GLOBAL STATE OF SYSTEMATIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE OBSERVATION

THE VALUE OF DATA AND THE INVESTMENT CASE

9th November | 18:30h – 19:15h | Special Event Room 2

EVENT OVERVIEW

Weather and climate observations underpin almost every part of our lives. Data from satellites, ocean buoys, in-situ stations and the people who maintain them feed the forecasts behind early warnings, policy and investment decisions across sectors, and the rapid advances in AI-driven prediction. Governments, businesses and financial institutions all depend on this trusted data to manage risk and plan ahead, yet its value often goes unrecognised.

Today, the global observing system is at risk. Critical gaps persist, especially in the most vulnerable countries, weakening forecasts for everyone. New threats to observing capacity and forecast accuracy are emerging, and funding is under pressure. Efforts to build evidence and mobilise support also remain fragmented, even though the system only works when all its parts work together.

This session brings together voices from government, science, operational forecasting, international policy, finance and the private sector to discuss how to close observation gaps and keep the system strong. It will feature the launch of the ECMWF & SOFF Impact Studies Report, with new evidence on what closing gaps in the most vulnerable countries means for forecasts everywhere. Panellists will explore the socio-economic value of observations, why trusted data matters for risk management, insurance and investment decisions, and what it takes to sustain observations over the long term. Building on the COP31 Action Agenda and looking ahead to COP32, the session will also invite partners to help make observations visible, valued and sustained.

WHY JOIN

1

See the value

Discover how weather and climate observations save lives, protect economies and power better forecasts for all.

2

Shape the solutions

Join the conversation on how smart, long-term finance can close observation gaps where they matter most.

3

Be part of it

Join a growing community working to make weather and climate observations visible, valued and sustained.

AGENDA

18:30 - 18:35

Welcome & Moderation

Satu Santala, Managing Director, Nordic Development Fund (NDF)

Introducing the conversation: how weather and climate observations underpin decisions and resilience, and how partners can help keep the system strong.

18:35 - 18:40

Opening: Data at the Heart of COP31 Action Agenda

H.E. Hasan Suver, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Government of Türkiye

Why weather and climate data matter for COP31 outcomes and for the countries most exposed to climate impacts.

18:40 - 18:48

A Global Observing System at Risk

Dr Thelma Krug, Steering Committee Chair, Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Markus Repnik, Director, Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

How gaps in the most vulnerable countries weaken forecasts for everyone, and what it takes to close them for good through sustained finance and cooperation.

18:48 - 18:51

Local Observations, Global Benefits

Dr Florian Pappenberger, Director-General, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

Launch of the ECMWF & SOFF Impact Studies Report. New research shows what closing observation gaps in the world's most vulnerable countries could mean for forecasts at home, across regions and around the globe.

18:51 - 19:07

The Business Case for Better Data

Jaime de Bourbon de Parme, Environment Director, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Nick Mabey, Director, Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G)

Will Bugler, Global Technical Lead for Climate Risk and Resilience, KPMG International

Nancy Saich, Chief Climate Change Expert, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Why trusted weather and climate data matter for risk management, insurance and investment decisions, and what is at stake for businesses, investors and communities when that data is missing.

19:07 - 19:11

From Antalya to Addis Ababa

COP32 Presidency Representative

How reliable weather and climate data helps turn national climate priorities into finance-ready action under the COP31 Climate Implementation Bridge, and how this conversation can carry forward to COP32.

19:11 - 19:15

Closing: Visible, Valued and Sustained

Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Closing reflections and an invitation to partners to work together so that weather and climate observations are visible, valued and sustained.