



Communicating climate information for decision making

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Southern African Adaptation Colloquium
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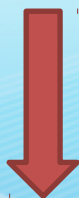


Introduction

- Need to effectively communicate climate change information to end users to ensure climate resilient development
- **SADC Secretariat:**
 - Improved planning under climate change
 - Access to climate change information in a format that is appropriate to their decision-making
- **ACC2013 Statement:**
 - “Improved and more effective communication between climate science and policy”

SADC Climate Risk Capacity Building Project

To build the capacity among the SADC member states in understanding climate change and climate variability, and its threats and opportunities, so that these can be integrated into decision-making for a climate-resilient future.

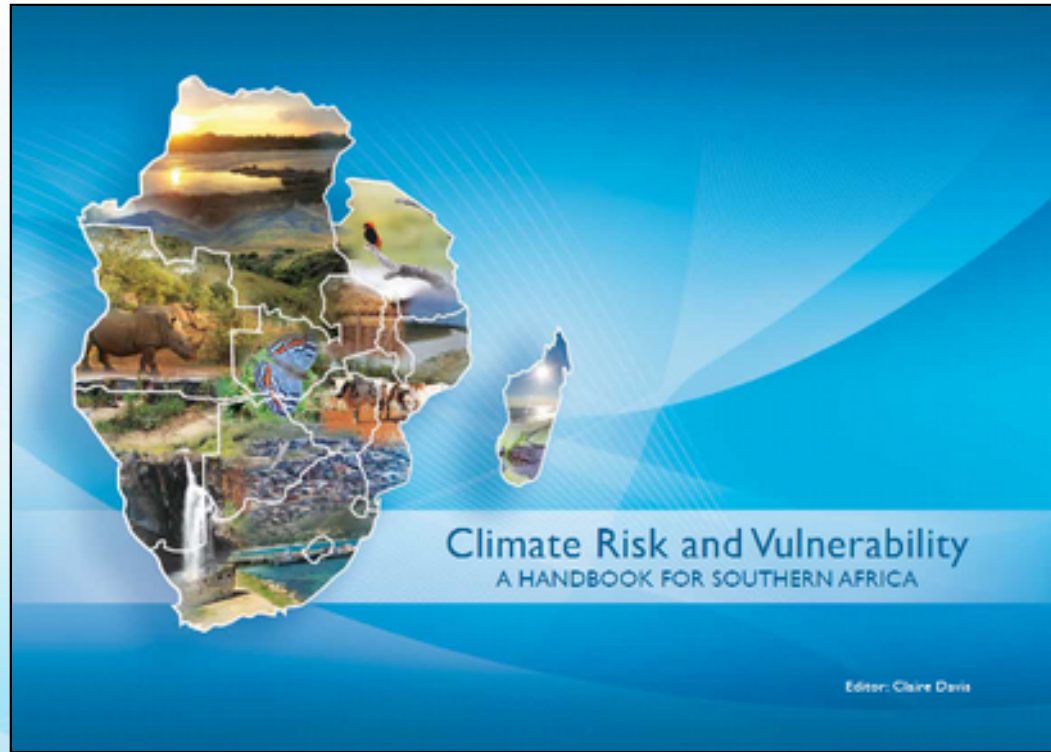


Handbook



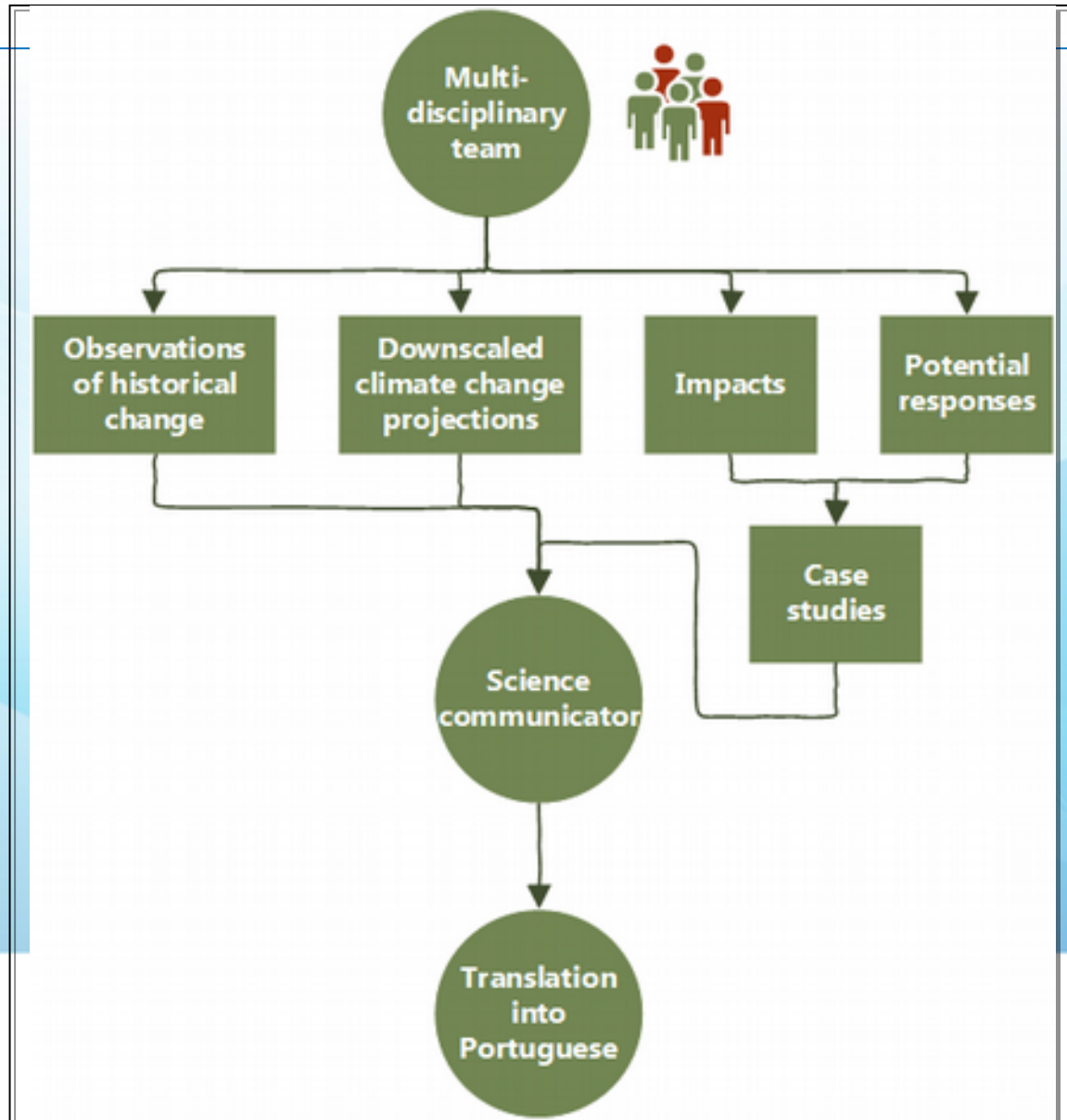
Training courses

Handbook



“Equipping decision makers in southern Africa with up-to-date information, appropriate for country-level planning, on the impact and risk of climate change and variability”

