



## **Call for Application - IGAD CLIMATE CHALLENGE HACKATHON**

### ***"ICT for Disaster Resilience (ICT4DR) in the Greater Horn of Africa"***

#Hack4Climate 2016

The 2016 Climate Challenge hackathon (hack4climate) is organized by IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ResilientAfrica Network (RAN), University of Nairobi (UoN), Safaricom and Kenya Airways.

Hack4climate is a regional competition that challenges big thinkers, software developers, mobile application gurus, engineers, environmental and techno-visionaries as well as innovation-driven, crowd-sourced experts and students who can apply cutting-edge information, communication and technology to generate solutions to climate change and climate-induced disasters that affects the people in the Greater Horn of Africa.

The theme for 2016 climate challenge is "ICT for disaster resilience (ICT4DR)" and it is intended to address the following challenges:

**Challenge 1: Early Warning System:** The vision of ICPAC is to become a regional centre of excellence in climate prediction and applications for climate risk management, environmental management and sustainable development. Currently ICPAC is generating and disseminating integrated regional early warning bulletins to stakeholders in 11 Member States – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. Among the key stakeholders are the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, National Disaster Management Authorities, Line Ministries and Sectors including Agriculture, Livestock, Health, Water etc. The bulletin is also disseminated regional stakeholders such as UN/NGO agencies and donor partners. Stakeholders usually access the bulletin through ICPAC website and recently through an email lists. However the biggest challenge is that the bulletin seems not to be reaching the intended audience. Secondly, the bulletin is a big document and is written with scientific jargons that is not easy to understand by non-climate scientists. Thirdly, the current system does not have a proper feedback mechanism.

We are now seeking for innovations that can transform the dissemination and application of the current integrated early warning system, including developing alternative sector early warning apps that can be applied to improve food security, improve access to health services, reduce violent conflict over natural resources, detect onset and cessation of a crisis in real time.

**Challenge 2: Knowledge and awareness:** Extreme climate phenomena such El Niño and La Niña and their associated impact have become a common feature in our society. Hazards such as urban flooding, drought, landslides are occurring with increased frequency resulting into serious loss of lives and livelihood, large population displacement, violent conflict over natural resources, damage and losses to social infrastructure and retarding economic growth. However, there is low level of knowledge and awareness about climate change and how the community can adapt to, and mitigate its impact. We are now seeking for innovative ideas with the potential to accelerate public knowledge and awareness about climate change and extreme climatic events. Innovations that addresses the knowledge gap among the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups while overcoming language barriers will be assessed favourably.



## How you can participate in the challenge

To participate in the challenge, you must:

- Be below 30 year of ages
- Be an individual or part of a team
- Be a citizen or resident in any of the 11 ICPAC Member State (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania)
- Submit your concept by the deadline **15 November 2016**. Late submission will not be accepted.

## Selection criteria

The following criteria will be applied to select the promising ideas:

**Round 1:** The initial innovation concept will be assessed by a team of judges who will be guided by a set of criteria: (a) understanding of the problem (2) the quality of the proposed solutions and the degree of impact (c) the business/sustainability model (d) cost effectiveness and scalability of the solution. (e) Clarity of the implementation plan (f) additional spin offs (if your proposal provides more than one solution/ benefits to the users).

**Round 2:** Prototyping workshop. Successful concepts from round 1 will be selected to participate in a three-day prototyping workshop to be held in Nairobi on 28-30 November 2016. ICPAC will cover the cost of transport, accommodation and feeding for all the hackers. On the third day, the innovators will give a 5 minute pitch to a panel of live judges and audience who will assess the prototypes on how well they demonstrate a high probability of success.

## Winning Prizes and Participation Awards

All the hackers who participated in the prototyping workshop will be awarded certificate of participation. The top three winners/projects will receive cash prizes up to maximum USD 1,500. In addition, other material prizes may also be offered by the private sector companies. The prizes will be offered during the official launch of ICRILab in first quarter of 2017.

## Start-up grants for Implementation

In addition to the cash and material prizes, the winning projects/innovations will receive start-up grants ranging up to USD 5,000 to fund the pilot implementation of the projects. If the pilot phase is successful, additional resources may be awarded for scaling up the project.

## How to submit your proposal:

All proposals must be submitted via google form. Click [application link](#) to access the form.

## Submission deadline

All applications must be submitted not later than **15 November 2016**. Late submissions will not be considered.

## Additional information

For further information and clarification, contact either of the followings:

1. Dr. Abdourahman Houmed-Gaba Maki: [ahgmaki@icpac.net](mailto:ahgmaki@icpac.net)
2. Samuel Akera: [Samuel.aker@undp.org](mailto:Samuel.aker@undp.org)