

Africa – EU Space Partnership Programme - Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (AESPP- SEWA)

Call for Proposals

Regional Pilots on Impact-Based Forecast Tools and Services in Support of Early Warning

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1. BACKGROUND TO THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1.1 Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA)

[Strengthening Early Warning in Africa \(SEWA\)](#) is an Action of the [Africa-EU Space Partnership Programme \(AESPP\)](#), which aims to enhance strategic cooperation between Africa and Europe on the use of space-based technologies, applications, and related services in Sub-Saharan Africa. AESPP is financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI–Global Europe), which is the European Union’s (EU’s) main financial instrument for external action during the period 2021–2027. AESPP contributes to the [Global Gateway](#), the EU’s strategy to boost smart, clean and secure connections in the digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.

AESPP has three Components, as follows:

1. EU–Africa Space Partnership: Supporting institutional collaboration and decision-making processes;
2. Space and the Green Transition: Focus on Early Warning - developing space-based services, applications, and tools to strengthen early warning systems for hazardous weather and climate-related events;
3. Space and the Private Sector: Increasing the capacity and skills of the private sector, stimulating growth in the space industry, and expanding the data economy.

In response to Component 2, the SEWA Action was initiated in January 2025 to support early warning in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will run for 4 years and is jointly implemented by the [African Union Commission \(AUC\)](#), the [European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts \(ECMWF\)](#), and the [European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites \(EUMETSAT\)](#).

Africa faces a disproportionate burden from [climate change and adaptation costs](#). With increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, the ability to predict and prepare through effective early warning is crucial. Significant global effort is being made to enhance early warning in Africa. SEWA supports and links to initiatives such as the [UN’s Early Warnings for All Initiative \(EW4ALL\)](#), the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) and the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#). It builds on the success of EU-funded initiatives such as [Copernicus](#), Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa ([GMES&Africa](#)), Preparation for the Use of Meteosat Second Generation in Africa ([PUMA](#)), African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD), Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA), and Climate Services and Related Applications ([ClimSA](#)), which laid the groundwork for the use of Earth Observation (EO) data in Africa.

SEWA leverages ECMWF’s long-standing experience of supporting the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#), WMO Regional Association-I (RA-I) countries and Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) with Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) data and services. ECMWF’s activities under SEWA aim to promote the use of cloud computing (specifically the Common Cloud Infrastructure - European Weather Cloud (CCI-EWC)), and ECMWF, Copernicus (the Earth observation component of the EU Space Programme), and other data generated by European stakeholders, in Impact-based Forecast (IbF) demonstration services and tools. These will be co-created with African partners and support early warning at a regional level in Sub-Saharan Africa. Actual uptake will be promoted through sustainability plans and roadmaps, technical advice and co-designed train-the-trainer activities.

1.2 About ECMWF

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 35 states, which was established in 1975 and now employs approximately 550 staff from more than 30 countries.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service that produces and disseminates numerical weather prediction data, which are made fully available to National Meteorological Services (NMSs) in its Member States. The Centre offers an entirely open data catalogue, of which a large subset is [freely available](#); access to further products is available via a service agreement, and fees may apply. ECMWF’s supercomputer

facility and associated data archive are among the largest of their type in Europe. A description of ECMWF's activities and infrastructure can be found at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/what-we-do>.

1.3 Legal framework

The Call for Proposals “SEWA Regional Pilots on Impact-Based Forecast Tools and Services in Support of Early Warning (SEWA RP)” is based on the Contribution Agreement between the European Union, represented by the European Commission (EC), and ECMWF, number 700002511 in respect of "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) and African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (ArcX) – ECMWF", which entered into force on 16 December 2024, and any amendments and addenda thereof.

1.4 Definitions

Affiliated Entities (AE)	means entities affiliated to a Beneficiary – via legal or capital link – that participate in the Project with similar rights and obligations as the Beneficiaries (obligation to implement Project tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).
Applicants	means all legal entities listed in the Proposal as prospective Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, and Associated Partners.
Application	means the Proposal together with the supporting documents and information, as outlined in Section 24 of this Call for Proposals.
Associated Partners (AP)	means entities that participate in the Project, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.
Background	means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as IPR — that is: (a) held by the Beneficiaries or ECMWF before they acceded to the respective Grant Agreement under this Call for Proposals or developed independently of that given Grant Agreement, and (b) needed to implement the Project or use the Results or the Deliverables.
Beneficiaries (BEN)	means entities that are responsible for implementing Project tasks and have the right to charge costs and claim contributions and that sign the Grant Agreement (either directly or via an accession form).
C3S	means Copernicus Climate Change Service.
Copernicus	refers to the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.
Deliverable	means a Project output that must be produced and submitted to ECMWF by the deadline outlined in the Grant Agreement.
Grant	means a financial contribution by way of donation by ECMWF under the SEWA initiative.
Grant Agreement Template	refers to terms and conditions for SEWA Grants through ECMWF.
Milestone	means a control point in the Project that helps to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the achievement of a key Result, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken.
Subcontractors	means entities contracted by a Beneficiary for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities that form part of the Project.
Participants	means all legal entities participating in the Project as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors (see section 7 of this Call for details on the roles).
Project	means the set of activities, resources, and funding designed to achieve Objectives and Results in a defined timeframe and presented in the Proposal to this Call and funded as a result of this Call.
Project Implementation	means the phase – following the Grant Agreement signature – when the Project/Grant is executed.
Proposal	means a response to this Call for Proposals, consisting of the technical description, estimated budget and proposed Participants.

Results	means any tangible or intangible effect of the Project, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.
Submission Portal	means the web-based proposal submission portal ProContract, which the Applicants are required to use to submit their Proposal

Table 1 Definitions of key words and phrases used in the Call

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SEWA REGIONAL PILOTS ON IMPACT-BASED FORECAST TOOLS AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF EARLY WARNING

2.1 Context

Four Grants will be awarded for the co-creation of regional pilot ‘demonstrators’, in which pre-operational Impact-based Forecast (IbF) tools and services are embedded in workflows that support early warning in Sub-Saharan Africa (section 2.2). The Grants shall deliver SEWA’s three strategic priorities:

1. Producing sustainable, African-owned pilots that build on existing initiatives
2. Creating strong, peer-to-peer working relationships between African and European organisations
3. Applying the CCI-EWC and data produced by European entities in support of early warning

The development of novel digital infrastructure and the organisation of training activities are out of scope of this Call for Proposals and will be funded separately through two additional calls, whose launch is anticipated in Q4 2026/Q1 2027.

2.2 Concept of the regional pilots

Pilots shall be developed for four regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. It is envisaged that one Grant shall be awarded for each of Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, and Southern Africa including the Indian Ocean Islands.

Table 2 lists the countries and territories that shall be considered for inclusion in the respective pilot for each region. These groupings focus on geographical location and hazard profile and account for the areas of responsibility of the four Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) (see section 3). They also consider the remit of the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Global Producing Centre (GPC) Pretoria. Pilots shall have a regional focus, meaning that more than one country or territory must be targeted, but that it is not necessary to cover all listed countries or territories. Hazard profile and user-need groupings shall be taken into account when proposing pilot countries or territories. Where there are countries that appear in more than one region, they may be included in either region, as is relevant to the proposed pilot. The intended region shall be stated in the Application.

Region	Countries and territories that can be included	Regional Climate Centres (RCCs)	Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) and other regional centres
Western Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo	Centre Climatique Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel (AGRHYMET) + African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD)	RSMC Dakar

Central Africa	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe	Centre d'Application et de Prévision Climatologique de l'Afrique Centrale (CAPC-AC) + ACMAD	RSMC Yaoundé
Eastern Africa	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda	IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre (ICPAC) + ACMAD	RSMC Nairobi RSMC Dar Es Salaam
Southern Africa including the Indian Ocean Islands	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, La Reunion, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Southern African Development Community – Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC) + ACMAD	RSMC Pretoria GPC Pretoria RSMC La Réunion The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

Table 2: Countries and territories to be considered for inclusion in each regional pilot (country names are displayed as the short form of the official country name according to the [UN Official Membership List](#)¹)

Each **regional pilot** shall constitute a co-created and user-oriented '**demonstrator**' that embeds **IbF tool(s) and/or service(s)** within a plausible workflow covering the upper portion of the early warning value chain (Figure 1). The production and issuance of early warnings, onward communication, and subsequent actions are out of scope. Full operational deployment is not the target, but the demonstrators shall have all the attributes of an operational service and be trialled by users in a '**testbed**' that uses or mimics the environment for operational warning and considers at least one historical or synthetic hazardous event.

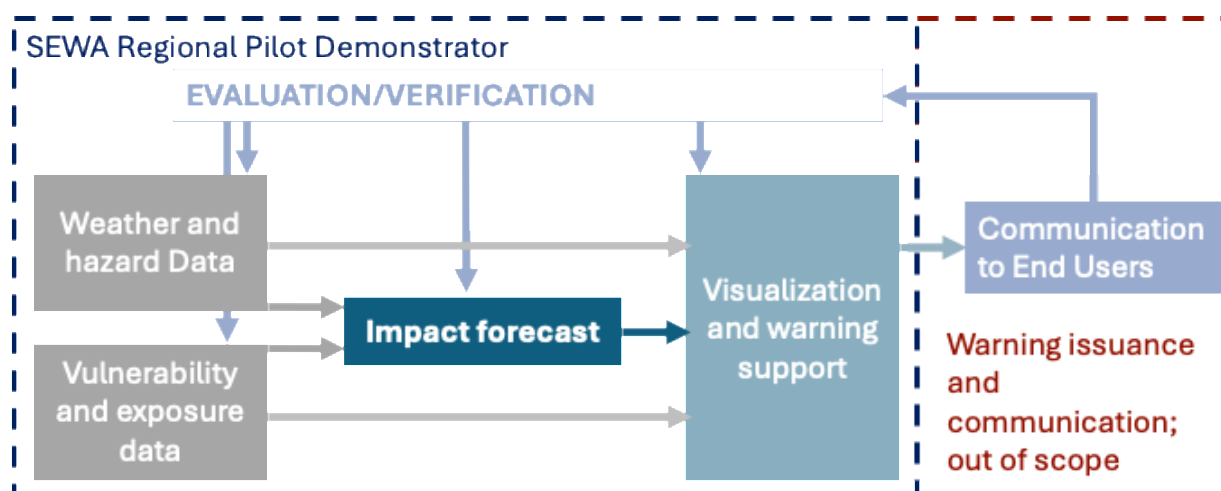


Figure 1: Diagram of the upper part of the early warning value chain highlighting the scope of the regional pilot demonstrator

The IbF tool(s) and/or service(s) shall utilise weather, hazard, exposure, and vulnerability information to forecast impacts. They may take any relevant form (e.g. using well-evidenced impact-based thresholds or explicit impact modelling); it is up to the Applicant to propose the most appropriate approach. It shall not be considered satisfactory for forecast outputs to simply be 'of interest' to an end-user – the demonstrators shall be co-created with end-users and impact-focused. The regional pilots shall be built, as far as is practicable, on, or in alignment with, existing initiatives, infrastructure, tools and services. For reference, the SEWA scoping study produced a [dashboard](#) that provides information on past and ongoing initiatives.

¹ Disclaimer: References to geographical or other territories are based on the UN Official Membership List. The use of such references and terminology in this Call, as well as in the materials contained therein or linked to, does not constitute or imply an expression of opinion by ECMWF concerning the status of any country or territory, or its frontiers or sovereignty. Any references are not intended to imply judgment, official endorsement, or acceptance by ECMWF as to the legal status or frontier of any territory.

Applicants shall list the initiatives, infrastructure, tools and services they intend to use or link to in their Proposal and shall clearly demonstrate the added value their regional pilot will provide.

Weather and/or hazard **forecasts** shall be used in the regional pilots (see also section 2.5); impact assessments cannot be solely based on observational data. The lead time of the forecasts shall be from medium range (3 days plus) to seasonal (1-6 months) and may include one or more lead times within that range. For regional pilots that focus on hazards naturally lending themselves to the use of nowcasting in support of early warning (e.g. thunderstorms, flash flooding, dust), lead times can be extended to include nowcasting and short-range forecasts (i.e. lead times up to 3 days) but shall still incorporate at least one lead time category greater than 3 days. If this approach is selected, it shall be justified in the Proposal. Climate projections and linked risk assessments are out of scope.

Methods for data and information sharing among the regional pilots and other bodies involved in the early warning value chain, and across international borders, shall be considered, with a particular focus on harmonising data formats and ensuring the regional pilots are compatible with existing systems.

