

## 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Climate Information Services Cape Town, 28<sup>th</sup> February – 2 March 2017

### Effective Capacity Building for Climate-Resilient Health Systems

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#### Abstract:

Addressing the interdisciplinary need of integrated climate-resilient health systems in East/South Africa requires targeted multi-sectoral capacity building. Current capacity for integrating Climate Services with Health Sectors are limited by:

- (i) *Insufficient educational opportunity and limited availability of key resources (educational and research) resulting in lower levels of expertise.* Whilst many experts in EA possess medical, environmental and/or social sciences training, few have a solid understanding or experience of all three fields.
- (ii) *Difficulty in accessing and linking data on environmental conditions, demographics, community/household economic settings and health outcomes.* Understanding the inter-relationships between climate, health and society requires multiple sources of data to be presented in a readily usable form.
- (iii) *Current siloed nature of diverse disciplines and sectors has created an environment of separation and non-collaboration stemming from competition for the limited resource base.* This lack of collaboration has resulted in reactionary and costly responses to climate impact and disasters as well as ill-informed and ineffectual preparation, planning, training and resource allocation across health-sectors.

Developing appropriate capacity building programs cannot be a one-size fits all approach, but rather a tailored program unique to specific contexts, capabilities and current competencies of health sectors, aligned with prioritized need. In this paper, we consider the levels of support and data needed to combat specific disease management/transference and discuss the communication strategies necessary across health service providers at National and Community levels. Key to these, are the identification of existing levels of meteorological and climate service delivery skill (which includes timing and delivery of products / services / forecasts) and the incentives and drivers for collaboration between institutions to inform focus. The full categorization of existing expertise and/ or gaps within political, technical, fiscal, data, human capacity, governance structures, and current health infrastructure, are vital for effective integration of Climate Services into Health Systems.