investments in the region. Component 1, focused on promoting evidence-based climate-smart policies and investments, is implemented by the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES).

Component 1 involves the development of regional Resilience Data and Analytics Services (RDAS)¹ for the region, and Decision-Support Systems (DSSs)² for selected sectors such as agriculture, livestock, water, transport, planning, and disaster risk management in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Component 1 also includes capacity development for users of these systems and their products, and supports the South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF)³ for a holistic approach to user-centric generation and application of climate information in plans and decisions.

- 1- The RDAS is a cloud-based, open-access platform for acquiring, storing, managing, processing, analyzing, visualizing, and reporting climate and socio-economic data/information, for use in screening climate risks to inform investments.
- 2- DSSs are sector-specific systems, linked to the RDAS, and assist users in sectoral planning and decision-making.
- 3- SAHF is a convergence platform for NMHSs in South Asia, facilitating knowledge sharing, capacity building, and alignment of national-level technical assistance with regional engagement.

Background

The Climate Application Forum (CAF) is a platform for seasonal climate preparedness planning, aimed at gradually building the capacity of sectoral stakeholders in the operational, tactical, and strategic application of climate information across different timescales. This includes the seamless integration of historical/observational data, extended-range forecasts, and climate change projections into planning processes, as well as adjusting those plans using short-range forecasts.

The CAF brings together the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and key sectoral institutions across the country for these preparedness planning sessions.

Through an iterative approach, the CAF provides opportunities for sectoral stakeholders to seasonally review their climate risk-informed and anticipatory preparedness plans, assess their implementation, and identify ways to enhance them in subsequent seasons. It also allows PMD to continuously evolve and tailor climate information products to better meet user needs.

Experiences and learnings from seasonal and sub-seasonal preparedness planning and informed decision-making are expected to strengthen stakeholder capacities over time, contributing to more effective long-term climate adaptation and resilience.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Climate Application Forums (CAFs) leveraged evidence-based climate information to address the challenges posed by climate variability and change. These forums convened a diverse array of stakeholders—including senior government officials, climate scientists, policymakers, and community representatives—united by a shared vision of fostering resilient and sustainable solutions for a changing climate.

The upcoming 5th CAF is expected to further support climate-informed planning and the implementation of preparedness measures across various sectors in anticipation of the 2025 summer season in Pakistan.

Objectives:

The key objectives of the Climate Application Forum (CAF) are to:

- Review the performance of PMD's climate information across various timescales for the previous season.
- Assess users' experiences in applying climate information in planning and decision-making, highlight good practices and lessons learned, and gather recommendations for improving both the generation and application of climate information.
- Present PMD's forecast products for the upcoming season, including any enhancements made based on previous stakeholder feedback.
- Showcase the Decision Support Systems (DSS) developed by RIMES for MOPDSI, PAD, and BACD.
- Guide stakeholders in implementing anticipatory preparedness measures based on forecasts, climate information, decision guidance tools, and advisories.

Expected Outcomes:

Expected Outcomes of the Climate Application Forum (CAF):

- Good practices and/or lessons learned from the application of climate information across various timescales are shared with relevant stakeholders, providing insights into successful approaches that can be replicated or used to improve climate-informed strategies and risk/resource management mechanisms.
- Climate-informed action plans for the 2025 summer season are developed or proposed by key stakeholders, for potential adoption by their respective institutions upon returning to their stations.
- Stakeholders are further sensitized to the seamless integration of climate information in short-, medium-, and long-term preparedness planning.
- Stakeholder-driven recommendations are articulated to enhance climate information products and support the full development and operationalization of Decision Support Systems (DSSs).

Climate Application Forum, 29th May 2025, Islamabad

AGENDA Opening Session	
08:45 - 09:00 AM	Arrival and Registration of Participants
09:00 - 09:10 AM	Introduction of Participants and Guests
09:10 - 09:40 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by DG PMD (Mahr Sahibzad Khan) • Remarks by World Bank (Mr. Bilal Khalid) • Remarks by Chief Guest Lt Gen(R) Nadeem Ahmad, Adviser RIMES)
9:40 – 10:00 AM	Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break
Review of the Last Season and Seasonal/Sub-seasonal Outlook for Winter 2024-2025	
10:10 – 10:25 AM	Review of the 2024 Monsoon by PMD (NWFC-PMD)
10:25 – 10:35 AM	Discussion
10:35 – 10:50 AM	Review of the 2023-2024 Winter PMD
10:50 – 11:10 AM	Seasonal Climate Outlook for the 2024-2025 Winter (Potential impacts and risks) NWFC-PMD
11:10 – 11:15 AM	Tea break
11:15 – 11:35 AM	Discussion
11:35 – 12:35 PM	<p>Experiences during the 2023-2024 Winter, 2024 Monsoon, and Sectoral Preparedness Actions for the 2024-2025 Winter (Panel Discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Disaster Management Authority • Federal Flood Commission • Agriculture Department of Punjab • Agriculture and Cooperatives Department of Balochistan • Others relevant <p>Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant events during the 2023-2024 winter and 2024 monsoon and experiences in managing these events, particularly extreme events, if any • pathways/opportunities to enhance utilization of seasonal/sub-seasonal climate outlook in resources and risks management • utilization of winter climate outlook in enhancing productivity and managing risks during the 2024-2025 winter <p>To be moderated by: RIMES</p>
12:35 – 1:00 PM	Question and Answer