Handbook innovative in number of ways



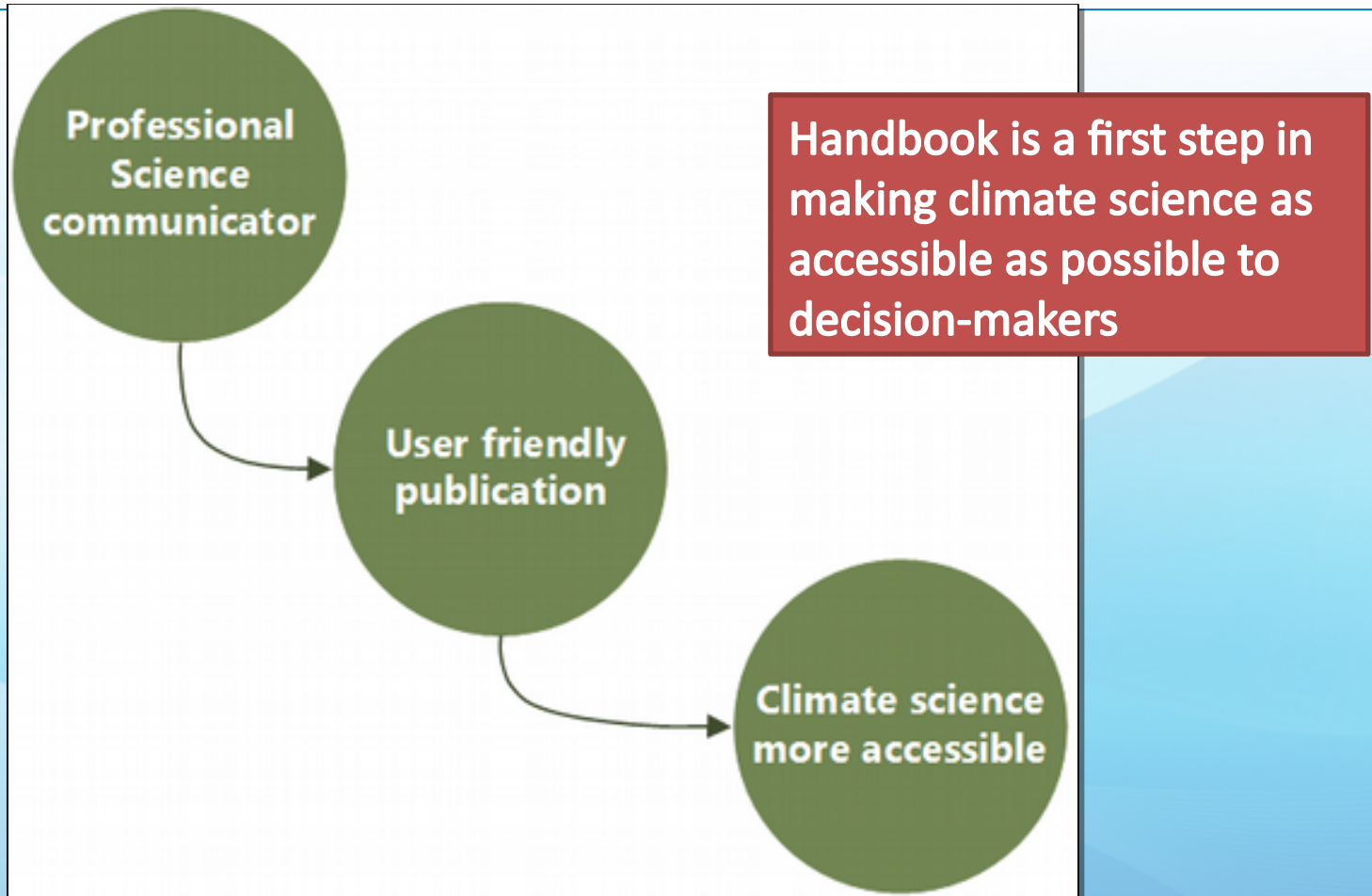
Handbook: working messages (1)

Information from statistical and dynamical downscaling were compared for areas of agreement and disagreement to provide “working messages” around what to expect from climate change in southern African region

Handbook: working messages (2)

- An increase in temperatures particularly for the interior of the subcontinent
- Rainfall
 - Increases over southeast South Africa
 - Decrease winter rainfall for west southern Africa
 - Decreases over southern Zambia and Zimbabwe during summer (DJF)
 - Decrease over central Zambia during spring (SON)

Lessons Learnt



Training courses



In country training courses (1)



3 day training course was specially developed for Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

Content was based on:

- core chapters in the handbook
- a user needs assessment conducted in each country

In country training courses (2)

- Targeted stakeholders → government departments
- Media coverage
- Linked with regional organisations



Zambia Meteorological Department

In country training courses (3)

10 Oktober, 2012 18:54 PM

Southern African Nations, CSIR Team Up For Climate Change Capacity Building

WINDHOEK (Namibia) Oct 10 (Bernama) — The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa has teamed up with four southern African countries to build capacity in the face of climate change.

A three-day workshop titled 'Climate risk capacity building in Southern Africa' commenced here Tuesday following similar training sessions held in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe last month.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, CSIR Climate Change scientist Claire Davis said the event is aimed at building capacity in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region in the face of climate change based on needs assessment in Namibia, Namibia Press Agency NAMPA reported.

"The course is intended to equip decision makers with up-to-date information on the impact and risk of climate change and variability which is appropriate for country-level planning," she said,

A book edited by Davis called 'Climate Risk and Vulnerability Handbook for Southern Africa' will be used as the basis of training.

"The handbook contains climate change processes, key existing and emerging trends and impacts as well as possible measures that can be taken to reduce these impacts," Davis said.

She warned that the four southern African countries are extremely vulnerable to climate change effects particularly rural communities that lack the capacity to adapt.

