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Welcome to the CSP newsletter December 2017 edition!

Dear reader, as always, you will find various information on partner activities, recent publications and upcoming events. On page 3, you'll find the call for papers for a special issue of the journal *Climate Services*, focussing on the ICCS5. There is an interview with Katuscia Fara from the World Food Programme (page 12), and do not forget to check out the surveys' page (19).

The CSP secretariat wishes you a peaceful time and all the best for the coming year.

Enjoy reading!

climate negotiations

letter from the CSP Secretariat

Just a few weeks ago, the 23rd Conference of the Parties, COP23, of the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has closed its last plenary.

Expectations towards the conference had been rather moderate ahead of the event: after the COP21, where the Paris Agreement was reached, the COP23 was perceived as a more procedural event.

Nevertheless, it was an important conference, a COP which had to clear the way for the actual implementation of the decisions of the Paris Agreement (PA), through progress on the Paris rulebook. The rulebook was started to be drawn up in order to break down the higher-level goals of the PA into concrete, convertible steps to achieve emission reductions and more support for the implementation of adaptation measures.

Insofar, COP23 was decisive, and it was, as a 'working conference', a success. The draft standards that have to become enacted at the COP24 in Poland next year did get off the ground. Examples for this are the accounting of carbon emissions and the informal note on the adaptation communications, which includes different proposals of guidance of what should be included in this new adaptation reporting tool.

Aside of these often perceived as technical issues of this year's COP, there were high expectations for some particular topics, for which clear decisions and amendments to former agreements were awaited to be met, predominantly in terms of financial issues.

Both climate protection and adaptation to climate change imply that substantial financial challenges have to be mastered. Who will bear the costs? How can solutions be implemented at the regional and practical levels? This time, as a result of the negotiations industrialised countries such as Germany agreed on enhancing the financial support which will help to disburden the regions affected by climatic pressure at least to some extent.

Among these admissions was, e.g., the decision to develop an insurance system that, for the case of extreme events, shall deliver support much faster than

today. Many industrialised countries promised to actively work out the corresponding concepts and contribute to its set up through an initial funding.

Several incidents during the COP23 signaled that the topic of adaptation is (slowly) gaining ground, as is claimed by concerned countries since several years. These signs include, e.g., numerous side events' activities, the adaptation gap report, and the launch of the 'Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation'.

Set into the broader context of 20 years of global climate conferences and taking the perspective of the most affected regions, this may be another success of the COP23: the growing political will to take action on adaptation measures and the increasing inclusion of the discussion on "loss and damage" in the climate agenda.

After this year with weather extremes, it becomes even more evident how much attention adaptation actions deserve. Even if the PA can be met in terms of CO₂ emissions and thus a limiting of climate warming to 2° C – climatic stress will be enormous nevertheless.

The good news is that a lot is already collected in terms of knowledge and capability, so that a transformation seems to be possible, towards a climate and environment protecting way of living. The even better news is that this transformation can lead to increased welfare, if it is addressed in an integrative way.

The efforts to curtail climate change and to adapt to its unavoidable consequences crucially depend on climate knowledge and information. Climate services thus play a vital role in supporting societies to change and adapt, through providing data, their interpretation, and methods. The CSP can contribute to this and support the transformation process.

With this, I'd like to wish to you all the best for the year 2018: health, luck, strength, and inspiration – there is a lot to do!

Daniela Jacob

Director of Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)

Special issue:**The Fifth International Conference on Climate Services, ICCS5 - Learning from Success and Failure**

We are very happy to announce the call for papers for a special issue of *Climate Services* journal, devoted to selected full papers from the Fifth International Conference on Climate Services, ICCS5. We are able to fund the publication of a limited number of papers, depending on suitability and quality of the submissions.

We invite all contributing authors from ICCS5 to submit full-paper versions of the abstracts accepted and presented at the conference, as well as authors of papers that are of general interest within the conference themes.

