

C-RISe Madagascar Training, DGM Tana, 27/11 to 01/12/17

Informal summary, Ellis Ash, SatOC



Participants

Andriamirijaso, Mbolatiana
Andrianjafinirina, Solonomenjanahary (head forecaster, back 3)
Raharimalala, Omega Huguette (forecaster, front 4)
Rajaonarivony, Andrinavalona Rhino (E Coast, back 1)
Ranaivoson, Andriamihaja André (research, seasonal forecast, back 7)
Randrianary, Fenomamytantely
Randriantsihomaninarivo, Anthony Cyrille (W Coast, back 8)
Rasolonjatovo, Herilalaina (front 8)
Razafiarinosy, Damien Daudet
Razafindraibe, Franck (back 2)
Raharisoa, Andrianambinina (DGM IT support, back 4)
Rabearisoa, Ando (Last 2 days, front 3)
Razafindrainibe, Haja (front 5)

Plus for welcome and final session:

Luc Randriamarolaza, director applied meteorology (back 5)

Marie Louise (front 6)

Missing although registered:

Bemiasa, John

Summary of course

Lectures and exercises were delivered according to the schedule, finishing a bit early on the Wednesday and Thursday. After lunch on Thursday we had a tour of the operational meteorology building (DEM), a few hundred meters down the road from DGM.

In general their English wasn't up to asking many questions, so I'm not sure how much was understood. Over the week though a few of them became more confident and asked questions (very quietly!). The people I don't recognize in photo are probably the ones who didn't really have spoken English.

I've got feedback forms, not really analysed them but vary from okay to good.

I worry about overselling satellite data that is most useful offshore when most of their needs are quite coastal and local.

There's a tide gauge at Toamisina on the East coast. We got some data 2010 to 2016 (from IOC site with Angela's help) and were able to take a look at this. We compared with known cyclones and shows interesting features, including some periods where water is lower than tidal prediction (strong winds along the coast from the north?). These data should be exploited in validation part.

Main interest in E Coast is from Rhino, who works as the meteorologist on Sainte Marie Island. He was one of the keenest participants, as you'll see from Use Case presentations. He hasn't done programming, and would need tools like the tidal analysis ones to work with data.

Use Cases

On the Friday morning I presented the requirements for Use Cases and the examples from Mozambique, and an outline of some ideas I'd picked up on during the week. I had also introduced the Use Case part on first afternoon to ask them to think about them during the week.

They then split into small groups, mostly pairs, to prepare presentations. There were 5 of them presented in English (see slides).

Later Luc (Director of Applied Meteorology) told me he would be the main contact for Use Cases at DGM. He seemed friendly and helpful.

Logistics

For the expenses payments to participants I gave Marie Louise a load of euros, and she went away and changed them to a few million Ar at a bureau de change. In general locals can't change euros at a bank without evidence of having been abroad (though she had this, think the rate was negotiable and better at bureau de change). They all signed for their payments, I have these. I have some receipts but payments are mostly based on an allowance.

Haja's brother was her driver and also drove me to and from the guesthouse (~2.5km). I filled his tank of diesel up at the end of the week.

Guesthouse Maison du Pyla was great. Tasty food, and had company some of the time from people doing field work who stop there before getting a flight back to Europe. There's a decent little restaurant just down the road that I discovered for Friday lunch. Took 3 hours to drive 18km to the airport Saturday daytime.