Handbook for southern Africa now available

Southern
Environment
download
will be

ment of
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up at the
Kulima
contributing

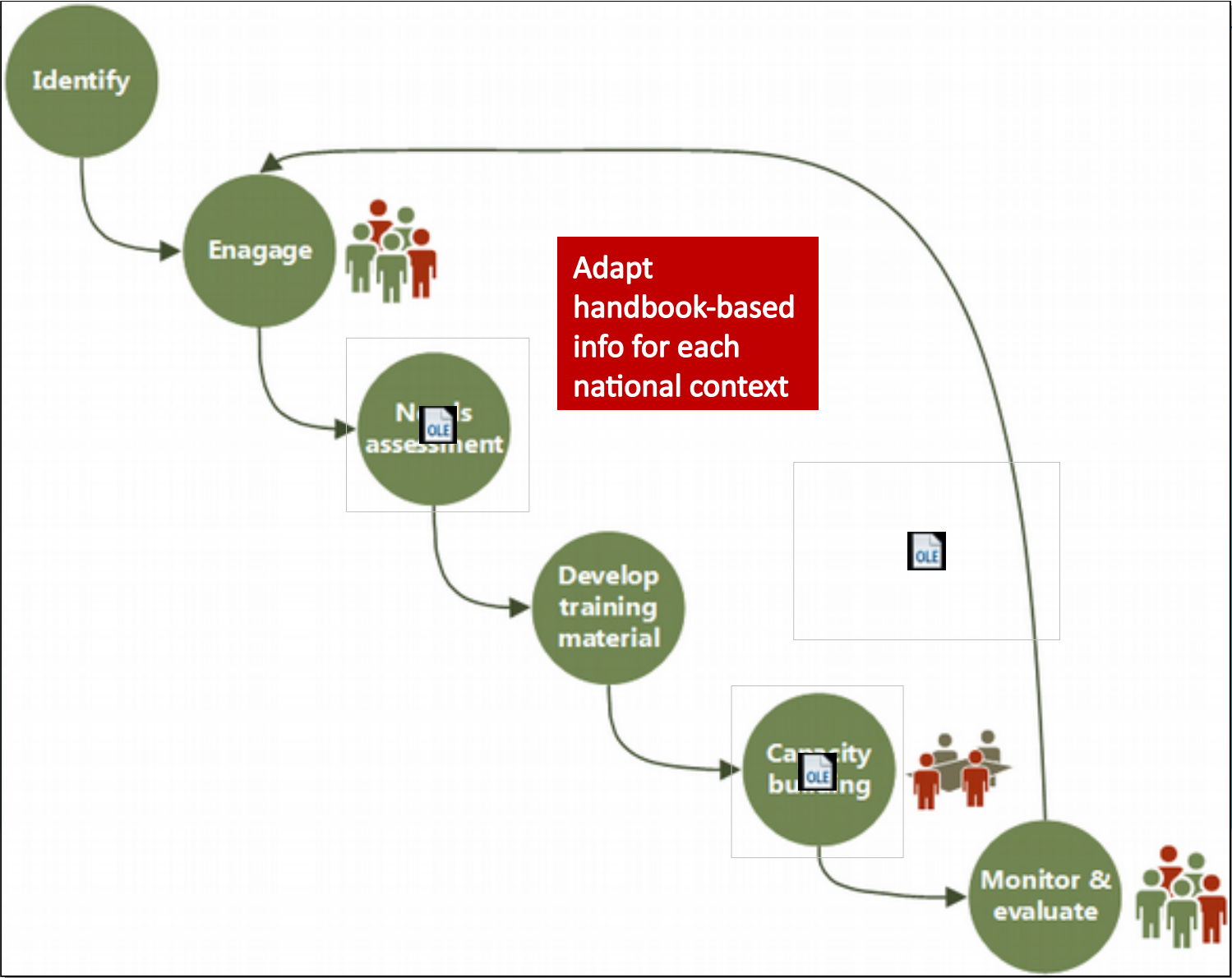
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Claire Davis, editor and climate change researcher at the CSIR, is seen at the launch of the handbook at the Highway Africa Conference in Cape Town. She is surrounded by African media and the global sustainability challenge in Cape Town last year.

Lessons Learnt



Impact

- Helped support SADC level engagement:
 - SADC Climate Change Think Tank in early 2012
 - SADC Climate Change Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Response Framework (drafted 2011; currently in finalization)
- Information provided in training courses has begun to assist long-term planning in the region

Way forward

- Improved communication is required
 - Driven by user needs
 - Newly launched climate services adaptation programme for Africa (WMO)
- Different funding streams supporting capacity building in SADC need to align better
 - Focal point in country to coordinate the engagement of stakeholders
- Importance of tracking stakeholders uptake of climate information
 - Often limited by project funding



Acknowledgements

1. The project was funded by USAID with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa
2. The handbook was compiled with inputs from the CSIR, CSAG and researchers from Kulima Integrated Development Solutions as well as other contributing authors from around the subcontinent.

The training course material as well as the reports can be downloaded from <http://www.rvatlas.org/sadc/>



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