The regional pilots shall include mechanisms for ongoing evaluation/verification. These shall focus on providing information, first and foremost, for pilot users, and Applicants shall consider the inclusion of interactive elements that, for example, allow users to provide feedback, use performance data, or log impacts. Full evaluation/verification of the data feeds, impact forecasts and any other outputs shall be undertaken and used for co-evaluation of the pilots. Methodologies and results shall be provided to ECMWF (see also section 5.1.4).

2.3 Regional pilot focus hazards

Pilots proposed for a given region shall primarily focus on the hazards presented in Table 3 for that region (see also Schedule 2 of this Call for Proposals for justification). **All hazards presented in Table 3 for a given region are to be treated equally – the order is not an indication of importance or preference.**

Region	Focus Hazards		
Western Africa	Floods	Dust storms	Heatwaves
Central Africa	Riverine floods	Flash floods	Thunderstorms
Eastern Africa	Flash floods	Heatwaves	Drought/dry spells
Southern Africa including the Indian Ocean Islands	Drought/dry spells	Thunderstorms	Tropical cyclones

Table 3: Focus hazard for each of the four regions; order is NOT an indication of importance or preference

For **Western, Central and Eastern Africa**, the Grant shall focus on at least one hazard as indicated for the respective regions in Table 3. Hazards may be relevant only to parts of each region, and hazard selection may thus influence the geographic coverage and the countries or territories selected for inclusion in the regional pilot.

For **Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands**, Applicants shall ensure that continental countries and the Indian Ocean Islands are well covered and shall demonstrate how quality outputs will be achieved for each. Two hazards may need to be selected and/or methodologies employed that fully account for differing spatial scales, geographic factors, and any other notable differences between the continental and island environments.

In addition:

- i. For **Central Africa**, the inclusion of landslides as a cascading hazard is encouraged.
- ii. For **Western Africa**, consideration of drought and heatwaves as compound hazards is encouraged.
- iii. Proposals that relate to dust shall consider its potential health impacts. Other dust impacts may also be included.

- iv. It is acknowledged that there is some overlap between thunderstorms and flash flooding: thunderstorms may lead to flash flooding but also carry additional hazards such as hail, lightning, and wind gusts. Forecasting both hazards is often inhibited by the challenges of forecasting convection and Applicants are encouraged to consider whether incorporating both thunderstorms and flash floods into their pilots is feasible, whether both are focus hazards for the region or not.

Applicants may propose the inclusion of secondary and other weather-/climate-induced hazards if their aim is to co-create multi-hazard pilots or to incorporate the impacts of cascading and compound hazards.

It is strongly advised that Applicants explicitly account for the availability of exposure and vulnerability data that will enable them to develop proper impact-based forecast pilots when they select their focus hazard(s) and countries or territories.

2.4 Building sustainability and lasting effects through partnership

2.4.1 Co-creation of the regional pilots

African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are the primary intended users of the regional pilots, owing to their WMO mandate for early warning issuance (this includes both National Meteorological Services (NMSs), mandated to issue weather warnings and National Hydrological Services (NHSs), mandated to issue hydrological warnings; either as combined or separate bodies). However, a regional focus shall be maintained. Pilot demonstrators shall be applicable to several African NMHSs and may also benefit the RCCs and RSMCs in their respective WMO-mandated roles, as well as any other public bodies with a mandate to issue relevant impact-based warnings (e.g. health warnings, transport warnings).

The regional pilots shall be co-created with users, and Applicants shall demonstrate that their Proposal fulfils a genuine user need for IbF in support of early warning. ‘Storylines’ shall be used to facilitate the co-creation process and knowledge transfer between developers and users and shall be made available to the separate SEWA Grant on training (see section 5.1.2). Attention shall be paid to ensuring that the infrastructure and data, the design and outputs of the regional pilots, and future sustainability are well aligned with user needs. At least one interim and one final **testbed** (as defined in section 2.2) shall be undertaken to:

1. Showcase the potential of the regional pilot to support early warning, with a view to future operationalisation
2. Demonstrate use of the regional pilot in line with current or newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
3. Garner feedback as part of the co-creation process (i.e. to undertake co-evaluation)

Frequent user meetings are strongly encouraged, as are in-person meetings/workshops. A kick-off workshop involving all consortia shall be organised by ACMAD, supported by ECMWF, to bring together the different regional pilots and facilitate knowledge transfer. If feasible, the kick-off workshop shall be linked to another event (e.g. regional workshops or other SEWA meetings), however, travel costs shall be covered in the Application budget. In addition, a minimum of two in-person co-creation workshops shall be undertaken, with at least 10 to 20 regional stakeholders and potential users of the pilot invited. Consortia shall cover the travel costs of attendees and the meeting venue (if needed), and this shall also be included in the Application budget. The final testbed shall be in-person, take place in Africa, and can count as one of the two in-person workshops.

2.4.2 African-European partnership

The development of working relationships between African and European organisations shall be facilitated through the award of Grants to consortia that bring together African and European entities and include, as Beneficiaries, the Sub-Saharan RCCs and ACMAD (as continental RCC; see sections 3 and 13.2). NMHSs from African and European countries, as well as research and academic organisations, private companies and

intergovernmental organisations, are strongly encouraged to participate. Applicants shall consider the following points when planning consortium composition and user/stakeholder engagement:

- Collaboration with at least one African NMHS is considered necessary to facilitate genuinely user-centred development: involvement as a Beneficiary is strongly encouraged.
- The RSMCs are considered key partners for regional pilots with forecast lead times shorter than sub-seasonal: involvement as a Beneficiary is strongly encouraged in such cases.
- For Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands, consideration shall be given to the inclusion of, or consultation with, the IOC and GPC Pretoria where the regional pilot has a sub-seasonal to seasonal lead time.
- African sectoral bodies with a role in relevant early warning value chains shall be considered for inclusion in order to provide sectoral input to co-creation and facilitate access to impact, vulnerability and exposure information. Examples include disaster risk reduction and civil protection authorities, national statistics offices, health, agriculture and water agencies.
- Consideration shall be given to working with NGOs representing indigenous interests and women's rights, as well as humanitarian networks.
- Involvement of local African IT companies or consultants shall be considered where relevant, to complement the intended pilot users' own technical support for cloud and other technological infrastructure and to facilitate knowledge retention and transfer beyond the duration of SEWA.
- Active engagement with the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP); especially its Early Warning Initiatives (EWI) Working Group), relevant United Nations (UN) organisations, international organisations and NGOs, is encouraged to strengthen ties between early warning initiatives. ECMWF will establish essential links with the WMO and the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) in support of each regional pilot.

2.4.3 Sustainability, scaling and outreach

Sustainability plans and roadmaps for the regional pilots, with a view to future operationalisation, shall be formulated in close collaboration with the RCCs and the AUC, which is responsible for governance aspects in SEWA. ECMWF will support consortia to establish links with the AUC at the kick-off stage. Roadmaps shall consider at least:

- Integration of the regional pilot into Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and alignment with institutional governance frameworks at national, regional and/or continental level, including aspects that reach beyond the end of SEWA.
- Alignment with WMO guidelines, including on data sharing and the WIS2.0 framework, [IbF](#), and other relevant topics.
- Ongoing technical support.
- Future access to datasets, infrastructure, software etc. that are not free and open (see also section 2.5)
- Knowledge transfer on the operation and use of the specific pilot.

To facilitate knowledge transfer, user documentation that considers both the system's technical aspects and its use by forecasters shall be created, utilised, and handed over to the intended users. Support shall be provided to the separate SEWA Grant on training by Beneficiaries of the SEWA Grant on regional pilots to ensure that relevant information, requirements and needs for the creation and delivery of training on the specific pilots are provided.

Effort shall be made to scale up the regional pilots, enabling their use more widely, both within the pilot region and continentally and having a specific focus on ensuring equal access for NMHSs with differing capacity and experience. Integration or alignment of the regional pilots with the AUC's AMHEWAS shall also be undertaken.

Outreach and awareness-raising on early warning and the specific regional pilot are key to sustainability and scaling. Awareness raising with governments, intergovernmental bodies, humanitarian organisations and

networks/initiatives, and funding bodies shall be undertaken as appropriate within the remit of the regional pilot; this aspect shall be led by ACMAD, in co-ordination with the AUC and the 'region-focussed' RCCs.

Gender equality and social inclusion in Africa are key components of SEWA. The pilots shall ensure that the needs, perspectives, and contributions of women and young professionals are systematically integrated into the consortium and across pilot activities. Attention shall be given to ensuring that the regional pilots are designed and implemented in an accessible, equitable, and inclusive manner, and that they consider the needs and input of Indigenous peoples where appropriate.

A Working Group (WG PILOTS) will be set up by ECMWF to provide advice and guidance throughout the duration of the Grants and to oversee implementation. It will involve experts from AUC, WMO, AMCOMET, EUMETSAT and the EC's Directorate-General (DG) for the Joint Research Centre (JRC), among others. ECMWF will facilitate coordination meetings with the WG, provide feedback on Deliverables, and ensure alignment with SEWA's objectives and timeline. The Coordinators of the Proposals selected for funding shall maintain regular communication with ECMWF, participate in virtual check-ins and milestone reviews, and engage with the WG at key points throughout the term of their respective Grant.

2.5 Supporting Data and IT Infrastructure

The regional pilots shall incorporate well-designed, user-focused IT infrastructure and will require a variety of input data. The effective use of ECMWF and/or Copernicus data and the CCI-EWC shall be demonstrated (sections 2.5.1 and 2.6.1). Applicants shall prioritise the use of resources that will remain free and open to the regional pilot's intended users when the SEWA Grant has ended. Where chargeable and/or licence-restricted resources are necessary, their inclusion shall be clearly justified in the Proposal, and a plan provided that describes how access will be maintained, or the pilot adapted, once SEWA funding ends. Proposals shall align with FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), as far as is relevant, and, where data relates to people or communities (such as impact data), shall have regard to CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles for data governance.

Further details and requirements regarding data and IT infrastructure are provided below.

2.5.1 Weather and Hazard Data

ECMWF and/or Copernicus service data shall be used within the regional pilots. European Limited Area Models (LAMs), EUMETSAT/African Meteorological Satellite Applications Facility ([AMSAT](#)) nowcasting products, and other weather or hazard data may also be used in line with applicable licences of responsible organisations or consortia.

Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly investigate the full range of products and data provided by [Copernicus](#) and [ECMWF](#), although some guidance is provided in the tables below.

Name	Description	Useful links
ECMWF Free and Open Data subset	Real-time medium range control and ensemble forecasts from IFS and AIFS in GRIB format, as well as Tropical Cyclone tracks in BUFR format. IFS data currently served with 1-2 hour latency; AIFS data available on production. 0.25° horizontal resolution, expected to increase to 0.1° in the second half of 2026. 15-day forecasts with 3-hourly steps to 144 hours, 6-hourly beyond; 4 daily model runs (initialised at 00/06/12/18 UTC). Includes a selection of derived products such as probabilities.	https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/datasets/open-data https://confluence.ecmwf.int/display/DAC/ECMWF+open+data%3A+real-time+forecasts+from+IFS+and+AIFS

WMO Support Dataset (formerly SOFF)	Full resolution IFS control data subset designed to support the initialisation of LAMs. Data is made available according to an ECMWF Dissemination schedule, files are pushed as they become available following each model run. 0.1° horizontal resolution; forecast data out to 90 hours (3.75 days) at 3-hourly timesteps. Data is available to the NMS, or NMHS where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation, of WMO Member States and RSMCs via a dedicated account. Under the SEWA grant, access may be extended to other consortium members where required.	https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/dataset/wmo-support-dataset https://confluence.ecmwf.int/display/DAC/WMO+Support+dataset
ECMWF Real-Time and Archive catalogue	Full catalogue of real-time forecast data delivered via ECMWF Dissemination. Includes, for example: - Native-resolution seasonal (SEAS5, ~0.3° horizontal resolution) and sub-seasonal forecasts. - Historical forecast and re-forecast data via the Archive catalogue, including IFS medium-range reforecasts (hindcasts). Coarser-resolution seasonal products are freely available, and reanalyses (e.g. ERA5) are C3S products; see Table 5.	https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/dataset/catalogue-ecmwf-real-time-products https://apps.ecmwf.int/archive-catalogue/
Sub-seasonal to Seasonal dataset (S2S) - hosted on the ECMWF Data Store, ECDS, as part of the WMO S2S Project.	Multi-model sub-seasonal ensemble forecasts from 13 NWP centres including ECMWF. Real-time forecasts, available with a 48-hour delay for most centres (up to 1 week for some); forecast length approximately 34-65 days. Reforecasts available from 1981 (varying start dates by centre) for calibration; forecast length approximately 34-65 days. Horizontal resolution approximately 1.5° for atmospheric / 1.0° for ocean parameters; 6-hourly, 24-hourly, or daily depending on parameter. Licence terms vary by contributing centre: some centres apply CC BY 4.0 and some CC BY-NC 4.0.	https://ecds.ecmwf.int/datasets
Advanced Web Services (ecCharts/Open Charts)	Free and open interactive forecast charts are available via charts.ecmwf.int (OpenCharts), covering medium-range, sub-seasonal and seasonal products, with no account required. ecCharts (eccharts.ecmwf.int) offers a full forecaster application and access to Web Map Service (WMS) layers. The WMS layers can be embedded using a public token for a limited layer catalogue with no account, or with a personal/authorised token for the complete set. Full interactive access is automatically available to WMO Member NMSs (or NMHS where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation) via their existing wmo_xx account (free of charge). Under the SEWA grant, access may be extended to other consortium members where required, for the duration and purposes of the SEWA project.	https://charts.ecmwf.int https://eccharts.ecmwf.int

Table 4: ECMWF datasets; see linked documentation for full parameter lists and vertical levels.

