

Briefing Package for 22nd CREWS Steering Committee and Sites Visit Malawi

Information Note No. 1

Malawi

Dates: 09-13 February 2026

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Background Information

CREWS is organizing a one-week event for its Members in Malawi from the **9th to the 13th of February 2026**. CREWS Members are invited to participate in person to the following activities in Lilongwe (to be confirmed), Blantyre and Zomba, Malawi:

- 22nd CREWS Steering Committee Meeting
- Discussions with national partners in Malawi on the current status of their early warning systems, challenges, opportunities for CREWS to further support and scale up
- Discussions with CREWS Implementing Partners in Malawi on significant outputs, project status and lessons learned so far
- Carry out visit to communities to showcase the implementation progress on community-based activities with the WMO and the Malawi Red Cross in Zomba and the radar site supported by the World Bank

- High-level launch of CREWS strategic outputs

CREWS Chair together with the WMO Secretary-General to pay a courtesy visit to the Malawi President (TBC) and Malawi Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change scheduled on the 9th of February 2026 to discuss about the Meteorological Bill and Policy supported by CREWS, World Bank and WMO .

As part of preparations for the upcoming CREWS field mission to Malawi, the Secretariat has undertaken a carbon footprint analysis to estimate and offset the emissions associated with participant travel of approximately **223 tonnes of CO₂** over a total of 261,580 km traveled by participants, covering flights, car transfers, events, and site visits. In line with CREWS' commitment to climate-responsible action, we explored offset options through the **United Nations online platform for voluntary cancellation of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) 2025**, which features UNFCCC-certified projects that reduce, avoid, or remove greenhouse gas emissions. A final Malawi-based projects were identified - [*Improved Cook Stove Project in Nkhata Bay District*](#) (USD 15 per tonne). Offsetting the estimated emissions would cost **USD 3,405**, based on estimated number of participants (30-40 participants, including CREWS Members, Implementing Partners, invited Observers) and the proposed agenda.

Breakdown of Agenda

Weekend: 07-09 February 2026

Arrival of Participants

CREWS Members and other participants are expected to arrive in Blantyre on either day. Hotel and transport arrangements will be provided and coordinated by WMO, DCCMS and CREWS Secretariat.

CREWS Chair, CREWS Secretariat Director and WMO Secretary-General are expected to arrive latest on the 8th of February 2026 either in Lilongwe or Blantyre (to be confirmed pending the advice from the Office of the President).

Participants are to arrange their own hotel accommodation. Please see below hotel accommodation options:

1. Sunbird Mount Soche
Address: Glyn Jones Road, P.O. Box 284, Blantyre
Website: <https://www.sunbirdmalawi.com/hotels/sunbird-mount-soche.html>
Email: muontsocheres@sunbirdmalawi.com
2. Amaryllis Hotel
Address: 2 Laws Road, Blantyre
Website: <https://amaryllishotels.com/>
Email: reservations@amaryllishotels.com
3. Malawi Sun Hotel and Conference Center
Address: 5 Robins Road, Blantyre,
Website: <https://www.malawisunhotel.com/Home>
Email: info@malawisunhotel.com
4. Crossroads Hotel Blantyre
Address: Green Johns Street Blantyre, Malawi
Website: <https://www.crossroadshotel.net/>
Email: btreservations@crossroadshotel.net
btsales@crossroadshotel.net

CREWS Members and other participants are requested to inform in advance, their arrival details and hotel accommodation arrangements to the CREWS Secretariat, c/o Ms. Catherine Thompson (cthompson@wmo.int). Please indicate if airport transfer is needed so that prior arrangements can be made.

Day 1: 09 February 2026, Monday

High-Level Meetings (exact location to be confirmed)

(only the CREWS Chair, CREWS Secretariat Director and WMO Secretary-General are expected for these meetings)