Please note that, in the first case, the full papers must include substantial supplements with respect to the extended abstracts (including proofs, further results, computational experience, etc.) and should cite the conference paper where appropriate. Authors must comply with the instructions for authors and quality requirements of *Climate Services*. The full papers will be subject to a new refereeing process.

We also extend this invitation to the ICCS5 keynote speakers, who can submit papers related to their talks at the conference or papers of general interest within the conference themes.

call for papers:**ICCS5 special issue in *Climate Services***

<http://www.climate-services.org/iccs/iccs5/>

The full papers must be submitted through the Elsevier Editorial System (<http://ees.elsevier.com/dam>).

When submitting your paper, be sure to specify that the paper is a contribution for „Special Issue: ICCS5“ and select the article type, when prompted, S.I.: ICCS5.

The **deadline for submission** of full papers is **April 1st, 2018**.

All accepted papers will be published online individually before print publication.

Technical Exchanges Hosted in East Africa and South Asia - Climate Services for Resilient Development Partnership (CSR D)

CSR D's Technical Exchange program promotes actionable climate services through regionally focused opportunities to exchange knowledge and build capacity - while supporting regional communities of practice.

Launched in early 2017, the first Exchange was hosted in Cali, Colombia, and included a training on tools of the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) for analysis of climate and food security (see April 2017 Newsletter). Recently, CSR D has sponsored two additional Exchanges, in East Africa and South Asia.

The CSR D Exchange entitled "Existing and New Tools for Drought Monitoring and Forecasting in Eastern Africa" was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, August 23-25, 2017, in conjunction with the convening of the 47th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum. The Exchange brought together more than 70 professionals representing 14 countries, including experts from meteorological services and from the agriculture, food security, disaster management, and public health sectors throughout East Africa. It provided for a cross-sectoral exchange on current practices and priorities for information to support decision making, particularly with regard to managing drought-related risks in the region. Equally, it provided training on climate information products and delivery platforms that have been implemented in several East African countries under the IRI ENACTS initiative and the WISER/SCIPEA program. In particular, participants were introduced to the ENACTS Maproom facilities for agriculture and food security; and for climate analysis, monitoring, and forecasting. This CSR D exchange was organized jointly with ICPAC, IRI, CCAFS and the UK Met Office; and hosted by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency.

The "CSR D Technical Exchange on Participatory and Institutional Approaches to Agricultural Climate Services Development in South and South East Asia", was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh September 17-19, 2017. This event brought together more than 50 professionals from 9 countries, representing international partners, and meteorological services, government agencies, and NGOs operating in the agricultural sector throughout South and Southeast Asia. The principal focus of this exchange was less about technology, and more about engagement and delivery of services. Participants were introduced to existing participatory processes that have been implemented in the region, and throughout the world, to reach end-users (esp. farmers) and to deliver tailored agricultural climate services. Experts representing several programs, including the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), CARE/Participatory Scenario Planning, CCAFS, and national agricultural outreach programs in India, Indonesia, and Philippines, among others, shared experiences, results, and lessons learned. As a result, participants gained a good overview of existing agricultural climate services programs in the region, current practices in participatory methods, and how these might be adapted to their own country contexts. In addition, they were exposed to a variety of institutional arrangements that currently exist to support national agricultural climate services, which can inform new service development efforts. The Exchange was organized with, and hosted by CSR D Contributing Partner CIMMYT (International Wheat and Maize Improvement Center).

More information on CSR D and the CSR D Technical Exchanges is available on the CSR D website at

<http://www.cs4rd.org/resources.html>

and

<http://www.cs4rd.org/news.html> .