Services and data stores	Products that may be relevant for the regional pilots (non-exhaustive)	Useful links
C3S: Climate Data Store (CDS)	ERA5 reanalysis: Global climate records from 1940 to present at ~0.25° horizontal resolution, hourly timestep. ERA5-Land: Land surface and other variables at approximately 0.1° horizontal resolution, hourly, from 1950 to present. Seasonal forecasts: Ensemble forecasts (1-6 months ahead) from the C3S multi-system, including SEAS5 from ECMWF. SEAS5 forecasts initialised on the 1st of each month, released around 6th. Hindcast data (1993-2016) for calibration and bias correction.	cds.climate.copernicus.eu https://climate.copernicus.eu/seasonal-forecasts
CAMS: Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (ADS)	Atmospheric composition forecasts including aerosol optical depth, dust load, smoke. Global atmospheric reanalysis (EAC4) from 2003 to present. Real-time forecasts 0-120h at 0.4° horizontal resolution.	https://ads.atmosphere.copernicus.eu
CEMS: Copernicus Emergency Management Service	Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS): ensemble river discharge forecasts and reanalysis at global scale, 0.1° resolution. Global Drought Observatory (GDO): drought monitoring indicators; this portable drought observatory that is computationally inexpensive and easy to install and use in different environments and with different data. Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS): fire danger forecasts. The JRC Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL) provides complementary population distribution and urban extent data (see section 2.5.2). Note: the CEMS mapping component (satellite-derived emergency maps) is implemented by the JRC and accessed separately.	https://global-flood.emergency.copernicus.eu/react/ https://drought.emergency.copernicus.eu/ https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ https://human-settlement.emergency.copernicus.eu/
Early Warning Data Store (EWDS)	Technical data store providing web- and API-based access to CEMS-Flood datasets (EFAS and GloFAS), including historical, forecast, reforecast, and seasonal river discharge data at 0.1° resolution.	https://ewds.climate.copernicus.eu/
CLMS: Copernicus Land Monitoring Service	Global land cover and land use datasets; vegetation condition indices (NDVI, FAPAR); soil moisture products.	https://land.copernicus.eu

Table 5. Relevant Copernicus and related open data overview

The use of open and free data from [ECMWF](#) and Copernicus, or of ECMWF's [WMO Support dataset](#) where the pilot's target user is the NMS (or NMHS where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation) of a WMO Member Country, is strongly encouraged. When planning their regional pilot, Applicants shall note that by the time the SEWA regional pilot Grants are underway, ECMWF Open Data resolution is anticipated to have increased from 0.25° to 0.1°. ECMWF also provides free and open interactive forecast charts (charts.ecmwf.int) and, for WMO Member NMSs (or NMHSs where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation), a single free of charge Advanced Web Service access via their existing WMO account (ecCharts and WMS layers); under the Grants within this Call and for their duration, this access may be extended to consortium members who are not WMO NMSs (or NMHSs where combined).

However, it is acknowledged that access to the broader ECMWF catalogue may be required where, in free and open offerings, resolution is not sufficient (e.g. seasonal data within Copernicus), a necessary data type is not available (e.g. medium-range ECMWF reforecasts for verification), or consortium members need access to the WMO support dataset to facilitate development. For this reason, **only for the duration of the Project and for the purposes of the Grants awarded under this Call**, ECMWF shall provide access for all consortium members to any data within the following catalogues. The appropriate volume required for the Project of the below listed data will be agreed between ECMWF and the selected Applicant during the Grant Agreement Preparation Stage, ensuring that access remains proportionate to the Project's justified needs:

- ECMWF real-time catalogue (<https://products.ecmwf.int/shopping-cart/>)
- WMO Support Dataset (<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/dataset/wmo-support-dataset>)
- ECMWF Archive catalogue (<https://apps.ecmwf.int/archive-catalogue/>)

Notwithstanding the applicable licence, ECMWF data provided specifically by ECMWF for the given Grant shall be used solely within the agreed scope and for the duration of the given Project. Any other use of such data — including but not limited to resale, sublicensing, commercial use, or any revenue-generating activity or service provision outside the agreed Grant scope — is not permitted. On completion of the Project, use of any retained data shall revert to the terms of the applicable licence, distribution rules and/or service fees and/or limitations. Use of ECMWF data that is not otherwise accessible to African NMHSs and regional organisations is not permitted (i.e. data to which ECMWF Member and Co-operating States may have privileged access cannot be used). For the avoidance of doubt, the contents of the full MARS catalogue (<https://apps.ecmwf.int/mars-catalogue>) that are not part of the formal Real-time Catalogue (<https://products.ecmwf.int/shopping-cart/>) are excluded from the above and shall not be used in any Grant under this Call of Proposals.

ECMWF shall provide, as required by the Grant Beneficiaries, a package of ECMWF and/or Copernicus data (including both free and open and service-access data) either within the CCI-EWC environment or via ECMWF's dissemination system (ECPDS) to external storage. Applicants shall specify their intended access route, proposed datasets, estimated data volumes, number of users requiring access and the organisations they belong to, using the structured tables provided in Appendix 2 (Tables A and B) of the Technical Description (Annex I). ECMWF shall review these against the volumes and resources it can accommodate, and the contents of the final data package will be confirmed with the selected Applicants during Grant Agreement Preparation. ECMWF reserves the right to discuss and restrict provision where the requested volume is excessive, or the need is not reasonably justified. Applicants can request the inclusion of Copernicus data in the deliverable data package from the following catalogues, taking note that it will add to the total data volume:

- Copernicus CDS (<https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/>)
- Copernicus ADS (<https://ads.atmosphere.copernicus.eu/>)
- Copernicus EWDS (<https://ewds.climate.copernicus.eu/>)

Indicative volumes for ECMWF real-time products can be estimated using the ECMWF Product Requirements Catalogue (<https://products.ecmwf.int/shopping-cart/>); registration with a free account is required to access it. As a guide, it is suggested that the total volume for the whole data package should not exceed 4TB per day.

ECMWF's forecasting systems and datasets evolve over time (e.g. planned resolution increases, model cycle upgrades, or the transition from SEAS5 to its successor system). Where a dataset used by a pilot is upgraded or superseded during the Grant, access will transition to the equivalent successor products under the same arrangements. Applicants are encouraged to design their workflows to accommodate such transitions - in particular, to familiarise themselves with the publicly available documentation on planned changes, to consider maintaining a parallel test environment so that workflows can be validated against successor products ahead of any retirement, and to account for the associated resourcing in their project planning. Further operational guidance will be provided to the successful Applicants at the kick-off stage of their Project.

If Applicants do not wish to use data packaged by ECMWF, alternatively:

- ECMWF Open Data is published at data.ecmwf.int and can be accessed via ECMWF's Open Data [Python Client](#) or relevant components of ECMWF's broader data access and processing toolkit [earthkit](#)
- The ECMWF WMO Support data set can be accessed by WMO Member NMSs (or NMHS where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation) using their WMO credentials (wmo_[ORG] account format; see this [link](#) for registration details)
- Copernicus data can be accessed using common APIs, dedicated Python clients (the standard Copernicus API client, [cdsapi](#) or ECMWF's [earthkit](#)), or by direct access following free account registration.

The data referred to above, as well as any other data that may be used by the Participants for a given Grant, to the extent that it is developed prior to or independently of a given Grant Agreement and is needed for the implementation of the Project or for the use of the Results or Deliverables, shall constitute Background for the purposes of the respective Grant Agreement. Unless otherwise provided for in the Grant Agreement, the use of such Background shall be subject to applicable licence terms and conditions. In the case of ECMWF and Copernicus open datasets, these will, in most instances, be made available under [CC BY 4.0](#), subject to the [terms and conditions applicable to ECMWF open data in addition to CC BY 4.0](#).

Access to, and use of, any data stores, repositories, platforms or services (including, where relevant, ECMWF systems, Copernicus data stores, or associated services) shall be subject to the applicable terms of access and use. As regards access to ECMWF computing resources, the [Conditions of access to the ECMWF computing services](#) shall be applicable to the Participants accessing and using such resources.

For the avoidance of doubt, Participants having access to any of the data and data stores, repositories, platforms or services provided by ECMWF shall not be required to sign any service agreements for the duration of the respective Project.

Where regional pilots propose using any data that requires a licence and/or service fees, a sustainability plan post-SEWA Grant shall be provided in the Application. To this end, Applicants can estimate the potential costs of ECMWF Real Time data using the [ECMWF Product Requirements Catalogue](#) and should note that the NMS of WMO Member States (or NMHS where Meteorological and Hydrological Services are combined in a single organisation) are eligible for a 50% discount on ECMWF service fees for non-commercial Official Duty use.

2.5.2 Exposure, vulnerability and impact data

As far as is practicable, Applicants shall make use of existing vulnerability, exposure and impact data in the pilots. An initial list of available impact and other useful data can be assessed through the [SEWA Dashboard](#).

Effort shall be made to utilise the JRC's Global Human Settlement Layer maps and the Exposure Mapping Component of CEMS. With the Exposure Mapping Component, Copernicus delivers essential global information for understanding disaster risk, including consistent, open, free, accurate, and high-resolution geospatial data on population and infrastructure. Information is updated every 2 years, and the Global Human Settlement Layer offers a time series from 1975 to 2030 to assess changes in exposure, such as spatial expansion of cities and villages, and population dynamics. Exposure information of this kind, when combined with hazard and vulnerability data, can provide valuable input for impact-based forecasts.

In addition, Applicants should consider the use of vulnerability data from the [INFORM Risk](#) Index, and, where available, from INFORM Subnational models, to complement exposure layers and support a more differentiated understanding of potential impacts. INFORM provides a structured and comparable set of indicators related to vulnerability, coping capacity and exposure to hazards, which can help identify where populations and systems may be more susceptible to adverse impacts. In countries or regions where INFORM Subnational data are available, these datasets can provide more spatially detailed information and may be particularly useful for the design and testing of impact-based forecasting approaches. Applicants should assess the relevance, resolution and timeliness of these datasets for the pilot context and, where appropriate, combine them with national or sector-specific vulnerability information.

Additional exposure, vulnerability and historical impact data are likely to be required, and Applicants shall propose methods to include, for example, national-level data leveraged through consultation with relevant sectoral bodies in e.g. water, health, agriculture, disaster risk reduction domains.

2.6 Technical infrastructure

Regional pilot IT infrastructure and software shall be co-created with users and shall, as far as is practicable, build on or interface with existing systems to support uptake and sustainability. While Applicants are free to define and use their own infrastructure, use of ECMWF's CCI-European Weather Cloud (EWC) shall be demonstrated.

2.6.1 Use of ECMWF's Common Cloud Infrastructure – European Weather Cloud

ECMWF's CCI is hosted at ECMWF's Data Centre in Bologna, Italy, and is the backbone of the EWC. The EWC is a community cloud computing platform jointly operated on behalf of the ECMWF Member and Co-operating States. The EWC provides cloud-based processing capabilities and, of relevance to the regional pilots, facilitates tool and service development close to large volumes of weather and hazard data, mitigating potential bandwidth issues.

Applicants are free to propose the most relevant use(s) of the EWC for their pilot, but examples include:

- Running impact model workflows
- Processing and post-processing weather and hazard data
- Hosting dashboards or webservices
- Building shared data access arrangements
- Using EWC as backup infrastructure to improve redundancy

All Grant Beneficiaries will be provided with an allocation on the CCI-EWC for the duration of the Grant. After the end of the Grant, any developments shall remain accessible for up to 10 years as static deployments, with no further provision of service for maintenance or improvement during this period. Therefore, sustainability plans provided in the Application shall include future options for resources either within the EWC, by covering its operational costs, or through designed transferability solutions.

