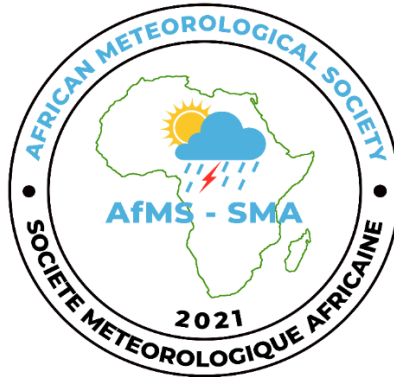


GET TO KNOW YOUR SOCIETY – A DOCUMENT TO INTRODUCE AfMS



INTRODUCING AfMS

Version 03

NMSocs, RMSs, and IFMS are a means of achieving collaboration at all levels to make the whole much bigger than the sum of its parts!



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November 30, 2022

Updated: October 7, 2023



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ACRONYMS

ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Application Development
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfMS	African Meteorological Society
AMS	American Meteorological Society
AU	African Union
CMS	Chinese Meteorological Society
D-FOA	Diaspora and Friends of Africa
E&T	Education and Training
EMI	Ethiopian Meteorological Institute
EMS	European Meteorological Society
FLISMET	Federation of Latin American and Liberian Meteorological Societies
GW&CC	Global Warming and Climate Change
GA	General Assembly
GWE	Global Weather Enterprise
ICPAC	IGADD Climate Prediction, Application Centre
IFMS	International Forum of Meteorological Societies
IGADD	Inter-Governmental Authority on. Drought and Development
IMS	India Meteorological Society
MSJ	Meteorological Society of Japan
NMHS	National Meteorological/Hydrological Service:
NMSoc	National Meteorological Society
RMS	Regional Meteorological Society
RMetS	Royal Meteorological Society
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WB	World Bank

Important milestones of AfMS:

Created on February 10, 2021.

Registration completed on March 1, 2022, and

Inaugurated on November 30, 2022.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES:

Website created in 2022

First Newsletter

November 2023

First Journal

June, 2024

First in-person Conference:

Late First Quarter of 2025.

1 INTRODUCTION

Global Warming and Climate Change (**GW&CC**) are already causing weather related disasters more frequently than in the past. Whereas, the contribution of all of Africa to the GHG problem is minimal, this continent is liable to suffer most because of being unprepared. The frequency and intensity of weather-related disasters is expected to increase in the future. Africa, with 34 least developed countries and remaining as developing countries, needs a lot of capacity building in terms of knowledge, infrastructure and Institutional and Societal capacity to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens.

Africa also needs tools and services as well as Early Warning Systems (**EWS**) to forecast occurrence of weather phenomena. It is the role of WMO to assist in Capacity Building and that of the World Bank to finance infrastructure of deserving countries. However, both of them having defined budgets and salary-based employees, their resources are limited. On the other hand, there are a lot of **active and retired professionals** and African diaspora members who are professors and researcher outside Africa but have a desire to help their continent/country. *There are a lot of active professionals in public, private and university sectors in Africa and from outside Africa (who we call "Friends of Africa") who would also like to do such philanthropic work and help Africa in building capacity. We define "Friends of Africa" as all those people who are not Africans but are interested in assisting in building capacity in Africa.* All these professionals are always looking for some organization(s) through which they can fulfill their desire to contribute to society. The Regional Meteorological Society (**RMS**) like AfMS, with the membership of National Meteorological Societies (**NMSocs**) of various countries, provides such an organization. The activities of RMSs are tailored to provide a mechanism for collaboration, and professional development through Education and Training (**E&T**), Conferences, Collaboration in Science and Technology (**S&T**), and other opportunities for learning and publishing.

Many NMSocs also provide the above-listed services on a national level, but many of them need external assistance. There is great power in collaboration and if NMSocs in the continent can collaborate and share various administrative procedures and knowledge, they can go much farther together. The Regional Meteorological Societies (**RMSs**) provide such an opportunity to collaborate and spread knowledge. Certain activities that individual NMSoc might find difficult, e.g., conducting regular conferences, publishing a Journal, certification of professionals, etc. can be achieved better at the Continental level. **We have created the African Meteorological Society (AfMS) to facilitate collaboration in all the above areas.** European Meteorological Society (**EMS**) is a great example of such a Society. Another example is the Federation of Latin American and Liberian Meteorological Societies (**FLISMET**) in South America.

