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Enhancing Climate Services in South Africa

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Climate Services plays a critical role in the country. It is a pertinent factor in the decision-making at various levels for almost all sectors and communities in South Africa. Unfortunately, people who need it most cannot always obtain existing climate information or find it inaccessible when it does.

Changes in climate, both human-caused and natural, have a major impact on society, affecting areas such as the economy, water and food security, and overall health and well-being. South Africa has experienced noticeable changes, including rising average temperatures, increased frequency of extreme heat events, prolonged droughts, and intensified floods, all of which underscore the urgency of addressing climate-related challenges. Collaborative efforts by different climate service providers through the National Framework for Climate Service (NFCS) will have to be strengthened to render climate service across all users. The NFCS aims to develop a practical model that acknowledges the significance of emerging trends in producing climate service data that values consultation and involvement of climate users and the vital role users play in collaborating on climate service information. The ideas of collaborating in production and exploration are acknowledged as essential for the effective utilization of climate data in decision-making. This paper offers an overview of the current status of the NFCS implementation within South Africa.

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