



Minding the gap between forecast producers and application users in Africa - some thoughts on its closure.

A. P. Morse

University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK (A.P.Morse@liv.ac.uk / FAX: +44 151 7942866 / Phone: +44 151 7942879)

Major weather forecasting centres routinely produce probabilistic forecasts with lead times from days to seasons. Currently, this potential resource is under utilised by the application user communities in Africa. This under utilisation is due to many factors including gaps in knowledge and awareness, issues with forecast product skill and user application know how. It is the aim to start to fill these gaps through ongoing research, development and training interactions between forecast developers, current and potential end users and the probabilistic seasonal forecast providers. Current and planned activity in the AMMA and ENSEMBLES projects are starting to address the basic science questions that are required to fill the gap between the forecast providers and their potential user communities. Ongoing work from the two projects will be discussed. This future application of this work will enable the wider use of seasonal forecast products by the user community in Africa, particularly for humanitarian purposes.