



***Africa RiskView Customisation Review
Committee***

Call for Experts

1. Background

African Risk Capacity Agency (ARC Agency) is a Specialised Agency of the African Union (AU).¹ ARC Agency leads ARC Group, a development finance institution that provides financial tools and infrastructure to help countries manage natural disaster risk and adapt to climate change. It currently counts 33 AU countries as members and is supervised by a governing board of African ministers and experts. The ARC design and establishment phase was managed by the World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) and WFP continues to provide administrative services support to ARC Agency through an administrative services agreement.

In 2014, ARC launched its initial risk insurance product for member states through its financial affiliate, African Risk Capacity Insurance Company Limited (ARC Ltd). ARC Ltd is a specialist hybrid mutual insurance company and Africa's first ever disaster insurance pool, aggregating risk by issuing insurance policies to participating governments and transferring risk to the international market.

Africa RiskView is the technical engine of ARC and the basis for its index-based insurance risk transfer pool. The objective of *Africa RiskView* is to estimate the number of people affected by a drought event during a rainfall season and then the dollar amount required to respond to these affected people in a timely manner. To do this, *Africa RiskView* translates near real-time satellite-based rainfall information into a meaningful drought index that quantifies the impact of drought on agricultural production and rangeland conditions using existing operational early warning models. By then overlaying these data with vulnerability information, the software produces a first-order estimate of the drought-affected population, and in turn response cost estimates. Through this process, *Africa RiskView* combines four well-established disciplines; crop monitoring and early warning, vulnerability assessment and mapping, operational response and financial planning, and risk management. It covers all of Africa's different rainfall seasons and employs four basic information layers that are combined to estimate drought response costs per season.

2. Purpose of Customisation Review Committee (CRC)

The Africa RiskView models and software products are offered to countries working with the ARC Agency to model the impact of drought. Before using *Africa RiskView* for drought risk modelling, Member States undertake customisation of the software to adjust model parameters with the agrometeorological conditions of the particular country. The customisation process is highly technical and requires significant country-specific knowledge in addition to general expertise in quantitative analysis and statistical modelling. Satellite-based rainfall estimates are the only exogenous input in the model, while a set of parameters, which play a crucial role in the output of the model, are selected by the users based on soil properties, agricultural practices, populations' vulnerabilities, etc. The nature of the *Africa RiskView* drought model implies that there can be significant variability in modelled losses based on a small variation of the parameters used. Therefore, it is necessary for ARC Agency to take all required steps to optimize the in-country customisation process of the drought model.

¹ <http://www.africanriskcapacity.org>

The customisation process and selection of input parameters is carried out by the country's experts in various relevant fields including meteorology, agronomy, vulnerability assessment, statistics, who form the country's Technical Working Group (TWGs). This group is supported by the ARC Technical Support Division that trains experts in the Africa Risk View methodology and guides discussions on the selection of parameters to be used in the model. This work is validated at country level through existing platforms that review the model outputs consistency with historical drought events, ensuring that they are correctly picked in terms of frequency and magnitude.

The Customisation Review Committee has therefore been established as an independent external advisory committee of technical experts to:

- conduct a thorough review of the *Africa RiskView* customisation process by ARC countries;
- advise on the appropriateness of customisation parameters selected;
- provide recommendations and guidance on how customisations could be refined in line with good practices in drought modelling.
- provide recommendations to the Secretariat on how to better support in-country customization processes

3. Objective of Terms of Reference

The objective of these Terms of Reference is therefore to seek for experts to support ARC to review in-country customisations of the drought model in the following regions: (a) West and Central Africa, and (b) East and Southern Africa. The successful experts will be expected to review all relevant documentation pertaining to in-country customisations, participate in the review workshops (3 to 5 days depending on the number of countries being reviewed) and contribute to production of a technical review report that clearly outlines the strengths and weaknesses of individual country drought model customisations and makes recommendations for improvement.

4. Qualification and Experience of Experts

The preferable experts should have an advanced University degree (PhD preferably or Master's degree with more than 10 years of field experience) in the fields of agrometeorology, remote sensing and earth observation, vulnerability/food security assessment and analysis and agronomy. Additionally:

- The prospective candidates should have experience working in East, West and Southern Africa and demonstrate experience and knowledge of the farming systems prevalent in these regions;
- Potential experts should be currently working as researchers, academics, practitioners or agrometeorological modelling experts, either based in sub-Saharan Africa or with a strong focus on the region;
- Be available to travel for review workshops within the continent.

5. Language requirements

All potential applicants should be proficient (both written and oral) in English and/or French.

6. Duration of contract and remuneration

Upon selection, each expert sitting on the CRC shall enter into a service contract (the Service Contract) with ARC Agency, outlining the terms and conditions under which the expert will be providing his/her services to ARC Agency. Experts shall be paid a daily rate for their review of the customisations, including work done individually and days during which the CRC is meeting. The daily rate shall be fixed based on ARC Agency rules². In addition, when attending meetings by invitation of the Secretariat outside the expert's country of residence, the expert shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses, and daily living allowance for the duration of the meetings. The selected experts will be eligible to serve on the CRC for a period of not more than three years.

7. Application process

All experts interested in being selected for the Customization Review Committee should send their CV to:

Mr Benard Onzima (benard.onzima@africanriskcapacity.org) and Lucy Nyirenda (Lucy.Nyirenda@africanriskcapacity.org) by 30 April 2019.

For all queries please contact the following ARC Officers:

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² Pursuant to the Administrative Services Agreement between WFP and ARC Agency, ARC Agency is subject to WFP rules for the determination of the rate of experts.