

LEARNING DAYS AND ANNUAL EVENT 2024

5—7 JUNE 2024 | ONLINE & BERNE



From observations to resilience: unlocking NGO potential for weather, water and climate services

PROGRAMME

Weather, water and climate services (WWCS) play a crucial role in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. To be effective, they require the collaboration of multiple stakeholders with wide-ranging expertise and skills to manage complex processes. For people in remote, neglected, and vulnerable areas, accessing accurate and reliable information through WWCS can be very difficult. NGO often step in to address this gap. They work to connect the services available at the national level with the local communities and stakeholders who may otherwise struggle to access these vital information and services.

Are you

- implementing projects and programmes related to climate change and disaster risk reduction?
- interested in learning and exchanging on the importance of WWCS for climate and disaster resilience?
- curious about roles and contributions of NGO to ensure that WWCS are relevant for everybody?

Then these learning days and that annual event are for you!

Join us to share and learn from existing experience of platform member organizations and their partners, as well as other organizations and stakeholders involved in providing, using and, assessing WWCS in the context of international cooperation.

In 10 online thematic sessions we will explore several core areas of well-functioning weather, water and climate services, including:

- Understanding the fundamentals
- Project experiences from various contexts
- Early warning systems and anticipatory action
- Agrometeorological information services
- Frameworks and cooperations from the global to national level
- Climate projections and local scenarios
- Private sector engagement in WWCS
- Evidence based on research and evaluations

At the annual event on Friday afternoon, we will conclude the findings and discuss the future of WWCS with distinguished panel guests from the public and private sectors, NGOs, and academia.

Objectives

With the learning days and the annual event, our aim is to bring together NGO practitioners and all interested professionals involved in providing, using and assessing WWCS, promote exchange and learning on the topic and discuss good practices and opportunities in using and implementing WWCS.

Thematic sessions

Several thematic sessions aim to answer frequently asked questions and encourage reflection on challenges and opportunities that NGO may face when working in the field of WWCS. Although mainly addressing NGO practitioners, these sessions are open to all interested parties and will combine experiences from different stakeholders to paint a comprehensive picture and strengthen capacities towards successful implementation.

All thematic sessions will take place online, and most will have simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish. You can participate in all or select sessions of your interest, but we encourage you to start with the introductory session "Unpacking WWCS - Understanding the fundamentals".

All sessions will be recorded and uploaded on our Youtube channel.

Annual event

To conclude the learning days, the annual event of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform will reflect on the findings from the thematic sessions and bring together a broad audience in-person in Bern. Speakers from governments, multilateral organizations, philanthropy, academia and civil society will discuss the way forward.

The annual event will be held in Bern, Switzerland, in English. It will be live-streamed in English and simultaneously translated to French and Spanish.

Registration

Please register for each thematic session and the annual event [here](#).

You will receive the zoom-link for participation upon registration via e-mail.

Participation is free of charge.

Online participation is unrestricted. Places for on-site participation at the annual event on Friday afternoon in Bern are limited. Please only sign up for on-site participation if you can be present.

Contact

In case of questions, please contact the Co-Leads of the WWCS working group:

Christina Aebischer (Helvetas)

christina.aebischer@helvetas.org

Johanna Zwahlen (Zoi Environment Network)

johanna.zwahlen@zoinet.org

Who we are

The [Swiss NGO DRR Platform](#) is a network of NGO professionals dedicated to increase the resilience of women and men, communities and governments to all aspects of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It strives for enhanced quality of Swiss NGO services related to disaster risk and climate change, promotes the diversity of know-how experience, provides guidance for increased effectiveness and advocates for the importance of risk-informed development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

A working group on weather, water and climate services of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform has been operating since 2020, with the aim of guiding the platform's learning journey to enhance understanding and improve practice of member organisations in WWCS. Its work culminates in the learning days and the annual event 2024.

