

WHAT IS RANET?

RANET (Radio and interNET rural communication project)

The RANET-Kenya Project is a Rural Communications Project that seeks to transmit vital weather and climate information to Kenyan rural communities.

RANET is an effort of several partners to make climate and weather related information more accessible to rural communities. The core belief of RANET and its participants is that science and technology can be used to increase development and improve human lives.

Started by the African Center for the Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and University of Oklahoma in 1999. Project operational in Africa (different levels of involvement in different countries) and pilot activities in Asia and the Pacific.

RANET Vision:

To enable all kenyans access, understand and use weather and climate information to improve their lives in a sustainable way.

RANET Mission:

RANET-KENYA exists to provide reliable, cheap and easy to implement solutions to telecommunication problems of delivering easily understandable information to rural communities and receive from them observations and feedback.

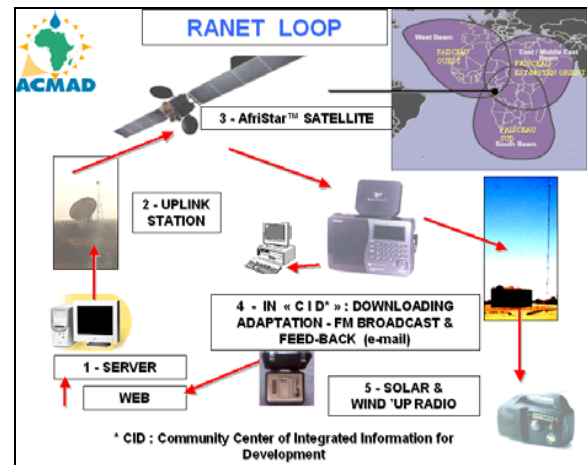
RANET Motto: *Weather in your language*

Target objectives:

To establish a mechanism for dissemination of RANET-KENYA: Weather in your language

weather and climate prediction products using a combination of:-

- Internet
- Afristar Satellite (ALC Data Channel)
- Multimedia Digital receivers
- Rural Community FM transmitters
- Wind Up radios
- Information (Climate)



Target groups: farmers, herders, fisher communities. They require information to make decisions on; **when to plant crops, where to find water for animals, reduce vulnerability to meteorological risks such as flooding (Budalangi), drought, diseases etc.**

Why RANET?

Poverty is an evil that can only be eradicated by applying scientific tools in our production, human health, water resource management, infrastructure development and education, etc.

Timely availability of accurate meteorological information and integration of that information in our strategic planning is key in mitigating the impacts of climatic variability and change.

RANET-KENYA: Weather in your language

The how of RANET: activities include:

- awareness development;
- training;
- partnership development;
- pilot activities to demonstrate various community technologies;
- broadcast management;
- and development of a dissemination network through partnership and platform development.

In all cases RANET strives to have information produced in local languages and in a non-technical format.

RANET activities have inevitably partnered with and resulted in a numerous development efforts focusing on health, the rights of women and children, agriculture, good municipal governance, etc.

RANET operates on a multimedia channel. The channel name and BCID is as follows:

Africa- ALC DATA, BCID 792

A full list of channel names, content, and BCIDs is available from the [WorldSpace website](#);

WorldSpace: (WS) what or who is it?

The WorldSpace Corporation developed and manages the satellite system through which RANET is able to broadcast multimedia (data) content to all of Africa, most of Asia and Pacific. Broadcast capacity is provided to RANET through the WorldSpace Foundation which is endowed with 5% capacity of the WorldSpace satellites for development and humanitarian purposes.

RANET-KENYA: Weather in your language

When is RANET content broadcast over the WS digital radio broadcast satellites?

RANET currently broadcasts at the beginning of every hour on the WorldSpace Afristar satellite on the Foundation's Africa Learning Channel Multimedia Service (ALC DATA)(BCID 792). Depending upon the hour 2 megabytes of information or as much as 10 megabytes of information may be transmitted. As the channel transfer rate is 64kbps, our information generally finished broadcasting 4 to 20 minutes after the beginning of the hour. Again, the amount of time will depend upon how much broadcast space RANET was allotted.

