



FRAMING THE FRAMEWORK: ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR A UK NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

OVERVIEW FOR WORKSHOP STAKEHOLDERS

Climate risk management requires timely and decision-relevant information across a range of timescales and spatial scales. Climate services, such as provision of tailored climate information through products, tools, websites, training and other fora help decision-makers better manage risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and climate change.

Given the broad range of services required to meet the varied needs of decision-makers across multiple sectors, the growing climate services landscape in the UK comprises multiple different groups and activities to meet different priorities. It is considered that this dynamic and diverse landscape would benefit from greater national coordination to ensure investment is directed towards priority areas and to connect practitioners and decision-makers. The UK Climate Resilience Program, funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), is undertaking several activities to improve the provision of climate services in the UK. One of these activities involves considering whether a National Framework for Climate Services would be beneficial and what this might look like. A National Framework for Climate Services is a world-recognised approach building coordination through the Global Framework for Climate Services^{1,2} (GFCS).

A number of countries have implemented or are in the process of setting up National Frameworks. European efforts focused around virtual centres of collaboration have found success in directing research priorities and coordinating cross-sectoral projects to better manage climate vulnerabilities and risk. In Asia some efforts are centred on regional climate forums hosted out of national meteorological and hydrological centres. The implementation of National Frameworks for Climate Services vary internationally, and this project aims to develop an approach which best suits the needs of the UK.

The United Kingdom Climate Change Act³ (2008) defines the role and mandate for government to assess risk and resilience, as well as progress against goals, working through DEFRA, BEIS,

¹ WMO, & GFCS. (2018). Step-by-step Guidelines for Establishing a National Framework for Climate Services. <https://gfcs.wmo.int/step-by-step-guidelines-nfcs>

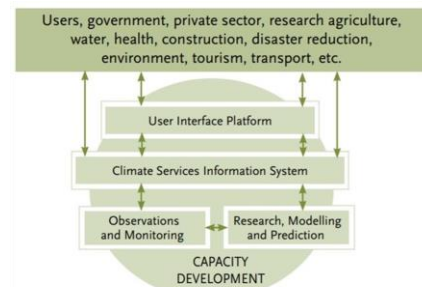
² Global Framework for Climate Services. About National Frameworks for Climate Services. <https://gfcs.wmo.int/national-frameworks-for-climate-services>

³ The UK government, 2008. Climate Change Act 2008. London: The Stationery Office Limited. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

UK Climate Services

The UK already has well developed climate service capacity, with an advanced observations and monitoring network, as well as world-leading research, modelling and prediction capabilities.

A National Framework for Climate Services for the UK could provide an important component of the interface between the users and providers of climate services information through establishment of a governance structure.



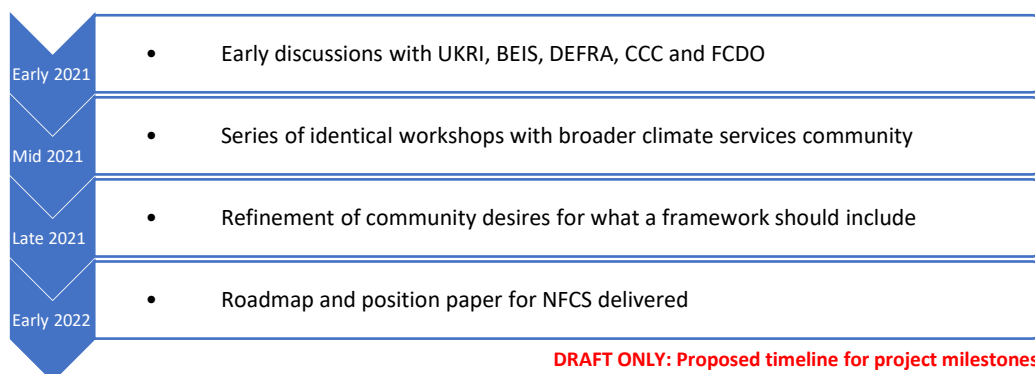
Establishment of national frameworks for climate services are a key mechanism of the GFCS enabling development and delivery of climate services at country level². National frameworks also support the Paris Agreement by assisting with coordination as countries prepare their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and similarly complement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to manage the risks of a changing climate.

Taken from the [Step-by-step Guidelines for Establishing a National Framework for Climate Services](#)¹.

UKRI, CCC and the UKMO. These departments are well placed to set key priorities and to enable broader collaboration through development of a national framework for climate services for the UK, and were consulted during the initial phase of this project. We are now working with the UK government and broader climate services community to explore the potential of a National Framework for Climate Services in the UK. Through a series of workshops facilitated by the UK Met Office⁴, the community will co-develop a shared vision for potential structures which would facilitate the integration of policy development, innovation and industry standards with the latest science and knowledge. The result will be a higher functioning climate services landscape benefitting the UK and UK interests, enhanced adaptation and mitigation reducing risk to UK citizens and business.

A period of engagement with stakeholders is planned throughout June, with scope for follow up activities over the next 6 months, to inform a position paper and roadmap fully describing community views on the merits of a UK framework for climate services. The project will build on existing knowledge from [GFCS activities](#)⁵ to build national frameworks in other countries and earlier attempts to establish [Climate Service UK](#)⁶. We also expect to build on lessons learned from development of the EU Climate Services [Roadmap](#)⁷. One of the benefits of this activity and any resulting framework will be to grow the community of interacting researchers, practitioners and policymakers in climate resilience.

This project complements other current UKCR work to establish coherent sets of [standards for climate services](#), a methodology for monitoring and valuing climate services, and a project to understand future needs for [climate information to inform decision making](#).



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Supported by



⁴ To avoid any conflicts, the Met Office's interests will be represented by an individual from another part of the organisation at the appropriate time. The project team will remain as independent arbiters facilitating the discussion and development of what a framework should look like and include.

⁵ Official website of the Global Framework for Climate Services – Map of Projects. <https://gfcs.wmo.int/projects-map>

⁶ Climate Service UK creates framework that provides the support and advice for public and private sectors to manage climate-related risks and opportunities. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/research-consulting/climate-service/climate-service-uk>

⁷ A European research and innovation roadmap for climate services. <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/european-research-and-innovation-roadmap-climate-services>