**Global Framework for Climate Services - GFCS
Enhancing Regional Capacity to deliver seasonal
forecasts in Western South America:
A Technical Workshop with participants from
Colombia, Peru and Chile**



Photo: GFCS,

Research advances have enabled reliable seasonal forecasts of hydrometeorological parameters worldwide, providing useful information to a variety of climate-sensitive sectors of economic and social importance. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has established operational infrastructures to make available seasonal forecasts regularly on global and regional scales, through the Global Producing Centers of Long Range Forecasts (GPC-CLRFs) and the Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), including the facilitating mechanisms such as Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs). It is now becoming imperative that appropriate systems are put in place at the national level, to maximize the use of the global/regional inputs to produce calibrated seasonal forecast products tailored to economic and societal sectors sensitive to climate variability and change.

With the aim to identify the technical and scientific barriers in the current national prediction system that prevent the full exploitation of the available climate information in support of climate risk management, the WMO and IDEAM (Colombia NMHS), with additional support from USAID, convened a technical workshop in Bogota, Colombia, on 30 October – 1 November 2017.

International experts in seasonal and sub-seasonal forecast met with the representatives of IDEAM, DMC (Chile NMHS), SENAMHI (Peru NMHS) and CIIFEN (RCC-WSA) to define a set of interventions that will improve the current NMHSs capabilities, hereby delivering climate prediction products to meet the needs of national development sectors such as agriculture, water and energy.



Photo: GFCS,

The meeting was guided by a previous assessment mapping of existing climate services in Colombia, conducted by CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) and sponsored by USAID on behalf of the Climate Services for Resilient Development partnership (CSRDP). Key stakeholders representing public and private sectors, civil society and academics joined the meeting on the first day to inform on their climate data and information needs. Climate services are critical for agriculture and energy sectors especially when there is a competition on availability of water for irrigation and hydropower generation. Developing better models for seasonal forecasting and improvements in trustworthiness of predictions was a need shared by all users, as it increases the ability to plan, prepare and adapt to climate events like ENSO.

The second day was dedicated to exploring existing methods and tools used worldwide to generate seasonal forecasts at regional and national levels. Particular emphasis was given to methods of verification for describing the quality and the confidence of seasonal predictions.

In addition to international products, the portal of the Regional Climate Center, CIIFEN, makes available regional climate information in support of national climate services.

The main output of the meeting was a detailed set of actions that will guide the implementation of an improved seasonal forecast system for Colombia to make use of global and regional seasonal prediction model products, statistically downscaled to the national level and calibrated with national data to support country-level decision-making. This implementation plan will be part of a regional funding proposal to the Adaptation Fund to be submitted in 2018 by Colombia, Peru and Chile with a focus on calibrating seasonal forecasts for users to make better decisions in key sectors such as agriculture, energy and water management.

Southern Plains Climate Hub, U.S. Department of Agriculture 2016-2017 Regional Drought Early Warning, Impacts, and Assessment Workshops in the Rio Grande Basin

In response to the issuance of a La Niña watch in 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Drought Mitigation Center initiated a collaborative effort to provide regional drought early warning information to water and agriculture management interests in and proximate to the Rio Grande basin. With contributions from other federal, state, private sector, and academic partners, six stakeholder workshops were convened between October 2016 and December 2017. These workshops centered on (1) the provision of timely weather, water, and climate forecasts on a regional basis as well as historical and future contexts for drought; (2) the dissemination of tools and information resources related to drought early warning, preparedness, and

education; and (3) the solicitation of expert user perspectives on drought management challenges and strategies.



Photo: U.S. Department for Agriculture

Outputs from the workshops included the identification of key physical and social science research questions associated with the impacts of extreme events on water and agriculture, the promotion of regional literacy on weather, water, and climate issues, and the engagement of cross-jurisdictional and transboundary partners and audiences. The workshops further contributed to broad, ongoing regional initiatives to enhance the decision-making capacity of water and agricultural interests through early warning of an extreme event, support implementation of adaptive management strategies, and foster new information networks.

More information:

<http://drought.unl.edu/NewsOutreach/PastEvents.aspx>

Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre

The Climate Centre took part – as lead of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation – in the COP23 UN climate talks in Bonn, and at the 15th Development and Climate Days workshop alongside. The latter ended on 12 November with a call from the chair of the traditional high-level panel, Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland, to all participants to “hold ourselves accountable” for progress on climate action.