As the EWC is a self-hosted infrastructure, its costs are generally competitive compared to commercial cloud provider alternatives. Indicative rates (in EWC billing units, EWCU) for typical Virtual Machine (VM) configurations are published in the EWC Knowledge Base and can be used to estimate costs when developing sustainability plans (<https://confluence.ecmwf.int/spaces/EWCLOUDKB/pages/355353301/ECMWF+-+VM+plans+and+flavors>). Applicable terms and conditions for access to and use of the EWC can be found at <https://europeanweather.cloud/terms-use>. Applicants shall include a description of their intended use of the EWC and indicative resource requirements in their Proposal. This description shall be provided in Section 2.3 of the Technical Description (Annex I), with resource estimates in Appendix 2 (Table B). Baseline allocations per pilot are estimated at approximately 35 vCPUs, 140 GB RAM, and 6 TB storage, representing a reasonable starting point for standard IbF pilot activities as listed above. Pilots proposing AI/ML inference workloads, for example, running AIFS-based or LAM forecast workflows, may require GPU resources in addition; such requirements should be specified and justified in the Proposal. Resource allocations will be confirmed and may be adjusted during the Grant Agreement Preparation stage based on the specific requirements of each pilot.

2.6.2 Dedicated support for data and technical infrastructure

ECMWF shall support users to access, process and apply ECMWF/Copernicus datasets and the CCI-EWC, providing documentation and training materials on data access, EWC setup, and data processing workflows, developed specifically within the SEWA Action. These shall become available at the start of the Grant implementation period, with further updates during the Project term. A dedicated information session will be organised as part of the kick-off of each pilot. ECMWF shall support onboarding to the EWC platform, as well as support on technical and practical issues.

Applicants are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with available training materials and ECMWF support channels when preparing their Proposals, including the EWC Knowledge Base (<https://confluence.ecmwf.int/spaces/EWCLOUDKB/pages/171417576/European+Weather+Cloud+Knowledge+Base>).

3. WORKING WITH THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTRES (RCCs)

RCCs in Sub-Saharan Africa shall be Beneficiaries of the Grants as outlined below. They shall act as a focal point for regional and continental stakeholders, collate input from their respective NMHSs, and contribute their expertise on African weather and climate, political frameworks and mandates relating to early warning, technical infrastructure, tools, and data availability.

The following bodies shall be included:

- African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) (<https://acmad.org>) shall be included in all four Grants for continental coordination;
- Centre Climatique Régional pour l’Afrique de l’Ouest et le Sahel (AGRHYMET) for Western Africa (<https://agrhymet.cilss.int>)
- Centre d’Application et de Prévision Climatologique de l’Afrique Centrale (CAPC-AC) for Central Africa (<https://capc-ac.net>)
- IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre (ICPAC) for Eastern Africa (<https://www.icpac.net>)
- Southern African Development Community – Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC): <https://www.sadc.int/services-and-centres/climate-services-centre> for Southern Africa, including the Indian Ocean Islands.

The ‘region-focused’ RCCs (AGRHYMET, CAPC-AC, ICPAC, SADC-CSC) shall be included in the respective regional Grants, with each RCC being allocated a minimum of 20% of the total Proposal budget (section 8).

The African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) shall act as the continental scale focal point and shall therefore be included in all four Grants. ACMAD shall have a minimum of 5% of the total Proposal budget allocated to them in each Proposal (section 8). ACMAD shall provide expert input on all four regions and maintain a continental overview linking regional RCC pilots to African Union structures and ensuring that technical advances in forecasting translate into coherent, African-owned early warning and early action systems (Figure 2).

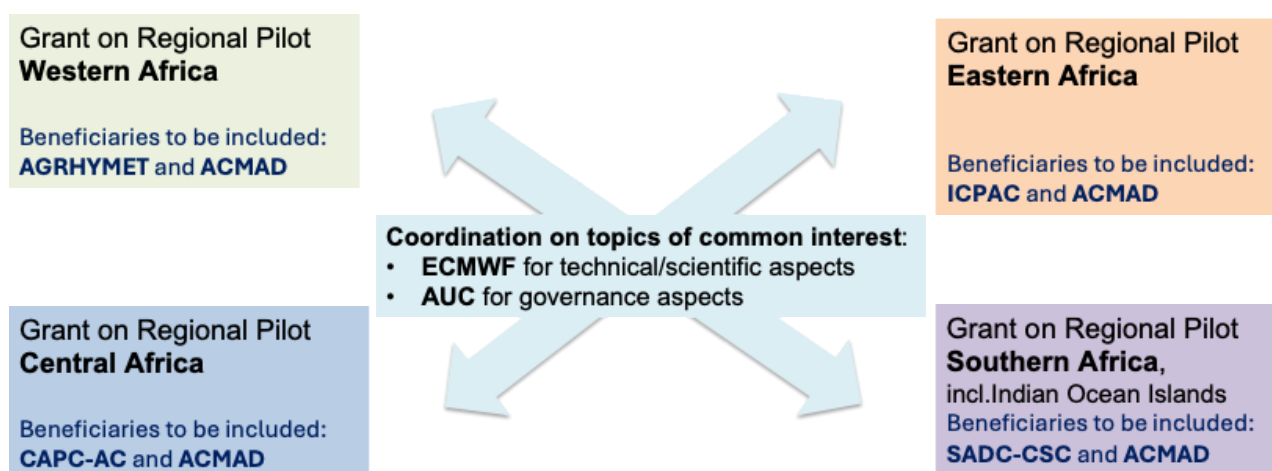


Figure 2: Role of the RCCs, ECMWF and the AUC and links between the four regional pilots

The RCCs shall be responsible for Work Package 2 (WP2 on co-creation) and have a minimum set of pre-defined Deliverables (section 5). They shall also contribute to other WPs, in particular WP6 where they shall

lead a cross-grant Deliverable (section 5). It is possible for additional Deliverables and budget to be allocated to the RCCs as is appropriate to the proposed pilot and negotiated between the RCC and consortium.

The consortium lead (Coordinator) should contact the relevant RCCs to discuss their Proposal using the details provided in Table 6. Please contact ACMAD and the 'region-focused' RCC in the same email approach. Note that the RCCs are not obliged to participate in every consortium that approaches them but will give due consideration to all. The RCCs may engage with more than one consortium under this Call. In doing so, they shall act in accordance with the confidentiality and fair-treatment requirements set out in section 22 below. To this effect, the RCCs shall provide a standardised application contribution to consortia with whom they agree to work, including a statement of intent to work with the consortium and input covering their pre-defined role in WP2 and other Deliverables as outlined in section 5. This standardised input will only differ between applications from different consortia to account for pilots focused on e.g. different hazards, users etc. If there is an agreement between the consortium and the RCC(s) to deliver more than the defined minimum, this shall be reflected in the Application and Application budget and the RCC(s) shall contribute to appropriate areas of the Application form as necessary.

RCC	Point of contact	Email address
ACMAD	Dr. Patrick Kinyua Gikunda	patrick.kinyua@acmad.org
AGRHYMET	Dr. Tinni Halidou Seydou	seydou.tinni@cilss.int
CAPC-AC	Dr. Pascal Moudi	moudipascal@yahoo.fr
ICPAC	Dr. Hussen Seid	Hussen.Seid@igad.int
SADC-CSC	Mathias Rabemananjara	mrabemananjara@sadc.int

Table 6: Points of contact for the RCCs

When the four Grants will reach implementation stage, ECMWF shall act as a technical integrator and coordinator across the four regional pilots; ensuring harmonised forecasting approaches, enabling knowledge exchange between the RCCs, and providing the technical backbone required to scale impact-based forecasting systems. The AUC shall provide strategic leadership and political oversight, ensuring alignment with African Union priorities, facilitating uptake by Member States, and embedding pilot outcomes into continental early warning and early action frameworks such as AMHEWAS.

4. LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Applicants shall demonstrate how the following long-term effects will be achieved by their regional pilot and how it will improve on existing initiatives:

- 1) Strengthened or new peer-to-peer African-European partnerships resulting directly from the SEWA Grant and having mechanisms for ongoing collaboration;
- 2) Increased uptake of impact-based forecasting to support early warning in Africa at an operational level;
- 3) Enhanced awareness and support for impact-based forecasting and early warning from policy makers and funders;
- 4) Greater uptake of the CCI-EWC and data produced by European entities to support early warning capabilities in Africa.

5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSALS

Mandatory Work Packages, Deliverables, and Milestones are set out below and apply equally to each of the four regional pilots. Applicants may propose additional Deliverables and Milestones within the mandatory Work Packages where these clearly add value or are essential to the Proposal. Applicants may also introduce additional non-mandatory Work Packages, provided these are properly justified in the Application.

However, Applicants are encouraged to maintain a focused and efficient work plan by limiting Deliverables to those that are mandatory or strictly necessary to achieve the Proposal’s expected outcomes. Additional Deliverables should only be included where they are clearly justified, add value, or are essential.

Similarly, Milestones should be limited to those that are necessary for monitoring progress and ensuring effective implementation of the Project. This approach enhances the clarity and relevance of the work plan, ensures proportionality between effort and reporting, avoids duplication, and allows resources to be concentrated on delivering substantive results.

5.1 Mandatory Work Packages

Table 7 provides an overview of the mandatory Work-Packages (WPs) that Proposals shall include. A detailed description of each is provided below.

Number	Title	Description	Duration
1	Project management	Ensure effective coordination and management of the Project	24 months
2	Co-creation of the regional pilot ecosystem (RCC-led)	Facilitate co-creation of the regional pilots with intended end users and relevant stakeholders	24 months
3	Co-development of the IbF tools and services demonstrator	Technical and scientific co-development of the regional pilot tools and systems, including supporting documentation	24 months
4	Co-evaluation of regional pilot effectiveness	User-focused evaluation/verification the demonstrator, including inputs, outputs and capacity to support decision making	24 months
5	Fostering impact and sustainability	Planning and acting to ensure: - sustainability of the regional pilot post-project, with a view to operationalisation - scaling of the pilot regionally and continentally	24 months
6	Outreach and awareness	Raising awareness of the regional pilot and early warning more generally, with a view to supporting sustainability and gaining political buy-in	24 months

Table 7: Mandatory Work Packages

5.1.1 Work Package 1 (WP1): Project management

WP1, led by the Coordinator of the consortium, will ensure the effective coordination and management of the Project throughout its lifetime. It will establish the governance and decision-making structures required to coordinate consortium activities, monitor progress, manage risks, and ensure the timely achievement of project objectives. Activities may include overall project coordination, administrative and financial management, monitoring of deliverables and milestones, quality assurance, risk management, internal communication, organisation of consortium meetings, and reporting to ECMWF. The work package should also ensure compliance with the Grant Agreement.

5.1.2 Work Package 2 (WP2): Co-creation of the regional pilot ecosystem (RCC-led)

WP2, led by the ‘region-focussed’ RCC with support from ACMAD, shall facilitate co-creation of the regional pilots by building and managing user groups, documenting user requirements, acting as a focal point for user input, ensuring exchange between users and other WPs, and supporting collaboration with the RSMCs and other stakeholders as outlined in section 2.4. However, please note that although the RCCs are to lead WP2, other Beneficiaries may contribute to its delivery.

Specific attention shall be paid to enabling input from, and ensuring access to the pilots for, NMHSs with different capacities. Activities such as ‘twinning’ between organisations with more and less well-developed IbF and early warning infrastructure and/or project experience shall be considered. WP2 shall co-ordinate at least two in-person workshops and the final testbed, which shall be in-person, in Africa, as detailed in section 2.4. ACMAD, supported by ECMWF, shall be responsible for organising the kick-off workshop for the four regional pilots.

Co-creation shall entail co-design, co-development (with WP3), and co-evaluation (with WP4) of the regional pilots. Some useful principles can be found in the SEWA Scoping Study's '[Pathways to Sustainability](#)' report. The co-design phase shall include an analysis of the appropriate early warning value chain(s), which shall be used to support subsequent co-development and co-evaluation and cover at least:

- Existing data and information sources;
- Systems, infrastructure, and protocols (e.g. SOPs and frameworks) that are actively employed;
- Key stakeholders, such as data providers, purveyors and end-users, and their mandates related to early warning;
- Data flows between stakeholders and essential lines of communication;
- Gaps in, and user needs for, effective value chain function, e.g. data provision, data flow, forecast skill, infrastructure, funding/resources, mandated lines of communication.

WP2 shall also produce regional 'storylines' to enhance the co-creation process. They shall act as a mechanism for ongoing knowledge and technical information exchange between the developers and potential users throughout the design, development and evaluation process. The storylines may make use of any appropriate format (e.g. storyboards, software tools and collaboration platforms, games, workshops) organised around a central framework and shall convey and visualise complex connections and concepts in an engaging but scientifically robust way. The storylines shall be used to iteratively enhance the regional pilot demonstrator and shall be continuously updated. In parallel, they shall be recorded in user-friendly slides, videos or written documents and made available to the separate SEWA grant on training activities, as an input to develop e-learning material.

