OBJECTIVE

To promote dialogue amongst a diverse spectrum of climate scientists, researchers, health professionals, NGOs, businesses and IGOs to enhance interaction and identify approaches for the effective integration of health into climate government policies in Africa.

PART 1: Clim-HEALTH AFRICA EXPERT SPEAKERS

- David Gikungu, Kenya Meteorological Department on “Climate health early warning systems for Rift Valley fever in Kenya, and implications for the broader health system”
- MacKenzie Dove, Walker Institute on “Adaptive capacity of governments in East and West Africa to understand and respond to heat”
- Celia Petty, Walker Institute on “The challenge of promoting a systems based approach to health, nutrition and well being in response to climate change”
- Rico Euripidou, Environmental Health Campaigner, groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa on “A South African example and lessons learned from integrating climate adaptation into the health sector”

PART 2: Clim-HEALTH AFRICA Q-STORMING

- Brainstorming questions or problem formulations to find the answer to the metaquestion, “What are the best questions we need to ask right now?”
- Based on the recognition that if people can ask the right questions, the answers are often easy
- Does not allow the moderator to control the outcome by the way he or she initially formulates the problem for the group

See discussion topics below
Established in 2013, Clim-Health Africa is the international network for climate and health efforts in Africa, to guide and strengthen the public health resilience of African countries. Comprised of African and international institutions focused on climate, environment and health, Clim-Health Africa provides scientific leadership, capacity building, research, and policy support to help inform and support the transition of health sectors from reactionary policy and action to proactive planning and preparedness.

PHASA - Public Health Association of South Africa Special Interest Group on Climate, Energy and Health

A multi-disciplinary network of researchers, decision-makers and practitioners working in the fields of public health, energy and fossil fuels, and climate change. Through its research and advocacy, PHASA provides an opportunity to address the impacts of climate change, the harmful effects of fossil fuel-based energy generation with adaptation interventions on health outcomes. With deeper understanding of the intersection of climate, energy and health in southern Africa, PHASA can provide evidence-based guidance for policy development and decision making across the region.

Unique Session Format

Through a novel World Café style format, including interdisciplinary presentations and interactive Q-Storming exercises, this session will understand the intersection of the following topics in Africa:

- CLIMATE
- ENERGY
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

It will also discuss what is needed to facilitate multi- and trans-disciplinary research to provide evidence for informed policy development and decision-making. Presenters and participants alike will be engaged in sharing experience and expertise to tackle some of the most pressing questions of current discourse of climate and health impacts.

Interactive Session Discussions

- Generate increased awareness to the broader adaptation community regarding work of Clim-HEALTH Africa partners and PHASA and strengthen these networks.
- Identify key barriers to cross-disciplinary climate, environment and health research, and discuss how these unique cross-sector member initiatives can respond.
- Highlight the broader implications of climate variability and change to health-related systems, identifying how National Met Services can play a big role in coordination with health systems.
- Provide examples of climate-induced health risks, highlighting the interdisciplinary focus required to address them and how to engage climate scientists with the health sector.
- Define barriers to scale up of use and/or effectiveness of observed data, monitoring networks, and early warning systems in integrating within health systems.

(led by: HA Rother, R. Euripidou, T. Chivese & J. Irlam)

Key Session Outputs:

- Peer-reviewed journal article with session participants (those giving consent or co-authoring)
- A call to action document for African governments and stakeholders