Information Note

Disclaimer: All information contained herein, including the proposed scope of activities, implementation arrangements, indicative budget, timelines and other aspects of the forthcoming Call for Proposals, is preliminary and indicative only, may be subject to change and shall not be construed as binding on ECMWF. The definitive conditions, requirements and procedures will be set out exclusively in the official Call for Proposals documentation upon its publication, which shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency with this information note.

As part of the Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) action, ECMWF is very pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the next call for proposals which will consist of two actions:

- Action to fund one grant on training to strengthen forecasting and early warning capacities in Africa;
- Action to fund one grant on the development of digital tools and solutions that strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems across Africa.

This notice aims at informing interested entities and to enable the early formation of consortia. It is not a call for proposals, and the details provided may change.

Action 1 - Training Activities

Aim: To implement a capacity building programme for African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, which play a central role in early warning. The programme aims to increase their capacity to understand, access and use weather data, tools and services in operational forecasting.

Indicative scope of work

The selected consortium will design and run a capacity development programme that includes:

- Development of training materials in English, French and Portuguese to be made available on ECMWF and African learning platforms.
- Regional training events in Africa's subregions, in three languages on access, use and interpretation of ECMWF and Copernicus data and services.
- Specialised training events on selected early warning or related topics.
- A fellowship programme with placements at ECMWF, where fellows develop early warning products or services.
- Monitoring and evaluation: baseline and endline surveys, follow-up of trainees, and reporting against a results framework.

Expected consortium profile

Consortia are expected to bring together:

- A balanced mix of African and European organisations.

- African organisations are ideally WMO-designated Regional Training Centres, universities or other capacity building institutions.
- Expertise in operational forecasting and capacity development in Africa.
- Experience in e-learning, curriculum development and training of trainers.
- Event logistics across several African countries.

Indicative budget: 750,000 EUR.

Action 2 - Digital Solutions

Aim: To deploy sustainable digital solutions that strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems across Africa. Proposals should address operational needs, interoperability, innovation, and long-term uptake. Priority areas cover the usage of AI/ ML techniques for data interoperability, modelling, impact-based forecasting, dissemination and visualisation. Applicants shall propose activities that support the usage of AI/ ML as well as cloud infrastructure and other digitalisation along the weather and climate forecasting value chain that increase the use of innovative digital technologies in operational early warning systems. The proposed activities are required to incorporate European data or tools. Connections with WMO AI Action Plan and the Climate Digital Innovation Hub, including ClimWeb are expected to be made.
A user consultation workshop, to be organized at the beginning of the implementation, will be an essential prerequisite to define the final scope of the proposed tool, engage users, define test environments and ensure uptake and ownership.

Expected consortium profile
Consortia are expected to bring together:

- A balanced mix of African and European organisations from different sectors (including private companies)
- Relevant experiences in AI/ML in weather and climate forecasting as well as in the developments of tools.

Indicative budget: 1,000,000 EUR.

Indicative timeline

- Indicative Call publication: January 2027
- Submission deadline: About six weeks after publication
- Duration: 18 months

More information
The full call will be published at SEWA grants | ECMWF.