Some NMSocs in various continents are quite strong and are prepared to provide assistance to the developing NMSocs, they can help in strengthening them to build capacity in all continents. For creating cooperation worldwide between all NMSocs, the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (**IFMS**) (www.ifms.org) was created.

All these organizations aim to support and foster a spirit of unity among professionals and their Societies and to develop and strengthen professional relationships. They all promote cooperation in areas such as training and scientific development and they encourage the development of technologies to do better forecasting to improve their national economy and fight GW&CC. They also support participation in events at International Institutions and they advocate for meteorology professionals. By making these institutions very strong, we can promote the development of meteorology on all continents.

2 CREATION OF AfMS

The International Forum of Meteorological Societies (**IFMS**) felt the need for assisting the World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) and the World Bank (**WB**) in building capacity in Africa which is in dire need of assistance. With this idea in mind, IFMS with its dedicated African Council Members launched the effort to re-create AfMS that had existed in the 80s. With the very strong support of many African meteorological professionals and a lot of groundwork and preparation by IFMS, we declared AfMS created on February 10, 2021. Its registration was completed on March 1, 2022, and its inauguration on November 30, 2022.

3 OBJECTIVE OF AfMS

The objective of establishing AfMS is to unite the NMSocs of Africa to create capacity through the following activities:

1. Organizing scientific Meetings and Lecture series;
2. Supporting scientific publications and research for the public welfare;
3. Publishing its own Scientific Journal; this will generate pride of publishing in their own Journal of high quality;
4. Holding Africa-wide Conference in one of the member countries or through on-line means or a combination of both to maximize participation;
5. Looking into the feasibility of Certification of professionals. If found important and feasible, it will be implemented; it will ensure high standard of professionals.
6. Assisting in Educational Programs by holding Webinars and online Training Programs and also, when required, by developing its own training programs specific to Africa's climatic conditions. This will be to supplement the existing Programs by various organizations and coordinate all of them;
7. Cooperating with the National Meteorological Services of Africa and with IFMS and other Regional Meteorological Societies (e.g., EMS and FLISMET) for the benefit of strengthening Global Weather Enterprise (GWE);
8. Instituting Recognition and Awards Program for Professionals both young and matured to encourage S&T development as well as recognizing the assistance of NMSocs to the AfMS development;
9. Promoting cooperation between Public, Private and Academic Sectors; and
10. Strengthening existing Meteorological Societies and creating new ones in those countries where no such society exists.

4 CONSTITUTION OF AfMS

After deciding to create the AfMS, we started working on the Constitution of the AfMS which was approved by potential member societies on February 10, 2021, the day we declared AfMS created. Since we had decided to have AfMS head office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where WMO's Regional Office for Africa (RA-1) is located, we decided to register AfMS in Ethiopia. In order to meet the requirements of the Ethiopian Registration Authority, the constitution had to be amended and was approved on March 1, 2022 by the Registration Authority. The Constitution also describes procedure to amend it and we amended it to clarify some matters in the Constitution. The current Constitution is available on the AfMS website.

5 AfMS MEMBERSHIP

It is to be noted that only NMSocs can become member of the AfMS. Therefore, it is important to have an NMSoc in your country to take advantage of the activities of the AfMS. In order to accommodate diaspora members and professionals of countries which do not have an NMSoc yet, we allow limited non-voting individual membership.

5.1 Existing NMSocs

There are 12 existing NMSocs from the following countries: Cameroon, Djibouti, **Egypt**, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, **Mauritius**, Nigeria, **South Africa**, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Those shown in green colour have already become members of AfMS and IFMS and those in red colour are yet to become members. Those who have not yet completed their membership forms are urged to do so on the following link:

Link: <https://forms.gle/7199YAFmZdcWVTzu6>

5.2 Countries where NMSoc does not Exist

The remaining countries of Africa do not currently have an NMSoc. IFMS, with the assistance of AfMS, is working on creating an NMSoc in all countries irrespective of their size. The activities of each NMSoc can be tailored according to the size of its population and their membership. We have provided, on the AfMS Website, the Guidelines to create an NMSoc and typical Constitution for the benefit of all countries of Africa where NMSoc does not exist today.