WP2 shall foster strong links with WPs 3-6 to ensure that their outputs are genuinely user-focussed and to provide necessary support and information. The RCCs shall make direct use of their knowledge of continental and regional data availability (e.g. in-situ weather and hydrological observations, vulnerability, impacts) and contribute with suggested uses of the CCI-EWC, ECMWF and Copernicus data. They shall also contribute their expertise on African weather and climate, IbF and early warning, and links with national stakeholders such as the NMHSs. ACMAD shall act as a bridge between the four regional pilots and, along with ECMWF and the AUC, shall facilitate the exchange of learning, best-practice and where possible methodological consistency, interoperability, and governance (see section 3).

5.1.3 Work Package 3 (WP3): Co-development of the IbF tools and services demonstrator

WP3 shall be responsible for the technical and scientific co-development of the regional pilot with users, including tools, services and the overall demonstrator, and shall produce supporting user guides covering both technical (i.e. IT support) and forecasting (i.e. use of the tools/system to support early warning) aspects.

Applicants shall propose the most appropriate tools and services for their regional pilot, considering user needs first and foremost, but also accounting for existing infrastructure, systems and projects, use of ECMWF and Copernicus data and the CCI-EWC, and the availability of relevant exposure and vulnerability data. Potential activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Integrating the various data types outlined in section 2.5 into new or existing workflows;
- Developing impact thresholds for use with weather and hazard forecasts;
- Designing and implementing IbF models;
- Establishing or improving data interfaces and visualisation tools related to impact-based forecasts and early warning support, for example risk matrices or decision support maps;
- Designing and implementing effective methods of using probabilistic forecasts to support IbF or binary decision making;
- Incorporating information on forecast uncertainty into tools, services and workflows;
- Mechanisms for real time and longer-term monitoring of impact-based forecast performance by users (e.g. logging and monitoring impacts, providing feedback for developers and scientists).

WP3 shall ensure that the regional pilots demonstrate the use of ECMWF and/or Copernicus data and the CCI-EWC, as specified in sections 2.5 and 2.6. Attention shall be paid to ensuring that data and information can flow easily between the regional pilot and external systems; this includes the ability to ingest and output different data formats (e.g. GRIB, NetCDF, HDF, GeoTIFF, GeoJSON, Zarr, CSV, shapefiles, and others as appropriate) without placing technological burden on the user (i.e. on forecasters). In addition, and with support from other WPs (particularly WPs 2 and 6), WP3 shall build in mechanisms to allow seamless, two-way exchange of information between different actors in the early warning value chain. As a minimum, this shall include AMHEWAS and associated situation rooms. ACMAD, the AUC and ECMWF shall facilitate communication on this topic.

As far as is practicable, the regional pilots shall be compliant with [FAIR](#) principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and the Dataset Friction Factors (DFFs) framework shall be utilised to assess potential barriers (see: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/media-centre/focus/2026/data-friction-and-user-experience-framework-improvement>). Feedback shall be provided to ECMWF on DFFs linked to the use of its data, workflows and infrastructure, to support ECMWF in enhancing its data and service offer for African user communities.

WP3 shall work closely with WP2 to enable co-creation, ensure that user needs are fully incorporated, and that existing projects, processes, software and infrastructure are duly leveraged. WP3 shall also support WP2 to develop storylines within the co-creation process. Evaluation results and recommendations from WP4, and sustainability and scaling recommendations from WP5, shall be incorporated into the regional pilot demonstrators.

5.1.4 Work Package 4 (WP4): Co-evaluation of regional pilot effectiveness

WP4 is responsible for the evaluation of the regional pilot demonstrator. The word ‘evaluation’ is used here specifically, instead of ‘verification’, to indicate verification that focuses on human consequences (e.g. [Marsigi et al., 2021](#) and [Pagano et al., 2025](#)). In the context of the regional pilots, this ‘evaluation’ shall use methods that assess the pilot’s ability to support end users and early warning, for example, by checking that proposed input data is suitable (i.e. verifying parameters at levels/intensities that cause impacts), generating performance metrics that can be understood by users, and assessing demonstrator performance when forecasting impacts or supporting binary decision making.

Evaluation undertaken in WP4 shall be strongly linked to WP3, providing recommendations for required improvements to enhance regional pilot performance as well as advising WP3 on how performance metrics and ongoing evaluation methods can be incorporated into the demonstrator. WP4 shall also contribute evaluation information to user guides (WP3) and storylines (WP2). Co-evaluation, including sharing results with users to garner feedback on system performance from their perspective, shall be undertaken in collaboration with WP2. RCCs shall support WP4 by, for example, advising on methodological relevance to early warning and decision-making and helping to identify suitable observational datasets.

Evaluation methodologies and results shall be made available to ECMWF before the end of the pilot. Such information is important to help ECMWF enhance its data and service offer for African users. Methodologies shall be provided as modular code, for example as demonstration Jupyter notebooks, and results shall be provided in a format to be specified by ECMWF at the kick-off stage of the grant.

5.1.5 Work Package 5 (WP5): Fostering impact and sustainability

WP5 shall be responsible for ensuring regional pilot sustainability and scaling, producing comprehensive reports and roadmaps focused on actions to be taken both during and after project completion. Sustainability plans shall focus on pathways to operationalisation and sustained use of the regional pilot beyond the end of the grant, whilst scaling plans shall consider how wider regional pilot uptake can be achieved. This work shall endeavour to incorporate the principles of continuous improvement, as outlined in the [SEWA scoping study](#).

A key component of sustainability is the integration of the regional pilot demonstrator with SOPs and other national or international frameworks. WP5 shall be responsible for analysing existing SOPs and, where no suitable procedures exist, for developing them, and for outlining how the regional pilot demonstrators could be incorporated. Policy and legal implications shall be considered to ensure eventual inclusion of the demonstrator into relevant institutional frameworks. Attention shall also be paid to ensuring technical sustainability, taking into account users' resources and capacity (including human resources). The use of local IT companies and consultancies in Africa may need to be considered.

Sustainability roadmaps shall include such considerations, extend beyond the end of SEWA, and be established in close coordination with the RCCs and the AUC on continental policy and legal frameworks (in line with the specifications in section 2.4).

Plans shall be put in place, and roadmaps created, to scale up the regional pilot demonstrator both within the focus region and continentally, including enabling access for NMHSs with different capacities, e.g. through twinning activities. WP5 shall co-ordinate incorporation and/or alignment with AMHEWAS, including two-way flow of information between AMHEWAS and the regional pilot demonstrator, in collaboration with WP3. Scaling shall also consider methods to enable data and information to flow between the regional pilot demonstrator and the systems of other relevant bodies (e.g. RCCs, RSMCs, and sectoral bodies with relevant warning mandates) and across international borders.

Strong user connections shall be leveraged via WP2 to understand sustainability requirements and pathways as well as SOPs, frameworks and technical capacity. Collaboration with WP3 will be paramount to ensuring that sustainability and SOPs are incorporated into the regional pilot demonstrator. Information on SOPs and frameworks and sustainability pathways and roadmaps shall be used to support the planning of outreach and engagement by WP6.

The RCCs shall contribute to WP5 by providing insight into existing or necessary SOPs, mandates, frameworks and political strategies, and supporting the transfer of sustainability roadmaps to users prior to the end of the project. They shall also support efforts to scale up the pilots by leveraging their regional and continental contacts.

5.1.6 Work Package 6 (WP6): Outreach and awareness

WP6 shall deliver outreach and raise awareness through web/social media updates, newsletters, peer review papers as well as attendance and presentations at conferences and workshops. It shall promote uptake of the regional pilot demonstrator by other countries or territories within the region and support sustainability by fostering engagement with governments and inter-governmental bodies to raise awareness of the importance of early warning and to advertise the newly developed pilots; this aspect shall be led by ACMAD in co-ordination with the AUC and the region-focussed RCCs.

Applicants may leverage the role of the AUC at a policy level to increase visibility and governance impact. In this latter regard, the RCCs shall lead a cross-grant deliverable, producing and disseminating an overarching set of guidelines on communication and early warning systems (including learning/input and examples from each of the individual regional pilots). These 'Guidelines for Good Practice' shall ideally be endorsed by the AUC and be made available in English, French and Portuguese.

Outreach shall aim to ensure coherence across the early warning ecosystem and to anchor SEWA in globally recognised mechanisms. Therefore, establishing links with other organisations or initiatives active in the region, such as REAP partners, CREWS, SOFF, WMO, UNDRR, donor organisations, international financing institutions and others, is important to ensure awareness and exchange as well as to leverage attention. Joining forces with such entities, in particular with respect to sustainability, funding and political support, is strongly recommended. This is also intended to lower the risk of duplicated investments, competing systems and increased burden on African institutions, and to ensure coherence across investments, streamline support to RCCs and NMHSs, and make efficient use of EU funding.

Templates, branding, and social media presence shall be coherent across the four regional pilots and other SEWA grants. ECMWF shall give guidance and instructions at the kick-off stage of the Project. Any external

communication activity related to the Grants must be agreed in advance with ECMWF. This includes externally facing text and graphical content, workshops and other events, as well as communication and promotional activities such as press and social media engagement. No dedicated website is expected to be developed for this grant. All communication and user outreach activities shall reference SEWA correctly and be branded with logos and references to the European Union's Global Gateway initiative, "Funded by the European Union" and ECMWF, as well as the SEWA implementing partners AUC and EUMETSAT. Once complete, the agreed-upon activities shall be evaluated and reported on.

5.2 Mandatory Deliverables

Deliverable	Description	Due by Month
WP 1 Project Management		
D1A.1 Project Management Plan	A document describing the project's governance structure, management procedures, roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, communication arrangements, quality assurance and risk management procedures.	M1
D1A.2 Calendar Year-End Status Report 1	The Calendar Year-End Report 1 will provide an overview of the progress achieved and the estimated expenditure incurred during the calendar year.	January 2028
D1A.3 Interim Technical and Financial Report	The interim report will contain an overview of technical progress and financial resources used during the reporting period, including the status of deliverables and milestones, any deviations from the work plan, risks and problems encountered, mitigation measures, and planned activities for the next period.	M12 (+2)
D1B.1 Calendar Year-End Status Report 2	The Calendar Year-End Report 2 will provide an overview of the progress achieved and the estimated expenditure incurred during the calendar year.	January 2029
D1B.2 Final Technical and Financial Report	The final report will provide a comprehensive overview of the project's implementation and achievements, including progress towards objectives, delivery of results and outputs, use of resources, deviations from the work plan, risks and problems encountered, mitigation measures implemented, and lessons learned.	M24 (+2)
WP 2 Co-creation of the regional pilot ecosystem	<i>WP 2 will be led by the 'region-focused' RCC with support from ACMAD</i>	
D2A.1 Co-design report and storyline plan ('region-focused' RCC-led)	Report on the initial co-design phase, including user requirements and an updated and co-designed version of the initial pilot concept presented in the Application. Plan for storyline content and approach to use.	M4
D2B.1 Co-development report ('region-focused' RCC-led)	Update of D2A.1 focusing on the co-development phase.	M14
D2B.2 Co-evaluation report ('region-focused' RCC-led)	Update of D2B.1 focusing on the co-evaluation phase.	M23
D2B.3 Storylines ('region-focused' RCC-led)	Finalised storylines handed over to ECMWF and the SEWA grant on training.	M23

	Report on how the storylines developed and were employed in the co-creation process.	
WP 3 Co-development of the IbF tools and services demonstrator		
D3A.1 Interim regional pilot demonstrator report and supporting documentation	Interim report on data, technical and scientific aspects of the regional pilot demonstrator and goals for the next 12 months. Interim user guides, including technical and forecaster aspects.	M12
D3B.1 Final regional pilot demonstrator report and supporting documentation	Update of D3A.1 to reflect the final configuration of the regional pilot demonstrator. Final user guides handed over to users and the SEWA grant on training (via ECMWF).	M23
WP 4 Co-evaluation of regional pilot effectiveness		
D4A.1 Data evaluation	Report on and results of evaluation of proposed data feeds for the pilot.	M4
D4B.1 Interim pilot evaluation	Update of D4A.1 to include the evaluation of outputs available from the interim system.	M16
D4B.2 Final pilot evaluation	Update of D4B.1 to include evaluation of outputs from the final system. Evaluation code and results provided to ECMWF.	M23
WP 5 Fostering impact and sustainability		
D5A.1 Initial sustainability and scaling report and roadmaps	Initial report on methods for future sustainability and scaling of the regional pilot. Focus on actions to be taken within the project. Initial roadmaps for sustainability and scaling.	M4
D5A.2 Interim sustainability and scaling report and roadmaps	Updated versions of D5A.1 report and roadmaps, including achievements to date and focusing on further actions that to be taken both within and beyond the project.	M12
D5B.1 Final sustainability and scaling report and roadmaps	Updated version of D5A.2 report and roadmaps, including achievements to date and focusing on sustainability and scaling beyond the end of the project. Roadmaps handed over to tools/system users.	M23
WP 6 Outreach and awareness		
D6A.1 Outreach and awareness strategy	Outreach and awareness raising plans and templates (ECMWF support on templates and branding).	M4
D6B.1 Guideline documentation (cross-grant deliverable – RCC led)	‘Guideline for Good Practice’ document on communication and early warning systems developed and distributed. Available in English/French/Portuguese as required and ideally endorsed by the AUC.	M19
D6B.2 Final outreach and awareness report	Report on outreach and awareness raising activities and how they delivered the desired outcomes.	M23