The IFRC and the Climate Centre together developed a new Framework for Climate Action Toward 2020 for COP23 in which Secretary General Elhadj As Sy wrote that climate change was “a key driver of risk” in the modern world, and the IFRC’s role in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people afflicted by climate impacts will become “still more pivotal”.



Photo: Climate Centre

To coincide with the start of the Bonn conference, the Climate Centre published a detailed study of how the climate risk inherent in the 2015–16 El Niño was managed in five African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia and Zambia.

The Climate Centre’s Associate Director for Research and Innovation, Pablo Suarez, earlier presented ‘Go with the flow – A flood-risk data sculpture’ at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in Cancun, Mexico, together with youth volunteers from the Mexican Red Cross. It showed ten years’ worth of flow data at the Nangbeto Dam in Togo (see below) and is “a blend of art and science”.



Photo: Mauricio Saldivar

The Indian Red Cross and the Climate Centre worked together to stage eight flash mobs in Delhi, including at its airports, on preparing for heatwave temperatures that hit 43°C in the city. The messages: drink more water, keep your head covered, eat before you go out, and “rest, rest, rest” between noon and three.

Partners for Resilience (PFR) in Uganda, including the Climate Centre, hosted a workshop in Kampala aimed at promoting participation by civil society in the country’s national adaptation planning.

The annual dialogue platform for German-supported forecast-based financing (FbF), was held in Asia for the first time: the three-day conference in Hanoi was aimed at establishing a network of FbF stakeholders in high-risk areas of the Asia-Pacific region. With technical assistance from the Climate Centre, a second series in the current monsoon season of humanitarian cash disbursements of 5,000 taka (\$54) each was made to just over 1,000 households in Bangladesh’s north-west Bogra district.

Forecasts had indicated established FbF danger-levels would be crossed at four project sites along the Jamuna river.

Through the Philippine Red Cross, the Climate Centre provided technical assistance in the shape of a 'Y-Adapt' component at the 2017 East Asia Red Cross youth summer camp near the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator. Y-Adapt comprises games-based sessions engaging young people in developing strategies for adaptation and advocacy.

A three-day workshop at a Haitian Red Cross centre in Port-au-Prince, meanwhile, generated a national group of 30 facilitators for Y-Adapt.

Writing in the IDS Bulletin, Climate Centre specialists advocated linking FbF to a social protection system to "enable anticipatory actions based on forecast triggers and guaranteed funding ahead of a shock".

After heavy seasonal rainfall, the Togolese Red Cross, again with technical support from the Climate Centre, distributed water purification tablets in several villages downstream from the Nangbeto dam, and later, in a second FbF exercise, emergency-shelter items for just over 100 households in a village in a coastal maritime region.

As Hurricane Maria followed Irma through the Caribbean, the Climate Centre hosted the Netherlands Red Cross mobilized response teams from Curacao and Aruba to help people on St Maarten, while the Climate Centre assisted the meteorological service covering three Dutch islands in framing and disseminating an official hurricane warning.

A team of scientists including the Climate Centre argued that seasonal forecasts that make general statements about total rainfall are not the best predictor of flood risk in sub-Saharan Africa. In a new paper, „Should seasonal rainfall forecasts be used for flood preparedness?“, the authors argue that extreme events within a season show the highest general correlation with propensity to flood.

International Environmental Data Rescue Organization (IEDRO)

The International Environmental Data Rescue Organization (IEDRO) has made its precipitation strip chart (pluviogram) digitization program fully operational with the digitization of the first 3,000 charts from El Salvador. The program, Weather Wizards, is a crowd-sourcing/citizen scientist program where volunteers participate from their home computers. Weather Wizards now enables volunteers throughout the world to provide rainfall readings at 15 minute intervals from millions of these daily charts in a fraction of the time required to extract the information manually.