The following 7 countries have started the process of creating their own NMSoc: Comoros, Gabon, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Cameroon and Ghana have created their NMSoc successfully. We have provided the above information to all these countries and will facilitate the process of creating their own NMSoc and register it in their respective countries. We will assist them closely in their process of creating NMSoc.

We strongly urge all other African countries to create their own NMSoc and not be left behind in the development of means of safeguarding their country from the adverse effects of GW&CC as well as to assist in the improvement in their economy with better weather forecasting.

Please show your intention of creating your NMSoc by filling the form on the following link:

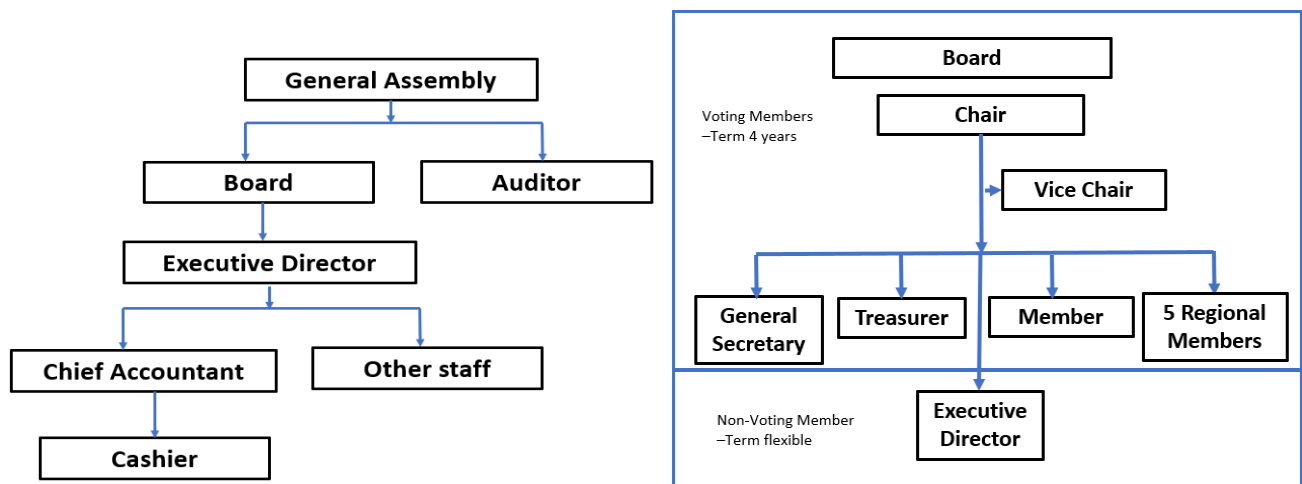
Link: <https://forms.gle/trsTPVNqKvKwRW7T9>

6 AfMS ORGANIZATION

The approved Constitution provides the following structure:

- General Assembly: Consists of all full Members as Voting Members and all associate Members as Observers. Associate members being those organizations which are not an NMSoc but they deal with meteorology.
- Auditor who reports to the General Assembly.
- Board with 11 members.
- Executive Director and other staff.

6.1 AfMS Overall Structure



6.2 Board Members as per AfMS Constitution

As per the Constitution, there are 11 Board Members which are as follows:

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and 7 other members including 6 Regional Members.

6.3 Current Assignments Based on the above

All these positions in the above section are elected positions. However, in order to formulate the organization and kick-start it, we have appointed an interim Board which will be in effect till we elect the first Board in late 2023 for which the procedure will be defined and agreed upon in a subsequent General Assembly.

In the Interim Board, the following three positions have been assigned to the persons who assisted in the creation of AfMS with a great effort and got it registered which was quite a cumbersome process.

Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi, President Tanzania Met. Society – **Chair of the Board.**

Mr. Workneh Degefu, Executive Secretary, Ethiopian Met. Society – **Vice Chair of the Board.**

Mr. Tafesse Gurm, President of the Ethiopian Met Society - Executive Director – **Appointed non-voting Board Member.**

We have also filled some other positions and hope to fill the remaining ones in the near future.

The following is the current Board of AfMS:

AfMS BOARD MEMBERS					
					
Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi Chair	Mr. Workneh Degefu Vice Chair	Dr. Godwin Ayesiga General Secretary	Ms Hidaya Senga Treasurer	Mr. Kidanu Woldemedhin Member At large	Vacant Egypt eligible but not yet a member of AfMS XYZ Rep Northern Region
					
Dr. Kamal Alawad Rep Eastern Region	Prof. Debo Adeyewa Rep West Region	MOLOU Emmanuel Rep Central Region	Vacant South Africa eligible but not yet a member of afms XYZ Rep. Southern Region	Dr. Aisha Owusu Rep. Diaspora	Tafesse Gurm Executive Director

6.4 AfMS – Regional Board Members

- (1) There are six Regional Members – one each from the regions shown below.
- (2) From Northern Region, currently we have 1 NMSocs – Egypt which is yet to become a member.
- (3) From Eastern Region we have 8 NMSocs – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- (4) From Western Region we have 1 NMSoc – Nigerian Meteorological Society.
- (5) From Central Region we have 1 NMSocs – newly created Cameroon Meteorological Society.
- (6) From Southern Region we have 1 NMSocs – South Africa which is yet to become a member.

We have written to Egypt, South Africa and Mauritius to become AfMS members, but they have not responded till now. We urge them to become AfMS members as soon as possible.

Please note that only those NMSocs which have become Members of AfMS can apply for Board Membership.

THE SIX REGIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION



7 OPERATIONALIZING AfMS

In order to operationalize AfMS, we have created Committees to work on its various activities.

7.1 List of Committees to divide the Work

In order to divide the work, we have defined the following Committees:

1. Financing Committee.
2. Committee to Create NMSocs and liaison with existing NMSocs, RMSs and IFMS.
3. Committee for attracting Volunteers and assigning them to other Committees.
4. Committee for Education and Training and conducting Webinars.
5. Communications Committee – takes care of Website, Social-Media, Newsletter, etc.
6. Committee for S&T Collaboration.
7. Committee to organize Conferences.
8. Publication Committee.
9. Awards Selection Committee.
10. Diaspora and Friends of Africa Committee.

The following figure shows the Committee Chairs.



7.2 Status of Committee Creation

1. We have already created Committees and assigned their chairs as above.
2. We have created the Terms of Reference (TOR) of all Committees which have been provided to the Committee Chairs.
3. Up to now, approximately 140 people have offered to be Expert-Volunteers. Many of these are African diaspora professors who would like to return the benefit of their success to their continent. Many others are non-Africans (who we call “Friends of Africa”) who would like to assist in the capacity building in Africa.
4. ***One important Committee is for Managing Volunteers and is called “Committee for attracting Volunteers and assigning them to other Committees”. It will help us recruit more experts/volunteers.***
5. We are requesting all professionals whether from within Africa or its diaspora or also individuals from outside Africa who are interested in helping us in creating capacity in Africa. Please register on the following link:

Link: <https://forms.gle/rUctErkqgDRGWDMY5>

8 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Bank Account has been created.
- 2) Financing requirements have been defined and are being organized.
- 3) The first General Assembly has taken place and we consider AfMS to be Operational.
- 4) We are preparing the following documents in the next 6 months:
 - a) Prepare Strategic Plan
 - b) Prepare Operational Plan

9 Financing of AfMS

One of the most important issues to be resolved is that of financing required by AfMS.

9.1 Financing Requirements

AfMS requires finances for the following activities. This might have to be direct or indirect funding through IFMS.