Table 8: Mandatory deliverables

5.3 Mandatory Milestones

Milestone	Description	Due by Month
WP 1 Project Management		
MS1A.1 - Kick-off meeting	Participation in the joint kick-off meeting organised by ACMAD (at least the Coordinators and the RCC focal points of each of the four projects)	M2
MS1A.2 - M6 Progress Meeting	Participation in the M6 Progress Meeting to review the status of project activities, monitor progress against planned milestones and deliverables, identify issues and risks, and agree on actions required to ensure timely implementation.	M6
MS1A.3 - Interim Review Meeting	Participation in the Interim Review Meeting to assess project performance and achievements against agreed objectives, milestones, and deliverables, review deviations and risks, and determine any corrective actions or strategic decisions required.	M12 (+2)
MS1B.1 - M18 Progress Meeting	Participation in the M18 Progress Meeting to review the status of project activities, monitor progress against planned milestones and deliverables, identify issues and risks, and agree on actions required to ensure timely completion of the project.	M18
MS1B.2 - Final Review Meeting	Participation in the Final Review Meeting to assess the overall implementation of the project and achievement of its objectives, milestones, deliverables, and expected outcomes, review any remaining issues and lessons learned, and evaluate the project's results, impact, and sustainability.	M24 (+2)
WP 2 Co-creation of the regional pilot ecosystem		
MS2B.1 - Testbed demonstration	Regional pilot demonstrated through application by users to synthetic or historical event or events, in a mock-operational environment.	M21
WP 3 Co-development of the IbF tools and services demonstrator		
MS3A.1 - Interim regional pilot demonstrator complete	Co-created tools, services and overall demonstrator available in an interim form that is ready for testing by users.	M12
MS3B.1 - Final regional pilot demonstrator developed	Essentially complete, co-created tools, services and overall demonstrator available for co-evaluation with users during 'testbed' demonstration.	M20
MS3B.2 - Regional pilot demonstrator implemented	Final regional pilot is complete, including any changes required from the testbed.	M24

Table 9: Mandatory milestones

6. OUTLINE OF THE ENVISAGED CAPACITIES, EXPERTISE AND SKILLS

Given the strong partnership focus within SEWA, consortium composition shall be a key consideration, along with well-evidenced strategies for the engagement of appropriate stakeholders who are external to the consortium. In addition to inclusion of RCCs in Sub-Saharan Africa as Beneficiaries, Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider whether and how (e.g. as Beneficiaries, as external stakeholders, or otherwise) their proposal might engage:

- i) African and European NMHSs;
- ii) RSMCs Pretoria, Dakar, Yaoundé, Nairobi, Dar Es Salaam and La Réunion, Global Producing Centre (GPC) Pretoria and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as appropriate;
- iii) International organisations with expertise in early warning in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- iv) Research organisations, academia and private companies;
- v) Relevant ‘downstream’ actors, including those who may possess relevant impact information e.g. disaster risk reduction authorities, civil protection agencies, health and water agencies, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, NGOs representing indigenous interests.

Established partnerships or communities of practice between African and European institutes and entities will be beneficial. For European entities, substantial experience in working with African partners will be essential. Project management skills and experience of African-European partnership working are essential for the lead organisation(s), along with experience running large, multi-partner projects with budgets at least similar to that of the SEWA regional pilots.

Consortia shall possess a range of skills spanning as many areas of the upstream warning value chain as possible. This includes data production and provision, impact modelling, operational forecasting and warning, user engagement/co-creation, and verification/evaluation. Inclusion of bodies with experience in the delivery and use of operational IbF and/or early warning tools and systems is strongly encouraged.

Appropriate technical, computing and data handling skills shall be evidenced, and experience with cloud computing is an advantage. Applicants are encouraged to adopt good software-engineering and reproducibility practices (e.g. version-controlled workflows, modular design, containerisation) to support long-term sustainability and knowledge transfer.

7. OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PROPOSALS

This Call for Proposals entails different types of participation in the Proposal:

- Beneficiary
- Coordinator
- Affiliated Entity
- Associated Partner
- Subcontractors

A brief overview of the roles is provided below. Please refer to the Grant Agreement Template for detailed information on the rights and obligations of each role in the Project.

Beneficiary

The Beneficiary is legally responsible for the Project Implementation by signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. There is always a Beneficiary of the Grant; whereas – if not required for the implementation of the Grant – there can be Grants without other roles such as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. The Beneficiaries are jointly responsible for the Grant implementation. The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant implementation (Coordinator) signs the Grant Agreement and the other Beneficiaries sign the accession forms to the Grant Agreement with ECMWF.

Coordinator

The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant implementation – on behalf of and mandated by all the proposed Participants – is defined as Coordinator. If awarded, the Coordinator is responsible for Project monitoring and administration of the financial contribution. The Coordinator is the main point of contact with ECMWF at Proposal preparation stage, at Grant Agreement Preparation stage, and at Grant implementation stage.

Affiliated Entities

Affiliated Entities are entities with a legal or capital link to a Beneficiary (which is neither limited to the Project nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation) which participate in the Project with similar rights

and obligations to the Beneficiaries, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement and therefore do not become Beneficiaries themselves. Affiliated Entities are eligible for participation and funding.

Associated Partners

Associated Partners are entities which participate in the Project with no funding and without signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. They may not charge costs or contributions to the Project, and the costs for their tasks are not eligible. They might be stakeholders with an interest in the Project but limited or no active participation in Project Implementation.

Subcontractors

Subcontracting refers to entities with whom a Beneficiary has concluded a contract for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the Project. Beneficiaries must have the necessary operational capacity to perform the Project themselves, and they remain solely responsible for the implementation of the Project. Subcontracting should be exceptional and not cover core activities. Therefore, subcontracting should be limited to clearly defined parts of the Project and must not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs. Subcontractors can be identified during the preparation of the Proposal, or during the Project Implementation subject to approval by ECMWF in line with the terms and conditions of the signed Grant Agreement.

8. DURATION AND AVAILABLE BUDGET

Projects shall last 24 months. The total estimated available call budget is EUR 5,000,000 and the aim is to award four Grants each with a maximum budget of EUR 1,250,000.

As specified in section 3, ACMAD and the RCC relevant for the Region are required to be involved in each Proposal submitted, with a minimum budget allocation and pre-defined WPs and Deliverables.

REGION	RCC	BUDGET PER RCC PER PROPOSAL
Western Africa	Centre Climatique Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel (AGRHYMET)	Minimum 20% of the requested overall budget
Central Africa	Centre d'Application et de Prévision Climatologique de l'Afrique Centrale (CAPC-AC)	Minimum 20% of the requested overall budget
Eastern Africa	IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre (ICPAC)	Minimum 20% of the requested overall budget
Southern Africa including the Indian Ocean Islands	Southern African Development Community – Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC)	Minimum 20% of the requested overall budget
Each of the 4 Regions	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)	Minimum 5% of the requested overall budget

Table 10: Minimum budget for the RCCs in each Proposal

ECMWF reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute funds, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

9. FUNDING PROVISION

The ECMWF financial contribution for the Grants under this Call for Proposals will be awarded as a lump sum.

9.1 Lump- Sum Grant

For lump- sum Grants, the payment of the lump- sum contribution will be based on the work carried out and reported. The lumpsum contribution will cover the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' expected eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the Project. If the Project is duly implemented in accordance with the signed Grant Agreement, the amounts will be paid as agreed. The Grant amount is fixed, and the contribution will be paid after the end of each reporting period, provided that the work has been completed. Under the lump-sum funding approach, completion of the work is assessed on the basis of the successful completion of the relevant Work Packages. This includes the activities described under the Objectives, Milestones, and Deliverables linked to those Work Packages in the Proposal (Annex I – Technical Description).

A detailed budget for each entity participating as Coordinator/Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity and per each Work Package is required at Proposal stage (Annex II – Estimated Budget). The detailed budget of the Proposal should be based on cost estimations, and it will be the basis to define and justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of the actual costs projected to be incurred by the Coordinator, Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities and must be:

- In line with the same general eligibility rules as in Grants based on actual costs, as outlined in the Grant Agreement Template Clause 6 *ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS*.
- In line with the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' normal practices.
- Reasonable/not excessive.
- In line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

Cost estimations that are clearly overestimated or underestimated will lead to a decreased score in the evaluation of the Proposal under the award criterion concerned (see section 17). Following the result of the evaluation and the recommendations of the evaluators, the overall lump sum is fixed in the Grant Agreement. Once awarded, lump- sum contributions will not require costs reporting.

9.2 Budget categories

The budget categories are:

- A. Personnel costs;
- B. Travel, accommodation and subsistence;
- C. Computing;
- D. Other direct costs;
- E. Subcontracting;
- F. Indirect costs.

Indirect costs are a 25% flat-rate of the total direct costs (A, B, C and D), excluding the direct costs for subcontracting (E).

Subcontracting costs can be up to 20% of the total costs (direct + indirect). Exceptionally, if duly justified in the Proposal, the 20% cap may be exceeded. If the contribution of the Subcontractors is critical for the Project Implementation, please also consider involving them as Beneficiaries. Subcontractors may be identified in the Proposal, but this is not mandatory. It is sufficient that the tasks to be subcontracted and the corresponding estimated costs are clearly described in the Proposal. The identification of specific Subcontractor(s) may take place during Project Implementation, in accordance with applicable procurement principles and subject to the relevant checks and formal approval by ECMWF.

The estimated budget of the Project must be expressed in EURO.

9.3 Maximum Grant amount

The maximum Grant amount awarded by ECMWF may differ from the requested ECMWF contribution in the Proposal. Request for changes – if any – will be part of the Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

10. CALL DEADLINE AND TIMELINE

The SEWA Call for Proposals opens	10 July 2026
Last date for clarifications requests	16 September 2026
Last date for publishing clarifications	23 September 2026
The deadline for SEWA Call for Proposals	30 September 2026, at 14:00 CEST
The outcome of the evaluations is expected	November 2026
The signature of the Grant Agreement is expected	December 2026/January 2027

Table 11: Call timeline

11. OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

ECMWF evaluates each Proposal based on the information provided by the proposed Participants in the Application submitted in reply to this Call for Proposals, and the answers provided in the Submission Portal.

The selection process has two stages:

- Checks on admissibility and eligibility criteria for participation, for exclusion, and financial capacity assessment;
- Evaluation of award criteria, including estimated budget, operational capacity, data and infrastructure requirements.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask proposed Participants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal.

The proposed Participants must be and remain eligible for the entire duration of the Project (see sections 13, 14, and 15 below).

12. ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applications must be submitted before the Call deadline.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the Submission Portal which can be accessed via <https://procurement.ecmwf.int>. Paper submissions are not possible.
- The Coordinator – on behalf of and mandated by all the proposed Participants – must respond to all items in the online questionnaire in the Submission Portal, providing, where applicable, the Application Form, Supporting Documents and any other required document.
- Applications must be submitted using the templates and forms provided in the Submission Portal.
- Applications must be complete and contain all Annexes of the Application Form and Supporting Documents required.
- Applications must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Page limits will apply to ‘Annex I - Technical Description.’ The limit for ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ is 35 pages (excluding the cover, ‘Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants’ and ‘Appendix 2 – Data and Infrastructure Requirements’). If ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ exceeds the 35-page limit, excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- Applications must be written in English.

13. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For a Proposal to be considered eligible, all three eligibility criteria below must be met.

13.1 Entities eligible for funding (eligible Countries)

Only Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements set out in 'SCHEDULE 1 – Eligibility to Participate in SEWA Grants' of this Call for Proposals shall be able to participate in Grants under this Call.

13.2 Consortium composition

The composition of the consortium under this Call shall be designed with the overarching objective of strengthening African-European cooperation in the domain of early warning systems. While the minimum requirements for consortium participation are outlined below, Applicants must ensure that their partnership configuration clearly reflects and actively contributes to this objective. In particular, consortia should demonstrate strong, balanced, peer-to-peer collaboration between African and European entities, working jointly on the co-development and implementation of the IbF pilot demonstrator across the four African Regions. The proposed consortium should therefore not only meet the formal eligibility criteria but also evidence a solid commitment to sustained cooperation, knowledge exchange, and capacity strengthening, ultimately reinforcing the African-European partnership.