Organised by:



HELVETAS



ZOI
environment
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Better living conditions for Latin America



**HEKS
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederaziun svizra

CARITAS

Schweiz
Suisse
Svizzera
Svizra



INNOVABRIDGE

SWISSAID



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Wednesday, 5 June

09:00 – 10:30 CEST | Online

INTRODUCTORY SESSION:

Unpacking WWCS:
Understanding the
fundamentals

EN, FR

11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Saving lives and reducing
losses: How Early Warning
Systems and Anticipatory
Action make a difference

EN, FR, ESP

14:30 – 16:00 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

The platform experience
capitalization: achievements
and challenges from five
projects around the world

EN, FR, ESP

16:30 – 18:00 CEST | Online

INTRODUCTORY SESSION:

Unpacking WWCS:
Understanding the
fundamentals

ESP

Thursday, 6 June

08:00 – 09:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Agrometeorological
information services;
Improving farmers'
adaptation to climate change

EN, FR, ESP

10:00 – 11:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Good practices and impact
of WWCS: Evidence from
research and evaluations

EN, FR

13:00 – 14:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

From global to national:
Cooperation and frameworks
for WWCS

EN, FR, ESP

15:00 – 16:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Good practices and impact
of WWCS: Evidence from
research and evaluations

EN, ESP

Friday, 7 June

09:00 – 10:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Climate projections and local
climate scenarios: From
data and tools to adaptation
strategies

EN, FR, ESP

11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Online

THEMATIC SESSION:

Private sector engagement
in WWCS: Potential and
challenges

EN, FR, ESP

13:30 – 17:00 CEST | Online and
in Bern, Switzerland

ANNUAL EVENT:

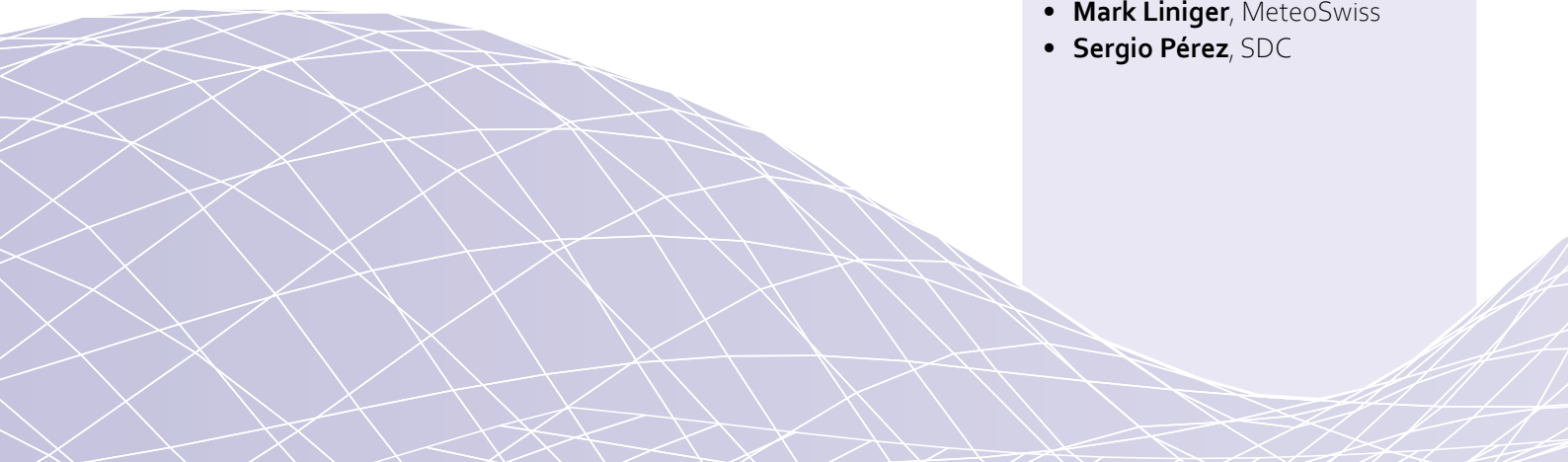
The future of weather, water
and climate services – trends
and perspectives to reach
access for all.