For the first time, researchers will have detailed historic rainfall intensity measurements to feed into mud slide and flash flood models. The Copernicus Program funded by the EU has just provided IEDRO with funds to expand the program to digitize barograms, thermograms and alpha-numeric forms.

We invite all CSP members to participate at <http://WeatherWizards.ORG>.

World Bank Group Announces New Course on Climate Information Services

The World Bank Group is excited to announce the launch of a new online course, “E-Platform on Weather and Climate Services for Resilient Development: A Guide for Policymakers and Practitioners.” The goal of this 3-module course is to provide policymakers and practitioners with practical knowledge and case study examples of weather and climate services as an integral component of climate resilience development and outline the climate services value chain, from the collection of weather and climate data through delivery to the end user. Policymakers will find the first module especially relevant, as it outlines the benefits of weather and climate services and highlights the components and interconnectivity necessary for success. The second and third modules are geared towards practitioners, outlining the climate services value chain in detail and providing practical guidance on the implementation and funding of climate services projects based on lessons learned. It is anticipated that this training will help teams and project managers in integrating weather and climate services considerations into their projects, both in terms of project conceptualization and delivery. Additionally, the course will help to raise awareness of the importance of climate services and modernized hydrometeorology systems and provide a roadmap for producing successful climate services investments.



We hope that this course will be a valuable tool for the wider CSP community and we welcome your feedback, questions, and ideas.

For more information or to provide feedback on the course, please contact Kanta Kumari Rigaud at kkumari@worldbank.org or Kazi Fateha Ahmed at kahmed1@worldbank.org.

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) tender “Data Evaluation for Climate Models” (DECM)

What is important for users of climate information to be able to judge the quality of climate change data and information products?

In search for answers, GERICS developed an online survey in the context of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) tender “Data Evaluation for Climate Models” (DECM). The questionnaire was set up such that it could confirm or deny already existing knowledge about user requirements on quality control and evaluation, and at the same time capture more detail on specific aspects and identify gaps from the user’s point of view.



The survey was aimed at a variety of users of climate model results whether scientists of different disciplines, consultants, administration or business. The survey results provided a solid foundation to profile three distinct user types (data user, product user, non-user) and to characterize each based on their level of experience, their habits and needs.

Details can be found here

http://www.gerics.de/about/news_and_events/news/074286/index.php.en

Climate Service Center Germany

As an almost unique activity within the Helmholtz Association, a working group within the PACES research program developed a framework for the evaluation of knowledge transfer within climate and coastal research. Preliminary results were presented by Susanne Schuck-Zöllner and Dr. E. Keup-Thiel (GERICS) on behalf of all working group members: Firstly at the annual conference of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) in Dublin/Ireland, and secondly at the International Conference on Transdisciplinarity (ITD) in Lüneburg/Germany. Members of the working group were the Helmholtz Centres within the PACES program: Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven, and Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG) with its Institute for Coastal Research, and the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS).

More information can be found under:

<http://www.emetsoc.org/meetings-events/ems-annual-meetings/>

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EMS2017/EMS2017-832-1.pdf>

<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/td-net/Konferenzen/ITD-2017.html>



GERICS staff member Elisabeth Viktor presented an approach to transform climate data into actionable information through sector-specific Fact Sheets and an accompanying Focus Paper at the annual conference of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) in Dublin/Ireland: „Making climate information tangible - GERICS Climate Impact Fact Sheets and Focus Paper for the energy sector“ (co-authors Daniela Jacob, Claas Teichmann, Andreas Hänsler, and Robert Vautard). The presented approach transfers the well-established format of Fact-Sheets developed at GERICS in collaboration with industry partners to sectoral information. This work is part of the Copernicus Climate Change Service tender Clim4Energy.

