

# CLIMADE AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES – WEEK 13

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**Host:** Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)

**Date:** May 30, 2023

**Time:** 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

**Facilitators:** Prof Tulio de Oliveira and Dr Monika Moir

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**Attendance/ No. of Participants:** 70

**Start time:** 12:03p.m. (SAST)

## Purpose of the meeting

Quarterly CLIMADE Progress Report.

## Agenda Items

1. Welcome
2. Presentation and Progress Update by Prof Tulio de Oliveira
3. Questions and Discussion

## Discussion points and questions

1. Prof Tulio de Oliveira presented an update for the first quarter (3 months) of the CLIMADE program. The update included and discussed:
  - The impact of climate change and global warming on pathogen outbreaks.
  - Mosquito borne diseases.
  - Water borne diseases.
  - Global fossil fuel emissions
  - Projected change in vector populations and vector suitability due to climate change.
  - The vision, experience, partnership, and funding of the CLIMADE consortium
  - The first activities of CLIMADE Africa in 2023;
    1. Capacity building and training of African and Latin American partners, sharing of sequencing protocols and guidelines.

2. Providing rapid genomic sequencing of pathogens by sending reagents and people to support local sequencing.
  3. Providing sequencing for African countries at 3 specialized genomic facilities.
- Capacity building
    - o Genomic African Fellowship Program which trained 36 fellows from 18 African countries at CERI which took place in April 2023.
    - o Short Video – feedback from an African fellow.
    - o Upcoming training and capacity building workshops such as the 27<sup>th</sup> International Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology Workshop (VEME)
    - o Hands on training that will take place in October 2023 (more information will be provided during subsequent meeting)
  - Overview on the previous CLIMADE weekly meetings and trainers.
  - Climade GitHub and repository.
  - Insights, importance, and impact of genomic surveillance during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.
  - The rapid response and support during the Cholera outbreak in Malawi by fellow Lucious Chabuka, the Malawi PHIM and CERI team.
  - Overview of the Malawi cholera outbreak and introduction.
  - Impact and amplification of the disease outbreak due to flooding.
  - Cholera genomic support.
  - In country sequencing of Dengue in Senegal.
  - Building on the expertise of the specialized genomic facilities in Africa.
  - Outputs and outcomes such as collaborative papers and compiling of the COP28 report.
  - Discussion on
    - o The continuous improvement of strategies in public health, policy making and resources.
    - o Collaborating and working with government officials.
    - o The need to have a network for genomic testing.
    - o The need to generate data and facilitate diagnostics to promote public health.
    - o The need for external quality assessment to ensure quality and validity of sequencing.
    - o Production of reagents and development of diagnostic kits locally.
    - o Student opportunities and training.

**Adjournment and Closing points.**

1. Prof Tulio de Oliveira adjourned the meeting at 13:04 p.m. (SAST).

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

**Submitted by:** Yajna Ramphal

**Approved By:** Monika Moir