EN, FR, ESP

Presentation and discussion of the
learning day's and session's findings

Panel discussion with:

- **Bernita Doornbos**, Helvetas / Swiss NGO DRR platform
- **Daniel Kull**, WMO
- **David Rogers**, World Bank
- **Karl Gutbrod**, meteoblue
- **Mark Liniger**, MeteoSwiss
- **Sergio Pérez**, SDC



PROGRAMME DETAILS

INTRODUCTORY SESSION:

Unpacking WWCS:
Understanding the
fundamentals

WED, 5 JUNE

09:00 – 10:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French

WED, 5 JUNE

16:30 – 18:00 CEST | Online

Languages: Spanish

Organized by **Christina Aebischer** (Helvetas) and **Johanna Zwahlen** (Zoi Environment Network)

WWCS follow a value cycle where understanding the interdependencies between the activities and the involved stakeholders are crucial. To be effective, WWCS service providers and users must work together and strengthen each other along the WWCS value cycle. After an overview of the platform's learning journey, this introductory session aims to create a common understanding of fundamental concepts and terminology of WWCS. We will also reflect broadly on the roles of NGO and discuss potential areas where NGO involvement have the greatest impact.

THEMATIC SESSION:

Saving lives and reducing losses – How Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action make a difference

WED, 5 JUNE

11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French and Spanish

Organized by **Jana Junghardt** (Helvetas) and **Arabela Philipona** (HEKS)

Knowing what's coming and taking action before a disaster strikes – these are the major principles of both early warning systems and anticipatory action. Both approaches have gained considerable traction over the past years, partly linked to increased needs, the better availability of high quality forecasts and their ability to save lives and reduce losses. Pre-allocated funding mechanisms ensure timely and proactive responses to emerging crises, but also come with the complexity of defining triggers and action protocols. The session aims to enhance understanding of the approaches, and shed light on good practices, challenges and the particular role of NGO in this field.

THEMATIC SESSION:

The platform experience capitalization: achievement and challenges from five projects around the world

WED, 5 JUNE

14:30 – 16:00 CEST | Online

Languages: English, French, Spanish, translated to each language

Organized by **Maria Claudelin** (Caritas Switzerland) and **Sonja Tschirren** (Swissaid)

From early warning systems to agroecological information to farmers and to climate projections use in local cooperation projects, the five experiences of DRR Platform member organizations have been capitalized and discussed intensively during the prior internal learning process. In this session, the five projects take the floor publically to present themselves, and their achievements and challenges so far. Project representatives discuss about the quality and usability of their current weather services offering, including their plans to guarantee the economic and social sustainability of the services. The session focuses on the role of NGOs in the WWCS provision and showcases the diversity, but also overlaps and synergies.

Check the
website for
speaker
information

THEMATIC SESSION:

Agrometeorological information services: Improving farmers' adaptation to climate change

THU, 6 JUNE

08:00 – 09:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French and Spanish

Organized by **Maria Claudelin**, **Boris Orłowski** (Caritas Switzerland) and **Sonja Tschirren** (Swissaid)

What is needed to establish well-functioning agrometeorological information services to farmers in remote communities? What service has to be delivered by whom in the value chain? This session dives into discussions about production and distribution of reliable local weather forecasts and practical farming recommendations, with the goal of improving agricultural productivity and resilience of small-holder farmers. Through examples of different projects, we cover different types of data and ways of delivery, as well as of financing the services, while not forgetting about real-life evidence of the usefulness of agrometeorological information.