Content which is critical in nature (warnings, etc.) or which updates on a near hourly basis (some satellite imagery, etc.) is broadcast every hour.

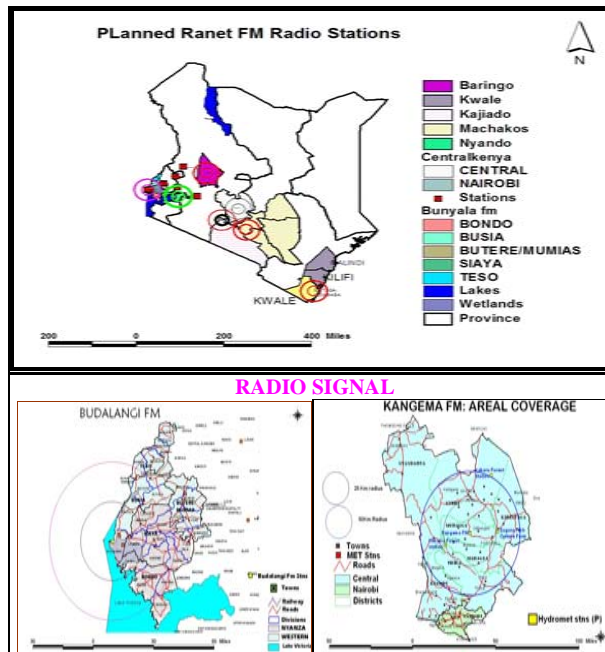
RANET-Kenya has two components;

1. RANET Information Stations make it possible to receive weather, climate, health and other developmental information in rural based areas. There are 16 throughout the country.

2. Rural Community FM Radio Stations

A pilot project is underway in Suswa, Narok where a frequency was allocated. Other areas expected to have the radio stations include Kangema, Budalangi, Kwale, and Machakos. *The radio stations are expected to be run and managed jointly by the community in which they are set up and stake holders* who include Kenya Meteorological Department as facilitators, local administration and local NGOs.

RANET-KENYA: Weather in your language



CONTACTS

Director, Kenya Meteorological Department
 E-mail: director@meteo.go.ke
COORDINATOR: Roselyn Amunyelet Ojala
 P. O. Box 30259, 00100 GPO, Nairobi
 TEL: 254-20-3876957' FAX: 254-20-3876955
 E-mail: mwadali@meteo.go.ke

RANET-KENYA: Weather in your language

RANET

Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)

RANET-KENYA: Weather/ Climate in your language



RANET - KENYA RURAL COMMUNICATION PROJECT
 Taking Information to Rural Kenya

MISSION

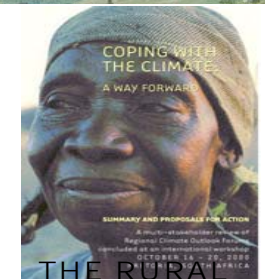
RANET AND FOOD SECURITY
 To improve agricultural and livestock production, mitigate effects of disasters, promote health and conserve environment for rural communities using weather and climate forecasts for sustainable development.
 Use of weather/climate information to increase production in agriculture.

RANET AND HEALTH
 Providing early warning information on weather and climate related risks to avoid the price of such disasters for millions.

RANET AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT
 Helping rural communities recover and rebuild impacted by disasters.
 Rural community radio station addressing the poor needs of the people.

RANET AND COMMUNICATION
 Energy saving windup radio.

Sponsored by:
 NOAA, WorldSpace, Freerplay Foundation, ACMAF and Safaricom



SUPPORTED BY:
 USAID
 NOAA-OGP
 WMO
 CIMMS
 UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
 UK-MET OFFICE
 WORLDSPACE FOUNDATION
 CFAR

WOMAN: PIVOT OF DEVELOPPEMENT