1. Operation of a small Secretariat which is required for organizational operations and **continuity**. As far as possible, we plan to pay honorarium and not salaries.
2. Publication of Newsletter, Maintenance of Website and social media usage for communication purposes.
3. Financial assistance to developing societies, to arrange local training and educational Programs. This assistance will be on a Project-by-Project basis. The society will define a “Capacity Building through Training” project which will be evaluated by AfMS and if found meaningful and useful for capacity building, AfMS will present it to IFMS to finance it partially or fully depending upon the circumstances related to the quality of the project, capacity of the society, availability of funding from their own Governments and availability of funds with AfMS/IFMS.
4. Many countries do not have a National Hydro-Met Society. In this world with Global Warming and Climate Change (**GW&CC**) the importance of these Societies cannot be overstated for promoting the profession of hydro-meteorology and building capacity through collaboration, training, Webinars, and Conferences (now also possible through Video Conferencing to optimize cost and maximize participation). Therefore, we are also trying to create Societies in those least developed and developing countries where none exists. *A major impediment in creating these societies is the need for some initial funding to incorporate and start such a society. They need, not only mentoring but also some financial assistance from an organization like AfMS/IFMS.*
5. Limited Travel expenses of delegates of LDCs who cannot afford to pay for the travel for their participation in important Meetings of the AfMS and some travel of the Secretariat personnel and Board Members for very essential business,
6. Running Training Programs through Webinars and in person – the latter, especially during our AfMS Conferences.

9.2 Potential Sources of Funding

Following are some sources of funding AfMS will look into:

- 1) Dues from member societies – both full members and associate members.
- 2) Any financial assistance and in-kind assistance from NMHSs.
- 3) Corporate support through sponsorships.
- 4) Individuals who care about international cooperation in science might be persuaded to provide small donations toward the operations of AfMS which is trying to develop capacity for all African nations. We need to make a convincing Value Proposition to achieve this.
- 5) AfMS being a Society from which WMO and World Bank can get maximum benefits, they should be able to support it financially.
- 6) African Development Bank and other Africa-wide institutions responsible for capacity building.
- 7) National Aid Agencies of developed countries such as the US, Canada, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, etc. can assist IFMS which can in turn assist AfMS and any other Societies.
- 8) Project-based grants from organizations to be identified.

- 9) Philanthropic grants. There are philanthropic foundations that provide grants to support non-profits that are doing good work. These grants sometimes have very few constraints and can be used to cover normal operating expenses that help ensure the success of the guarantee organization.

10 INAUGURATION OF AfMS

The Inauguration of AfMS was held on November 30, 2022.

- 1) We did a grand Virtual inauguration of AfMS which set the tone for its future visibility which, in turn, will make it possible to look for assistance of all kinds.
- 2) We invited all members of the Global Weather Enterprise to participate. That included all PRs, all Presidents of NMSocs and RMSs, IFMS Council Members.
- 3) Here is the list of people who spoke:
 - a) Dr. Harinder Ahluwalia, President of IFMS, provided opening remarks to welcome all attendees and outline the Program of the event.
 - b) Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi, the Chair of the Board of AfMS provided his opening remarks and thanked the team which assisted in making this venture of creation of AfMS a success.
 - c) Dr. Buruhani was followed by Dr. Amos Makarau, then the Director of the WMO's RA1 Office who stated the commitment of RA1 Office to support the AfMS.
 - d) Then Dr. Ahluwalia outlined the history of creation of the AfMS and its structure, Value Proposition etc.
 - e) Mr. Abdel Brahm, a special Advisor to Dr. Ahluwalia then provided a short introduction to AfMS in French and Arabic.
 - f) The Chief Guest and the keynote speaker Mr. David Grimes – Immediate past President of WMO - did a great job of speaking about Global Weather Enterprise and its constituents and why it is important to have Meteorological Societies at National, Regional and International level.
 - g) Prof. Sushil Dash, the Chair of IFMS E&T Committee who spoke about our Capacity Building Pilot Project in the Horn of Africa and East Africa for Schools, Colleges, and Universities.
 - h) The President of AMS Prof. Richard Clark spoke about the assistance AMS has been providing to IFMS and AfMS and also pledge to provide future support to build capacity in Africa and elsewhere.
 - i) Mr. Tatsuya Kimura the Director of the PPA Collaboration Program (OCP – Open Consultative Program) spoke about this Program and its progress.
 - j) Dr. Robert Varley, the Vice-President of RMetS and retired CEO of the UK Met Office, who is leading our Professional Training Program Team which produced the Portal of this Program spoke about the Portal.
 - k) Dr. Varley was followed by the EMS representative Dr. Shanti Majithia who is the external relations officer of the EMS. He conveyed the felicitation of the EMS and the assistance EMS hopes to provide to AfMS in its development.
 - l) Dr. Charles Ichoku, who is the Chair of the Diaspora and Friends of Africa (D-FOA) Committee spoke about the “Role of Diaspora & Friends of Africa in the development of AfMS to build capacity in Africa.
 - m) Mr. Ashish Raval, the acting President of the HMEI, introduced HMEI and its raison d'être and how it can help AfMS in its development.
 - n) Dr. Walter Dabberdt, an illustrious scientist and a past President of AMS, introduced the Global Partners Program of AMS which seeks to connect AMS members who are interested in providing