| Timing (tentative) | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key Persons attending |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Courtesy call on Malawi's Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, Principal Secretary (PS) and senior officials | TBD by Minister's Office | To pay courtesy call on the Minister, PS and senior officials; brief about the objectives of the visit of the SG and CREWS Steering Committee, express appreciation and seek further support | WMO Secretary-General (SG) CREWS Chair CREWS Secretariat Director Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) Director |
| | Meeting with the World Bank Country Manager Firas Raad | TBD | To exchange with the World Bank on how to further strengthen support to Malawi on early warning | WMO SG CREWS Chair CREWS Secretariat Director DCCMS Director |
| | Courtesy call on Malawi's Minister of Finance and senior officials | TBD by Minister's Office | To pay courtesy call on the Minister and senior officials; brief about the objectives of the visit of the SG and CREWS Steering Committee, express appreciation and seek further support | WMO SG CREWS Chair CREWS Secretariat Director DCCMS |
| | Courtesy call on Malawi's President | TBD by the Office of the President | To congratulate the President on the election, discuss about the legislative agenda, follow up on the Meteorological Bill and brief on WMO and CREWS support to Malawi | WMO SG CREWS Chair CREWS Secretariat Director MNRCC Minister MNRCC PS DCCMS Director |
| | Meeting with the United Nations Resident Coordinator | TBD | To exchange with the UNRC and country team on how to further strengthen support to Malawi on early warning | WMO SG CREWS Chair CREWS Director DCCMS Director |

Background of Participants of High-level Meetings



Peter Mutharika

Arthur Peter Mutharika (/mu:tə'ri:kə/ moot-ə-REE-kə; born 18 July 1940) is a Malawian politician and lawyer who served as the fifth president of Malawi from 2014 to 2020. Having won the 2025 presidential election as the candidate of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), he is the president-elect and is set to be inaugurated as the seventh president.

WMO Secretary-General (SG)



The WMO Secretary-General is Celeste Saulo of Argentina, who took office on January 1, 2024. She is the first woman and first South American to hold this position and is responsible for the technical and administrative work of the WMO Secretariat, which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

CREWS Chair



Francis Pigeon
Executive Director, Policy and Partnerships,
Meteorological Service of Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada,
Government of Canada

Director Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS)






Dr. Lucy Mtilatila
Dr. Lucy Mtilatila is a Climate Scientist who has over 20 years' experience in meteorology, climatology, climate modelling and hydrometeorology. She is currently the Director for Climate Change and Meteorological Services in Malawi.

Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining (to be completed following new appointment)

Director ad interim CREWS Secretariat

Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs

| | |
|---|--|
|  John Harding |  Joseph Mathuwa Mwanamveka |
| World Bank Country Manager  Firas Raad | United Nations Resident Coordinator (information pending) |

Logistics arrangements:

Meetings arranged by DCCMS, WMO, World Bank and CREWS Secretariat; transport provided from hotel to government offices. Airport transfer can be arranged as requested.

Day 2: 10 February 2026, Tuesday

Launch Meeting and Trip to Radar Site

| Timing (tentative) | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending | Persons |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------|
| 0930 - 1100 | Briefing of CREWS Malawi programme | TBC | To introduce DCCMS, give an overview of the CREWS Malawi programme and brief on the site visits | ALL CREW MEMBERS CREWS Implementing Partners | |

Draft Agenda of the Briefing:

- Welcome and Introductions – Director of DCCMS, CREWS Chair
- Overview of the CREWS Malawi Programme – Arati Belle, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank and Joshua Ngaina, WMO
- Moderated Discussion by TBD
- Precap of the field visit to the radar site by World Bank
- Precap of the field visit to Zomba by WMO
- Lunch Break

Logistics arrangements: DCCMS with WMO and World Bank to facilitate arrangements

| Timing | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending Persons |
|-----------|----------------|--|--|---|
| Afternoon | 1st site visit | Radar site – Kasamba hills in Zalewa (15.458177, 34.905732) | The visit aims to showcase the rada site’s functionality and operational impact. | ALL CREWS MEMBERS CREWS Implementing Partners |

Brief Background:

The first weather radar system in Malawi is installed under the World Bank–supported Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP), programme being leveraged by CREWS Malawi. It is located at Kasamba Hills in Zalewa, in the Shire River Basin, an area highly prone to heavy rainfall and flooding, and occasionally by cyclones. This basin was prioritized because communities there face repeated losses of lives, crops, and infrastructure due to flash floods and severe weather.

The radar will give forecasters real-time information on rainfall and storms, improving the accuracy of early warnings and helping communities prepare and respond more effectively.

CREWS provided vital technical assistance, not only to support the radar setup but also to build the capacity of DCCMS staff. Capacity building activities included how to properly manage the entire process — from development of technical specifications to installation and long-term use and maintenance of the weather radar. In addition, forecasters have been trained on radar data and product interpretation and use. Lessons learned and Technical Assistance will also support the 2nd Radar (in the Central Malawi) under the 2nd Regional Program for Climate Resilience (RCRP2) for Malawi, in order to ensure interoperability between the two radars and the development and use of a radar composite/mosaic.