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium (Beneficiaries; not Affiliated Entities or Associated Partners) that complies with the following minimum conditions and is demonstrably structured to support the overarching objective of strengthening African-European cooperation outlined above:

- At least one legal entity established in a country eligible under Schedule 1 (see 13.1) and geographically located in Europe, understood as including those states wholly or partly situated on the European continent e.g. from an EU or an ECMWF Member State;
- One of the four Regional Climate Centres in Sub-Saharan Africa for the respective region covered as noted in Table 2 above: AGRHYMET, CAPC-AC, ICPAC, SADC-CSC;
- ACMAD.

These minimum requirements constitute the eligibility conditions. However, consortia are encouraged to carefully assess whether the inclusion of additional Beneficiaries, as well as Affiliated Entities and/or Associated Partners is necessary to ensure a balanced, complementary, and effective partnership between African and European stakeholders.

13.3 Geographic location (place of performance)

The Project shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa. For the purpose of this Call for Proposals, the list of countries is provided in section 2.2, Table 2.

14. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

14.1 Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the Project throughout the period during which the Project is carried out. The Applicants' financial capacity is assessed based on the 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity', included in the Supporting Documents of the Call Package. The 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity' must be submitted by all Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities with the Proposal. If ECMWF considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may require further information; an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility of Affiliated Entities; prefinancing paid in instalments; or propose no prefinancing; request that the Applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire Proposal.

14.2 Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the Project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in comparable projects). This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 3 'Management and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the Applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented. If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the Applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity. For this assessment, Applicants are required to provide the following information in 'Annex I – Technical Description' of the Application Form: description of the proposed Participants; and, for Coordinator, and for each of the Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, and Associated Partners (refer to 'Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants'), experience with EU-funded projects, up to five most relevant previous projects, connected to the subject of this Call for Proposals and list and CVs of the key personnel involved in the Project. Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any Applicant.

15. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

15.1 EU Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) Database

The purpose of [EDES](#) is the protection of the EU's financial interests against unreliable persons and entities applying for EU funds or having concluded legal commitments with the EC, other EU Institutions, bodies, offices or agencies. In particular, the EDES ensures:

- The early detection of persons or entities which pose a risk to the EU's financial interests.
- The exclusion of persons or entities from receiving EU funds (Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The imposition of a financial penalty on a recipient (Article 140 of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The publication, in the most severe cases, on the EC's internet site of information related to the exclusion and where applicable the financial penalty, in order to reinforce their deterrent effect (Article 142 of the EU Financial Regulation).

ECMWF makes use of the EDES to verify whether individuals or organisations are suitable entities to receive funding from the EU. The grounds for exclusion are listed under article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. They include:

- Bankruptcy and insolvency situations.
- Non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.
- Grave professional misconduct.
- Fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation etc.
- Serious breach of contract.

The proposed Participants including, where relevant, any other relevant third party that would participate in the Project or receive payment from the Beneficiaries in connection with the Project, must confirm that they and persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control in their organisation are NOT listed on the EDES database and must accept that the ECMWF will reject any proposed Participants who are so listed.

15.2 EU Restrictive Measures

Restrictive Measures (sanctions) are the tool in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) through which the EU can intervene where necessary to prevent conflict or respond to emerging or current crises. Entities subject to EU restrictive measures are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, or Subcontractors.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of SEWA, must ensure that any of the proposed Participants is not included in the list of EU Restrictive Measures.

Consequently, the Coordinator must ensure that none of the Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, Subcontractors, and any person who may receive, directly or indirectly, funds under the Project are included in the lists of EU Restrictive Measures. This requirement is specifically detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

As a minimum – by using the www.sanctionsmap.eu website – the Coordinator must undertake the following checks of all proposed Participants:

- Country check (country of registration of the legal entity/holding company (if applicable));
- Organisation/holding company check (using search function);
- Individual check (using search function).

The Coordinator and the other proposed Participants must complete the Restrictive Measures Form available in the Call Package as per the instructions thereof.

The proposed Participants should note that, as this forms part of ECMWF's obligations to the EC, failure to complete and return this form may lead to exclusion from the Grant procedure.

15.3 EU Conditionality Measures

Conditionality Measures are additional protections for the EU budget when breaches of the rule of law principles affect or risk affecting EU financial interests introduced in 2021. Conditionality Measures may be put in place in the context of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the EU budget established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget. This conditionality regime allows the EU to take measures – for example suspension of payments, suspension of implementation, termination or prohibitions on entering into new legal commitments with Concerned Entities – to protect the EU budget.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of SEWA, is required to ensure Conditionality Measures are duly applied vis-à-vis concerned entities. Further requirements with respect to Conditionality Measures are detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

The proposed Participants must confirm and ensure for the whole duration of the Grant Agreement that none of them or any other third party – that would participate and receive payment in connection with the Project – is affected by the Conditionality Measures described above and must accept that ECMWF may reject any proposed Participant or any other third party that are so affected.

16. OTHER OBLIGATIONS

The Participants in the Proposal must comply with the requirements set out in Article 17 of the Grant Agreement Template. In particular, they must:

- (i) respect human rights and internationally agreed core labour standards and ensure that their activities do not involve or contribute to practices inconsistent with those standards.

Such practices include, in particular, those relating to the exploitation or abuse of persons, such as child labour, human trafficking, forced labour, discrimination, harassment or other forms of violence or intimidation.

- (ii) ensure that the activities do not directly or indirectly contribute to money laundering, terrorism financing, tax avoidance, tax fraud or tax evasion.

The Participants must also comply with all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law, including applicable environmental legislation in the countries where the Project is implemented and relevant international environmental agreements.

17. AWARD CRITERIA

If admissible and eligible and if the financial capacity assessment and exclusion criteria checks are satisfactory, the Proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria: 1. Excellence; 2. Long-term effects; 3. Management and efficiency of the implementation.

1. **Excellence** refers to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the scope of the Call. The following aspects will be taken into account: Concept for the regional demonstrator; Co-creation and user needs; Leveraging the use of existing resources and infrastructure.
2. **Long-term effects** refer to the extent to which the proposed work delivers the expected effects outlined in section 4. The following aspects will be taken into account: African-European partnership development; Awareness and adoption of IbF in support of early warning; Uptake of data produced by European entities and the use of the CCI-EWC.
3. **Management and efficiency of the implementation** refer to the management and implementation plan and will determine the efficiency of the Proposal in obtaining excellence and long-term effects. The following aspects will be taken into account: Project management and quality assurance; Capacity and complementarity of the proposed organisations and their experts who will work on SEWA; Work plan and allocated resources; Risk assessment and mitigation actions; Equality, diversity and inclusion. The estimated budget of the Proposal (Annex II – Estimated Budget), the operational capacity of the proposed Participants ('Appendix 1- Operational Capacity of Project Applicants', included in 'Annex I – Technical Description'), and the data and infrastructure requirements of the Proposal ('Appendix 2 - Data and Infrastructure Requirements', included in 'Annex I – Technical Description') will be also assessed against the proposed activities under this criterion.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria 'Excellence', 'Long-term effects' and 'Management and efficiency of the implementation' (and not for the different aspects listed for each criterion).

For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5 (Table 12). Equal weighting will be applied to the three award criteria. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold applying to the sum of the three individual scores will be 10. Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available Call budget.

Score	Summary	Scoring for the award criteria
0	Fail	The proposal fails to address the award criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The award criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the award criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the award criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
4	Very good	The proposal addresses the award criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
5	Excellent	The proposal fully addresses all relevant aspects of the award criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Table 12: Scoring scheme

18. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

18.1 Ranking

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements - admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks - and then evaluated, for each of the four Regions separately and by an evaluation panel composed of qualified experts, against the award criteria. Proposals will then be ranked according to their quality score. As a result, each of the four Region will have a separate ranking list.

For Proposals with the same score within the same region, a priority order is determined as follows:

1. Proposals with the highest score under criterion 2 'Long-term effects';
2. Through a strategic assessment based on the complementarity and added value of each Proposal, taking into account higher-ranked Proposals, the objectives of the Call for Proposals, and the overall strategic priorities of SEWA. The strategic assessment will be documented in the Evaluation Report.
3. Proposals that address the measures for diversity and inclusion well (see sub-section 3.5 of 'Annex I Technical Description').

If a distinction still cannot be made, the evaluation panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the Call. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask proposed Participants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal. ECMWF reserves the right to withhold the allocation of any or all available funds or to reallocate such funds in a manner differing from that specified in section 8, based on the Proposals submitted and the evaluation results.

18.2 Evaluation results

At the end of the evaluation, the Applicants will be informed of the result in the evaluation results letter. Successful Proposals will be invited to the next stage, 'Grant Agreement Preparation'; the other Proposals will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

Please note: Invitation to the 'Grant Agreement Preparation' stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the Grant can be awarded (e.g. exclusion check, etc.).

18.3 Timing

The timing for evaluation and Grant Agreement Preparation is as follows:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: approximately 2-3 months after the deadline for submission of the Call for Proposals.
- Indicative date for the signing of Grant Agreements: approximately 3-4 months after the deadline for submission of the Call for Proposals.

19. DEBRIEFING AND REVIEW PROCEDURE

During the selection process, Applicants will be notified, via an information letter sent to the Coordinator, only if there are issues with admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks. At the end of the selection process, all Applicants will be informed of the Proposal evaluation results via an information letter sent to the Coordinator.

Upon receipt of an information letter, Applicants may request a debriefing and/or a review if there is an indication that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment in the evaluation of the Proposal.

The debriefing and review request must focus solely on aspects related to the selection process. Applicants may raise concerns regarding procedural irregularities, factual errors, manifest errors of assessment, or abuse of power. However, mere repetition of the Proposal content or disagreement with the evaluation outcome or reasoning will not be considered.

For detailed guidance, please consult the 'Grants Debriefing and Review Procedure' provided here: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants>.

20. SUBMISSION PROCESS

The Call Package consists of this Call document and the:

- Application Form;
- Supporting Documents;
- Grant Agreement Template;
- Guidelines for Applicants.

The Proposal consists of two parts:

- Application Form;
- Supporting Documents.

The Application Form consists of the following annexes:

- Annex I – Technical Description, presenting the technical proposal (maximum 35 pages), including Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants and Appendix 2 – Data and Infrastructure Requirements (the page limit does not apply to Appendix 1 and Appendix 2);
- Annex II – Estimated Budget, presenting the detailed budget for each Beneficiary and Affiliated Entity, broken down by Work Package, the overall budget for the Proposal and the justification on the use of the resources;
- Annex III – Administrative Information, providing administrative details for each Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, Associated Partner and, where identified at the application stage, Subcontractor.

The following Supporting Documents must be submitted together with the Application Form:

- Legal Entity Form;
- Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity;
- Restrictive Measures Form.

In addition, the Coordinator will have to fill in an online questionnaire on the Submission Portal, once registered. A copy of the online questionnaire is provided with the Call Package.

All Applicants are required to use the templates provided in the Call Package, which are available on the Submission Portal. For additional information on the Call Package, please consult the 'Guidelines for Applicants' available on the Submission Portal and here:

<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants/sewa-grants>

The Coordinator of the consortium must register on the Submission Portal at <https://procontract.due-north.com/register> (registration can be completed at any time). Once the Call is open, four separate links – one for each Region – will be available at <https://procurement.ecmwf.int> and will provide access to the full Call Package (templates of the Application Form and Supporting Documents). While the Call Package is identical for all four Regions, Coordinators must register their interest separately for each Region for which they intend to submit a proposal, using the corresponding dedicated link on the Submission Portal.

The Coordinator is responsible for submitting the Application Form and the Supporting Documents via the Submission Portal (as PDFs or other formats allowed by the portal), on behalf of and mandated by all the other proposed Participants. Therefore, the Coordinator will have to confirm in the online questionnaire – available in the Submission Portal – that they have been mandated by all the other proposed Participants involved in the Proposal to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to the Proposal, including, but not limited to, submitting responses to the questionnaire and to upload the required forms and documents on their behalf.

Please note that registration to the Submission Portal must be completed as early as possible and, in any case, sufficiently in advance of the Call for Proposals deadline. As the registration process is managed by an external provider, delays may occur which are beyond ECMWF's control. Failure to register in a timely manner may result in the registration not being processed on time. Late registrations are at the Applicants' own risk and without any guarantee of completion before the Call deadline.

More detailed information on the submission process, the Application Form and Supporting Documents can be found in the 'Guidelines for Applicants'.