specialized expertise and services to international professionals in academia, government service, and other nonprofit organizations

- o) Dr. Dabberdt was followed by Dr. Liz Page, the director of COMET Program at UCAR, spoke about the COMET Programs related to Training and PAWS Program can help AfMS. She spoke about how AfMS
- p) Finally, Mr. Kinfe Hailemariam, who is the Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI) which is located in Addis Ababa where the AfMS headquarters are located, spoke about the help EMI has provided to AfMS up to now and how they will support AfMS in the future.

Some interesting celebratory videos were also shown which pleased the attendees. All in all, the Inauguration was very much praised by attendees.

11 IN PERSON-CONFERENCES

- 1) In-person Conferences should be held at least every other year in the beginning.
- 2) One year it can be an in-person Conference and the other year it can be a Virtual one. Once we feel comfortable, annual in-person Conferences could be planned as is done by EMS.
- 3) The first In-person conference will be held in the year 2024 in November.

12 AfMS JOURNAL

One of the important activities of AfMS will be to have its own ***Journal of African Meteorological Society***. (JAMS). We have a number of very capable people who have offered to be reviewers for submitted papers. Our aim is to have the Committee fully active latest by January 2023 and start advertising for the submission of papers by mid 2023.

13 CONCLUSIONS

- 1) AfMS' main objective is to assist WMO, NMHS, and the WB in building capacity through the services of professionals from Africa and outside Africa - active and retired, diaspora; friends of Africa, and students.
- 2) Starting an organization is an important first step, but staffing it, financing it, and planning its direction and operations are very critical steps which is what we are concentrating on.
- 3) We need to make a Strategic Plan and Operational Plan based on available examples. These Plans will set the long-term, medium-term, and short-term goals of AfMS.
- 4) We will need dedicated volunteers and assistance from IFMS, EMS, and also the assistance of strong NMSocs such as AMS, RMetS, IMS, CMS, MSJ, etc.
- 5) It will also require financing which we must start looking for immediately.
- 6) ***In order to spread the benefits of AfMS, we need to create an NMSoc in every African country. We urge all PRs of those countries which do not have an NMSoc, to help us start one in your country.***
- 7) A lot is dependent on the commitment of promoters – we are fully committed to making this organization a strong catalyst for creating Capacity in Africa which needs it very badly to combat the adverse effects of GW&CC and to improve its economy by creating capability for better forecasting.



- 8) We need to find committed experts and volunteers to help us in the development of capacity in Africa. We are grateful to all those who have already offered their services and request others to make their contribution.
- 9) Although AfMS is a volunteer-based organization, it does need some money to execute its activities. Therefore, we request all National Meteorological Services to contribute to the operations of AfMS both financially and in kind. ***Above all, please also provide moral support.***
- 10) We request all African Professionals and friends of Africa to donate whatever amount they can.

Thanks to RMetS, with inputs also from IMS, the new Weather, and Climate Learning Portal for Africa <https://ifms.org/index.cfm/ifms/afms-learning-portal/> has been developed and provides a clear, single point of reference for people across Africa to access recommended courses and resources on weather and climate-related topics that have been subject to expert scrutiny.'

Help us as volunteers - help us by donating money to build capacity in Africa!

Best wishes for a successful AfMS

Note: The picture on the next page shows how AfMS fits into the Global Weather Enterprise (GWE).