For more information please refer to

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EMS2017/EMS2017-66.pdf>

Kick-off Workshop of Scenario-planning project in Moscow

The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam together with the Primakov National Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) in Moscow, and Foresight Intelligence in Berlin, launched a series of workshops on “Yamal Oil and Gas 2040”. The workshop series is at the core of the “Russian oil and gas extraction case study” of the international research project BlueAction funded through the EU’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The first workshop took place in Moscow on 7 and 8 December 2017. The goal of the case study project is to enable stakeholders engaged in the future of oil and gas development in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (YNAO) – a large region in Arctic Russia – to prepare for possible developments of climatic, economic, political, legal, and social changes.

At the workshop in Moscow, a diverse group of stakeholders and scientists gathered to exchange about the multitude of factors influencing the future of oil and gas extraction in the YNAO, and how the region is intertwined with global economic, political, legal, and climatic processes. During the two workshops planned for 2018, the participants will be able to build a number of different scenarios as to how the region could look like by 2040.

The scenarios will be constructed and tested using the method of strategic foresight, which is used worldwide by policymakers, business men, and analysts who want to convert uncertainties into opportunities. Stakeholders based in the Arctic and elsewhere will get the opportunity to improve their capacity for adapting effectively to changing conditions and opportunities using significantly improved predictive methods and knowledge.



Photo: Kathrin Stephen



Arctic Impact on Weather and Climate

community spotlight

Interview with Katuscia Fara, World Food Programme

Katuscia Fara is a Climate Services Advisor for the Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes of the World Food Programme.

1. Tell me a bit about the organization that you work for, the World Food Programme (WFP). In which way is it involved in the climate services community?

WFP's Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit's role is to ensure that WFP has the tools, knowledge, resources and partnerships to enable the most food insecure, communities and countries to reduce the impacts of disasters and climate change so that they can end hunger.

About half of WFP's programmes address the risks of climate-related disasters and their impacts on food security, impacting approximately 80 million people in 80 countries each year. Through these programmes, the WFP has gained significant experience using, developing and providing climate services for food security and humanitarian operations.

Climate services help countries and vulnerable communities address these challenges by providing the information they need to make well-informed decisions.



World Food Programme

Disasters are a leading cause of hunger and malnutrition. 80% of food insecure people in the world live in fragile environments prone to climate-related disasters. As the climate changes, we can expect more frequent and severe extreme weather events, increased weather variability and emergence of new risks, affecting millions of people's lives. As a result, addressing the impact of disaster risk and climate change on food insecure people is a central priority for the WFP.

Timely, easy to understand and act-upon climate information can help communities take the necessary actions to better anticipate and prepare for these changing risks, adapt to a changing climate and strengthen their resilience and food security.

The WFP works with global climate centers and research institutions to develop new tools and apply new science. We also work at regional and national level in the application and development of new tools and services. Most importantly we are a user, taking climate information and integrating this information into our own decision making and planning.

Interview with Katiuscia Fara, World Food Programme

2. When did climate appear on the agenda of the WFP? What were the greatest challenges (if there were any) in building up the collaboration with the climate services community?

As the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, the WFP understands the effects of climate change and has developed extensive experience in using climate services for early warning purposes and in translating complex climate information into practical, understandable information that can be used for planning and operation support. For example, through our emergency preparedness and support response team who collaborates with world-renowned research and modelling centres, the WFP provides the latest immediate and seasonal weather hazard information to support government and humanitarian actors in deciding appropriate action. In addition, the WFP's food security analysts translate climate and weather information into early warnings of drought events and potential production shortfalls. Coupled with detailed analyses of household vulnerability, the WFP and partners use this information to assess how droughts or floods will affect people's food security to ensure humanitarian and government actors can plan an early response.

A key challenge for me remains creating an effective two-way dialogue and long-term collaboration between producers of climate information and users. There is a need to strengthen understanding on both sides on both needs and capacities and the concept of co-development/co-creation. The latter should be at the core of climate services, however it should start with and be guided by users' needs.



