

Climate information products for users: Examples from the German Climate Service Center

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Clima South Workshop

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- Extension of Meteorological Services
 - Usually focus on physical data and add a dissemination process.
- Development by a University or a group of universities
 - Usually cross departmental groups that are multi-disciplinary.
 - Strong research components, little experience with customers
- Development of an expert group by the private Sector
 - Usually limited experience with climate research
 - Good understanding of the economic and corporate aspects
- Creation of a new institution
 - Very few cases with no prior existence CSC is one of the few cases

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Federal Ministry of Education and Research Climate Service Center Germany

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- Created as part of the Hightech-Strategy for protection against climate change of the German Federal Government
- Initially funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (2009-till May2014) and will continue on a permanent basis in the Helmholtz Association.
- Located in Hamburg

CSC in a Nutshell

- Today 34 staff-members plus 11 permanent guest scientist
- Strong partnership with world-class scientific institutions in Germany and abroad





CSC: Mission, Vision, Values

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Mission

CSC offers products, advisory services and decision-relevant knowledge based on sound scientific knowledge in order to support government, administration and business in their efforts to adapt to climate change.

Vision

CSC is a central node of a national network that provides and disseminates knowledge on climate **change**.

Values

- Interdisciplinary acquisition of knowledge: based on existing knowledge
- Transformation of knowledge into services: transparent and "best practice"
- Benefits in terms of common interest: essential criterion
- Communication with respect to uncertainties: actively pursued
- Establishment and maintaining of corresponding networks: central task

Why is there a need for climate services?



- Not many customers require generic data from a large database. They require analyses and expert judgment using data and other information.
- The customers require information about the **robustness** of the data and information about **uncertainties**.
- Local knowledge is an important aspect.



• Generic products and services:

- Freely available products and services, free of charge
- Prototype development and innovation:
 - Methodologies, instruments and skills, for (1) conception and development for climate services, (2) generation of new products and services (prototypes) and (3) improvement of knowledge transfer and communication
 - Development process either within CSC initiated activities or within externally funded projects, e.g. BMBF, GIZ, EU

• Customer specific individual services:

Against retribution

CSC-Product-Portfolio

Example of products







Regional climate simulations

Example for: Prototype development and innovation

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CSC actively participates in the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX)

 Conduct simulations over 8 different CORDEX domains



CSC coordinates EURO-CORDEX in cooperation with the Wegener Center in Graz

- EURO-CORDEX Community consits of 26 modeling groups in Europe
- Focus is on the European aspects of the CORDEX Initiative
- Common evaluation and analysis of the climate projections.
- Interface with users.





CORDEX simulations with REMO

| CORDEX Domains | Evaluation (1989-2008) | Historical (1949-2005) | RCP2.6 (2006-2100) | RCP4.5 (2006-2100) | RCP8.5 (2006-2100) |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Europe (0.11) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Europe (0.44) | ✓ | v | ✓ | ✓ | ¥ |
| Africa (0.44) | ✓ | V V | ✓ | V V | V V |
| West Asia (0.44) | ✓ | V V | ✓ | ✓ | |
| MENA (0.44) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| South America (0.44) | Image: A start of the start of | | ✓ | ✓ | v |
| Australia (0.44) | ~ | ted GL | | Contraction of the second | |
| East Asia (0.44) | v 🌈 | | | | |
| North America | ~ | | | V ¹ - 200 | |

- ✓ forced with ERA-INT
- forced with MPI-ESM r1i1p1
- forced with ICHEC_EC-EARTH r12i1p1

Climate signal maps

Example for: Prototype development and innovation

Assessment of robustness of projected regional climate changes

58°N

56°N

54°N

52°N

50°

48°N

46°N

Methode: state-of-the-art Ensemble or regional climate projections (~30 simulations)

three-level robustness test:

- Agreement of projections
- Significance of projected changes
- Small sensitivity to minor shifts in the reference and projection time periods