Draft agenda of the meeting:

- Description of the weather radar system in Malawi by DCCMS
- Overview of the technical assistance provided under CREWS by the World Bank
- Tour of the weather radar infrastructure with the explanation of all components by DCCMS
- Q&A

Logistics arrangements: World Bank and DCCMS to facilitate local arrangements.

Day 3: 11 February 2026, Wednesday

| Timing | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending Persons |
|-----------|----------------|--|---|--|
| whole day | 2nd site visit | Zomba Morning – visit to community Afternoon – meet with community leaders and district officials at Kuchawe | To visit the community and meet with community leaders and district officials, learn about their experiences and challenges | ALL CREWS Members CREWS Implementing Partners |

Brief Background:

The Masongola ward in Zomba city is one of the communities supported by the CREWS Malawi programme. Zomba city is in southern Malawi located at the foot of Zomba Plateau and used to be the capital of Malawi. The climate is cooler, and it is surrounded by mountains and gardens. Agriculture and small trade are the main economic activities.

The WMO and the Malawi Red Cross supported capacity building of the community leaders in Masongola ward in early warning, preparedness and early action. As of date, gender risk assessments have been conducted, hazard maps were developed, SOPs were developed, disseminated and shared and 10 Ward Disaster Risk Management Committees were strengthened, and leaders were trained to improve coordination and strengthen community engagement. Small equipment was also provided that are being used to disseminate early warning and for preparedness activities (i.e. smart phones, reflector vests, gumboots, whistles and torches). Protective gears were also distributed for rescue operations.

Special thanks to the Malawi Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), WMO and World Bank for coordinating the agenda and logistical arrangements with the CREWS Secretariat.

Draft agenda of the meeting:

- Introduction of community leaders
- Exchange on activities conducted with CREWS support, challenges, results and lessons learned

Logistics arrangements:

WMO, Malawi Red Cross, and DCCMS to facilitate local arrangements and community mobilization.

Day 4: 12 February 2026, Thursday

| Timing | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending Persons |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|---|--|
| 0900 – 1200 (followed by lunch) | Partners' coordination meeting with national stakeholders and development partners in Malawi | TBC | To hear from various stakeholders on what challenges and opportunities in Malawi on improving access to early warning | ALL CREWS Members CREWS Implementing Partners |

Draft agenda of the meeting:

- Overview of the Malawi early warning services and dissemination by DCCMS
- Overview of risk knowledge by DoDMA
- Overview of preparedness and response by Malawi Red Cross
- Discussion: Stakeholders to comment on challenges and opportunities to improve EWS in Malawi
- Moderated discussion by TBD

Logistics arrangements:

WMO, World Bank and DCCMS to facilitate arrangements

| Timing | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending Persons |
|-------------|---|---------------|---|--|
| 1400 - 1600 | High Level Event: Unveiling the CREWS strategic outputs supporting the Government of Malawi | TBC | To highlight, launch and communicate the strategic achievements of the CREWS Malawi programme | ALL CREWS Members CREWS Implementing Partners |

Agenda of the meeting:

- DCCMS Strategic Plan by DCCMS Director
- Meteorology Bill and Policy by DCCMS Director and/or PS
- DRM Act and Policy by DoDMA Commissioner
- Moderated Discussion by TBD

Logistics arrangements:

World Bank, WMO and DCCMS to facilitate local arrangements.

Day 5: 13 February 2026, Friday

| Timing | Agenda | Venue/address | Objectives and Details | Key attending Persons |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| whole day | 22nd CREWS Steering Committee meeting | TBC | To be discussed with The Chair | ALL CREWS Members CREWS Implementing Partners Invited Observers – from CREWS Malawi partners |

Agenda of the meeting:

Whole-day Steering Committee meeting with members, implementing partners, and invited observers. Detailed agenda to be discussed with the Chair and sent separately to the CREWS Steering Committee.

Logistics arrangements:

CREWS Secretariat to coordinate documentation, interpretation, and technical support.

14 February – departure from Blantyre

Profile of CREWS Members - to be provided once we get confirmations on who would be joining

Profile of Other Participants – to be provided once we get confirmations on who would be joining

Other important information – i.e. visa arrangements, hotel accommodation, weather, currency, security (from UNDSS), etc.

END OF VISIT