The proposed Participants may also be asked at a later stage for further documents (e.g. for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

ECMWF does not reimburse expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of the Proposal. ECMWF accepts no liability whatsoever, whether in contract, tort or otherwise in relation to the Call for Proposals or in respect of any costs, damages or expenses incurred by Applicants or any third party.

21. OVERVIEW OF KEY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

This section presents an indicative and non-exhaustive overview of key legal and financial elements relevant at Proposal preparation stage and – in case of award – at Grant implementation stage.

Non-cumulative award and no double financing

The Applicants must specify in the Application Form any applications and awarded grants/tenders relating to the same activity or work (please include the information in Appendix 1). The same costs cannot be funded more than once by ECMWF.

Retroactivity

No Grant may be awarded retroactively for projects already completed. The Project starting date and duration are fixed in the Grant Agreement. Normally, the starting date will be after the Grant has been signed. A retroactive starting date - prior to the Grant Agreement's signature - may be exceptionally granted for duly justified reasons, subject to agreement with ECMWF. However, it can never be earlier than the date on which the evaluation results notification (information letter) is sent to the Applicants.

No-profit rule

Grants must not have the purpose or effect of generating a profit within the framework of the project. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + ECMWF Grant over costs), it will be deducted from the final Grant amount.

Multiple submission and participation

Applicants (excluding the RCCs) are strongly encouraged to be involved in no more than one Proposal per Region, either by submitting it as prospective Coordinator or by joining it as part of a project consortium. While this is not a mandatory requirement, multiple participations are discouraged.

Legal commitments

By submitting Proposals in response to this Call for Proposals, Applicants are acknowledging that they are indicating their intention and willingness to enter into a Grant Agreement under the terms and conditions set out in the Call for Proposals and in the Grant Agreement Template. Submission of a Proposal implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. Successful Applicants shall be bound by the obligations, terms, and conditions of the Grant Agreement, including the obligation to provide accurate, sincere, and complete information throughout the Grant procedure. However, ECMWF is under no obligation to award a Grant based on any Proposal received. The Proposal shall remain valid for nine months after the closing date for this Call for Proposals.

Pre-financing rate and payments

In case of award, there will be three payments: initial pre-financing; interim payment (mid-term); final payment (Table 13). The initial pre-financing payment may be granted for up to 50% of the estimated budget. The amount shall be determined on the basis of the outcome of the financial capacity assessment carried out by ECMWF. Different pre-financing rates can be applied by ECMWF in the case of a non-satisfactory outcome of the financial capacity assessment on the Grant recipients. The interim payment ceiling during the Grant implementation is 80% of the maximum Grant amount total budget. The remaining budget, if due, will be paid after the final reporting.

Payments	Reporting Period		Reporting Deadline	Payment Deadline
	From Month	To Month		
Initial Pre-financing	NA	NA	Coordinator providing ECMWF with a completed and signed payment request (as per the template in Annex 4) as soon as possible after signature of the Grant Agreement	After 60 days from receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request
Interim Payment	1	12	60 days after end of reporting period	After 60 days from the receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request (as per the template in Annex 4), after the approval of the interim report and the notification to this effect by ECMWF
Final Payment	13	24	60 days after end of reporting period	After 60 days from the receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request (as per the template in Annex 4), after the approval of the final report and the notification to this effect by ECMWF

Table 13: Payment and reporting summary

Ownership of the Results and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

In Grants, the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project, whatever their form, are owned by the Beneficiaries that generate them. Therefore, ECMWF does not obtain ownership of the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project, produced under the Project. However, ECMWF, the EU and EC, and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project for their own internal purposes. Furthermore, ECMWF, the EU and EC, and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use Beneficiaries' materials, documents and information (notably summaries for publication, Deliverables and any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) and Results for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes. For the terms and conditions on IPR, please refer to the Grant Agreement Template.

22. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

Any entity involved in discussions with one or more prospective consortia in connection with this Call shall preserve the confidentiality of information received from Applicants and shall not disclose or use such information in a manner that could confer an undue advantage on any Applicant or Proposal or otherwise compromise the fair and equal treatment of Applicants under this Call.

ECMWF reserves the right to retain all documents submitted by the proposed Participants in response to the Call for Proposals. Any information in such documents that is proprietary and confidential to the proposed Participants will be handled confidentially by ECMWF provided it is clearly and specifically identified as such.

Such obligation shall not apply if such information is or was obtained from other sources that do not bind ECMWF as to confidentiality or if the information is in the public domain.

ECMWF may make Proposals available for evaluation purposes to authorised people including its governing body, committees, and professional advisers in addition to ECMWF's own personnel under the same conditions of confidentiality.

The reply to any Call for Proposals involves the recording and processing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as name, address, and PII included in the CVs. Please also note that all personally identifiable information processed by ECMWF will be treated in accordance with ECMWF Policy on Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PIIP) available at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/privacy>.

Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any Personally Identifiable Information requested that are required for evaluating the Proposal in accordance with the Call for Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose.

23. CONTACTS AND CLARIFICATIONS ON THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Please submit your queries via the Submission Portal. For more information on how to contact ECMWF via the Submission Portal, please refer to the 'Guidelines for Applicants.'

24. LIST OF ANNEXES

This Call for Proposals comprises:

- Application Form: Annex I - Technical Description; Annex II - Estimated Budget; Annex III - Administrative Information.
- Supporting Documents: Legal Entity Form for Public Entities; Legal Entity Form for Private Entities; Legal Entity Form for Individuals; Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity; Restrictive Measures Form.
- Grant Agreement Template.
- Guidelines for Applicants.

SCHEDULE 1 – Eligibility to Participate in SEWA Grants

Further to Section 13.1 of the Call for Proposals 2026_SEWA_G233, participation in this Call shall be open to the following entities:

A. Any entity eligible in accordance with ECMWF's grants and other relevant rules, including those established in ECMWF Member States (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom) and ECMWF Cooperating States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia).

B. Any entity eligible in accordance with Article 28 of the NDICI Regulation² for the participation under geographic programmes, as further detailed below, namely international organisations and all other legal entities, as defined in Article 2(6) of the NDICI Regulation, who are nationals of and, in the case of legal persons, who are also effectively established in the following countries or territories:

1. *EU Member States* ([Appendix 1](#))
2. *IPA III beneficiaries* (listed in the Annex I of IPA III Instrument ([Appendix 2](#)))
3. *European Economic Area* ([Appendix 3](#))
4. Developing countries and territories, (included in the OECD-DAC list of ODA recipients³), which are not members of the G20 group⁴:
 - (i) *Least Developed Countries* (LDCs) ([Appendix 4](#))
 - (ii) *Other Low Income Countries* ([Appendix 5](#))
 - (iii) *Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories* ([Appendix 6](#))
 - (iv) *Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories* ([Appendix 7](#))
5. *Overseas Countries and Territories* (OCTs) ([Appendix 8](#))
6. *Member States of the OECD* ([Appendix 9](#)) are also eligible when the grants are exclusively implemented in a Least Developed Country⁵ or in a Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC)⁶.
7. (i) *Developing countries, as included in the list of ODA recipients, which are members of the G20 group* ([Appendix 10](#)) and (ii) *any other countries and territories*, i.e. all countries all countries of the world when the country itself is participating as a beneficiary of the Action;
8. *Neighbourhood partner countries* ([Appendix 11](#)).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>

³ Please check the DAC List of ODA Recipients, effective for reporting on 2024 and 2025 flows.

⁴ Non-eligible G20 Members developing countries are: India, Indonesia, Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa. They are eligible under g) Türkiye is also a developing country (upper middle income) G20 Member, but is eligible as a beneficiary listed in the Annex I of the IPA III.

⁵ See [Appendix 4](#) for the full list of LDCs.

⁶ HIPCs are: Afghanistan, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: EU MEMBER STATES

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

APPENDIX 2: IPA III BENEFICIARIES

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

APPENDIX 3: European Economic Area

(only non-EU MS are mentioned) Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway.

APPENDIX 4: Least Developed Countries

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Kinshasa), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

APPENDIX 5: Other Low Income Countries

North Korea, Syria.

APPENDIX 6: Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories

Algeria, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tokelau, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

APPENDIX 7: Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Niue, North Macedonia, Palestine**, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Helena, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Serbia, South-Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Wallis and Futuna.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

** This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.

APPENDIX 8: Overseas countries and territories⁷

Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curaçao (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia and Dependencies (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna (FR).

APPENDIX 9: OECD MEMBER STATES

Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America.

APPENDIX 10: G20 member developing countries

Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South-Africa, Türkiye.

APPENDIX 11: LIST OF COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.⁸

⁷ OCTs listed in Annex II to the TFEU having special relations with the United Kingdom are covered by the scope of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement.

⁸ Union support under this area may also be used for the purpose of enabling Russia to participate in cross-border cooperation programmes and in other relevant multi-country programmes.

SCHEDULE 2 - Justification of selection of the focus hazards

The focus hazard selection process considered both the outputs of the SEWA scoping study and the aims of the wider SEWA action. A brief justification is provided below for each Region.

Western Africa

Floods: *River flooding* was selected based on recommendations from the scoping study, which ranked it as one of highest prioritised hazards due to its prevalence, impact, and future relevance. With a number of projects ongoing in the region, there is an opportunity for SEWA to build on and bolster existing initiatives. *Flash floods* were also prioritized highly in the scoping study, and are included here alongside river flood as a direct result of stakeholder consultation on the focus hazard selection, which emphasised the importance of both flash and riverine flooding.

Dust storms were selected due to their prevalence and health impacts in West Africa ([Saleh et al., 2025](#), [Dione et al., 2022](#), and [Jusot et al., 2017](#)). The scoping study revealed an apparent gap in awareness and prioritisation of dust storm impacts by national meteorological services, making the health impacts of dust an area where SEWA could facilitate real progress on early warning and impact-based forecasting. Furthermore, this focus hazard fosters the inclusion of space-based data for early warning purposes and offers clear links to existing initiatives (for example, as led by ACMAD).

Heatwaves were selected because, given the impact of climate change, they are of increasing concern e.g. for the health sector. This was highlighted strongly by the scoping study and in scientific literature. For example, a very recent study by [Morakinyo et al., \(2026\)](#) showed that the frequency, duration and spatial extent of extreme heat stress have increased markedly, particularly in the Sahel. At present, Western Africa has a particularly high exposure to heat stress, with a significant number of days annually experiencing very strong heat stress (this can be clearly seen in the [Copernicus thermal trace maps](#)). Morakinyo et al. also emphasised the need for targeted heat-health early warning systems, flagging this as an area where SEWA can have a potentially large impact. As drought is also a very important hazard for the region, Applicants are encouraged to consider the inclusion of drought and heatwaves as compound hazards.

Central Africa

Riverine floods, flash floods, and thunderstorms were selected as a direct result of the outcomes of the scoping study. This relates not only to the prevalence and impacts of the hazards themselves, but also to gaps in forecasting systems where SEWA could make a tangible difference. The forecasting of flash floods and thunderstorms is highly relevant for ECMWF and its member states and provides a good opportunity for the integration of observation, nowcasting, and forecasting aspects. Landslides are an important cascading hazard and the Call for Proposals encourages Applicants to consider their inclusion.

Eastern Africa

Flash floods and drought/dry spells were selected based on recommendations from the scoping study, where they were among the highest prioritised hazards for the region. Forecasting convective rainfall and resultant flash flooding is a substantial challenge in Africa and beyond, with the terrain of Eastern Africa adding significant complexity. This combination provides a potentially valuable showcase for a SEWA pilot project. Although drought/dry spells appear to be well covered by ongoing projects, this offers an opportunity for SEWA to build on existing initiatives and to leverage best practice for application more widely.

Heatwaves were selected because, given the impact of climate change, they are of increasing concern e.g. for the health sector, as outlined above for Western Africa. In addition, parts of Eastern Africa have a particularly high exposure to heat stress, with a significant number of days annually experiencing very strong heat stress (this can be clearly seen in the [Copernicus thermal trace maps](#)).

Tropical cyclones were selected based on recommendations from the scoping study, where they were among the highest prioritised hazards for the region. Although there are numerous ongoing projects in the region, these provide an opportunity for SEWA to build on or integrate with existing initiatives.

Drought and dry spells were selected because they ranked highest in the objective prioritisation exercise undertaken in the scoping study. The hazard is applicable across the whole of Southern Africa, including the Indian Ocean Islands, providing scope for the SEWA pilot to be developed across a range of spatial scales and geographic environments.

Thunderstorms were selected because they were prioritised highly during stakeholder workshops undertaken by the scoping study. Thunderstorms provide a good opportunity to work on addressing the challenges of convective forecasting for early warning and impact-based forecasting, as well as for the integration of observation, nowcasting, and forecasting aspects.