Depicted time horizon: 2036 – 2065, Thresholds, parameters, regions, timehorizons etc. can be adjusted to the user needs



than 25mm Days with more precipitation: All regions that failed at least one robustness test are colored in grey

6°E

8°E 10°E 12°E

2036-2065 vs 1966-1995



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58°N

56°N

54°N

52°N

50°N

48°N

46°N

Pfeifer et al., Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology in revision

Climate-Fact-Sheets

Example for: Prototype development and innovation

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<u>Aim:</u> Concise summary of available state-of-theart climate change information for a country/region



Example pages of the Climate-Fact-Sheet for Pakistan



Climate-Fact-Sheets



Example for: Prototype development and innovation



Stadtbaukasten (Tool Box for cities)

Example for: Prototype development and innovation

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Climate mitigation and adaptation

Sustainability

Support for the development of climate-friendly cities.

The modules address different issues, e.g.,

- 1. Monitoring of adaptation and emission budget
- 2. Introduction of climate aspects in urban planning
- 3. Use of climate projections
- 4. Moderation of the participatory process

Project conducted in cooperation with the city of Kiel







CSC-Product-Portfolio



Example of products



General Guiding Documents



Example for: Generic Services

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Glossary

Regularly updated documents with terms used in transdisciplinary climate change research





Brochure on statistical methods

Explanation of commonly used statistical methods and best practice examples for their use in climate change and climate impact and adaptation research

User Interface



Example for: Generic Services

- CSC is developing short documents (20-30 pages) that **translate IPCC results** for different economic sectors.
- The first document focuses on "climate change and human health".
- The effort is led by a scientific communication specialist.
- The document includes
 - The 10 key findings of IPCC re. climate change (WP1)
 - Information about impacts on health
 - Adaptation issues
- The document will be published in May or June 2014.
- It will be distributed to the health community.



CSC-News-Scan

Example for: Generic Services

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Summary of recent research papers related to climate change

- Collection of Interdisciplinary topics - Short, easily understandable texts with

links to the original publication

- Monthly release either via e-mail or via the homepage of the CSC

- about 8.000 regular readers





CSC-Product-Portfolio

Example of products





KfW – Expert Network

Example for: Inidividual Services



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On behalf of

In cooperation with and behalf of the German development bank KfW

Aims:

- Establishment of a network of international and interdisciplinary experts in the field of climate change, climate impact and adaptation research that can be contacted by the KfW for specific thematic and/or region specific questions, consulting issues
- Development of specific products in order to support the strategic and thematic planning of for the KfW



Interdisciplinary syntheses reports

Example for: Inidividual Services

Climate Changes for the Greater Cairo Region, Potential Impacts and Possibilities for Adaptation Options

Date: 8 April 2013

Author: Climate Service Center Germany – An Institution of the Helmholtz Association

Hamburg, Germany



Outline

Objectives and overview

Synthesis on state-of-the-art in climate modeling

- Introduction to climate modeling
- A side note to regional climate modeling
- New developments in climate science

Climate of Greater Cairo Region and future climate changes

Synthesis on state-of-the-art on possible impacts of climate changes and vulnerability

- The concept of vulnerability and its application to informal areas
- Water availability in a changing climate

Conclusions and recommendations



Eine Einrichtung des Helmholtz-Zentrums Geesthach

Knowledge transfer and Capacity Building



Example for: Inidividual Services

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Organization of "Capacity Development" courses for countries of the South (Central America, South America, Africa, Asia)

- Technical courses on handling of climate data and climate information
- Participatory processes
 - Prioritization of adaptation actions
 - Use of decision-support tools
 - Participation approaches and models





Impression from a workshop held in Cameroon on behalf of the GIZ





- The concept of climate service is new and largely unexplored
- Service needs Science.
- The national and international landscapes are complex with different competing institutions at different levels.
- The scientific community is not yet sufficiently engaged.
- Until today, many customers do not know which services and products they need.
- The functions of CSC include aspects that clearly belong to a public service, while others are primarily market-oriented tasks.

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Thank You

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