THEMATIC SESSION:

Good practices and impact of WWCS: Evidence from research and evaluations

THU, 6 JUNE

10:00 – 11:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French

THU, 6 JUNE

15:00 – 16:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to Spanish

Organized by **Ernst Schaltegger** (Innovabridge)

The results of applied research and evaluations provide valuable orientation for implementation practice and are essential for continuous quality improvement. What do researchers and evaluators tell us about the impact of WWCS, about the conditions that are necessary for efficiency and effectiveness to unfold, and about the approaches to really reach out to users that are most in need of that information? In these two sessions, the results of research and evaluations from different researchers will broaden our perspective. In order to do justice to the range of experiences and the differences in different continents, two sessions will be held in different time zones and languages.

THEMATIC SESSION:

From global to national: Cooperation and frameworks for WWCS

THU, 6 JUNE

13:00 – 14:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French and Spanish

Organized by **Christina Aebischer** (Helvetas) and **Johanna Zwahlen** (Zoi Environment Network)

The Paris Agreement calls for effective climate change adaptation measures in the Global South which in manifold aspects involve the further development of WWCS. This international commitment leveraged various programs for strengthening WWCS globally such as the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS), Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) or the Early Warning for All initiative under the umbrella of the World Meteorological Organisation WMO. It actively collaborates with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services worldwide, and follows the paradigm that critical WWCS should be a public service under a regulatory framework. Strengthening the capacities of national services is hence of vital importance, and NGO can play a crucial role. Entry points for contribution and successful joint cooperation will be at the heart of this session's discussion.

Check the website for speaker information

THEMATIC SESSION:

Climate projections and local climate scenarios: From data and tools to adaptation strategies

FRI, 7 JUNE

09:00 – 10:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French and Spanish

Organized by **Joachim Jung** (Vivamos Mejor)

Suitable adaptation strategies need to be based on appropriate climate scenarios. However, for many regions in the global South, the current scenarios are not specific to a local level. How can we downscale existing regional climate scenarios to specific local scenarios to tailor local adaptation strategies? Which current tools for climate scenarios are available?

We discuss the issue of downscaling of climate scenarios and the development of tailor-made adaptation measures based on an example from Guatemala and Honduras of monitoring of agricultural crops and biodiversity regarding climate change. The session concludes linking to the development of national adaptation strategies and the strengthening of national actors for climate adaptation.

THEMATIC SESSION:

Private sector engagement in WWCS: Potential and challenges

FRI, 7 JUNE

11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated to French and Spanish

Organized by **Christina Aebischer** (Helvetas) and **Johanna Zwahlen** (Zoi Environment Network)

WWCS enable better decision making across a range of private sectors and thus create monetary value. However, there are various barriers (donor, regulatory, economic) that inhibit commercialization pathways and WWCS development projects often fail to sustain the gains through a sustainable business model. At the same time digitalization in the Global South in combination with artificial intelligence enables large opportunities for global providers to deliver first generation services. What role can NGOs take on the ground to overcome local barriers and co-create second generation services with local actors? What role will the private sector play in the future in this rapid evolving landscape? How can this development ensure adaptation justice that leaves no one behind?

ANNUAL EVENT:

The future of weather, water and climate services – trends and perspectives to reach access for all

Welle 7 (Deck 3) in Bern, Switzerland and online

FRI, 7 JUNE 13:30 – 17:00 CEST | Followed by an apéro riche

Languages: on-site in English, online in English and translated to French and Spanish

Moderated by **Ilona Paganoni**
Organized by the **WWCS Working Group**

Swiss NGO DRR Platform's annual event 2024 aims at summarizing findings of the learning days and conclude in a panel discussion with invited guests from governments, multilateral organizations, academia, private sector and the NGO platform.

Panelists:

- **Bernita Doornbos**, Helvetas / Swiss NGO DRR platform
- **Daniel Kull**, WMO
- **David Rogers**, World Bank
- **Karl Gutbrod**, meteoblue
- **Mark Liniger**, MeteoSwiss
- **Sergio Pérez**, SDC

On-site participants: registration and door open at 13:00

Check the website for speaker information