Photo: private

3. What do you see as the greatest strengths of the WFP?

In addition to what was already mentioned above in terms of WFP analysis work to support preparedness, response and early warnings, what I see as particularly relevant is: (i) our strong analytical capacity, for example the WFP has been piloting a number of climate and food security analysis methodologies around the world to support governments

and humanitarian decision-makers to better understand the impacts of climate change on people's food security and nutrition. This type of information is then used to support key decisions related to adaptation planning (i.e. National Adaptation Plans), prioritization and investments in adaptation measures addressing food security needs of those most vulnerable; (ii) our partnerships with key research centres and different organizations that allows us to do innovative work such as forecast-based financing (FbF), whereby we integrate better seasonal forecasts into early warning systems for food crises systems to trigger early action before a climate shock occurs – anticipating its impact and strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities months ahead of the actual event. For example, during the El Niño event we were able to trigger action 3-5 months before the season failed through our Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRe) in Zimbabwe and Guatemala, helping people anticipate the drought; (iii) our extensive presence at country-level and understanding of the local context that allows us to effectively reach the last-mile when it comes to climate services by strengthening access to tailored, easy-to-understand climate information for food insecure communities so that they can make better decisions ahead of the season.

Interview with Katiuscia Fara, World Food Programme

4. If you wanted to define climate services, how would you do that?

I very much like the definition used by the EU in a recent paper: “the transformation of climate-related data and information into customised products that support decision-making and policy-making for a range of users. Depending on the user’s interests, these services include past and current climate conditions, the near future (months to years) and longer term (decades ahead) that are associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk management“ – I find it very useful and encompassing in terms of the range of potential climate services. What is then important to emphasise is that this process should happen as a two-way dialogue to ensure the co-production of content and that it is effectively tailored to users’ needs.

5. What do you like most about your work?

What I enjoy most is the work we do with vulnerable people in terms of strengthening their access to climate information. In many countries, vulnerable people, especially those living in marginalized, remote areas, do not have access to even basic climate information – while they are experiencing changes year after year in rainfall, start of the season, etc. They don’t have the information to understand why these changes are happening and how to adapt, often resorting to traditional practices that are no longer adequate. When people are provided with timely information, they are able to make informed decisions to better manage inter-annual climate variability and be better prepared to cope with climate shocks. When people can access reliable information in a way that it is easy to understand, it is amazing to see how they can then identify and develop their own solutions and strategies to mitigate the risks they face, and strengthen their livelihoods.

What I really enjoy is also the element of co-design/co-production of the information when different stakeholders come together (sometimes for the first time) in a two-way dialogue that can really lead to amazing results. An example is the work we have been doing in Malawi and Tanzania together with different partners under the GFCS Adaptation Programme for Africa, where we have developed several platforms/processes to enable this dialogue with a view to provide both farmers and pastoralists with tailored, easy-to-use climate and agricultural extension services.

Thank you very much!

selection of the latest publications from the CSP community

Title: European Earth System Modelling for Climate Services**Authors:** Döscher, R., H. Martins, C. Hewitt, F. Whiffin and B. van den Hurk**Summary:** A central activity within Climateurope is to map and analyse relevant initiatives, assess new challenges and determine emerging needs relating to Earth system modelling and climate services in Europe, involving expertise from a range of stakeholders. Three reports will be produced for this: the first report produced in 2017 was on European Earth system modelling for climate services. Updated reports will be produced in late 2018 and 2020 providing progress on the integration of climate services and Earth system modelling**Link/DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.17200/Climateurope.D6.5/1>**Title: Improving the uptake and use of climate information for decision-making****Authors:** Hewitt, C. D., R. C. Stone and A. B. Tait**Summary:** To enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from changes in climate, engagement between the users and the providers of climate information needs to be much more effective and should better link climate information with decision-making.**Link:** https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3378?WT.feed_name=subjects_climate-sciences**Title: Evaluating co-creation of knowledge: from quality criteria and indicators to methods****Authors:** Susanne Schuck-Zöller, Jörg Cortekar, Daniela Jacob**Summary:** Basic research in the natural sciences rests on a long tradition of evaluation. However, since the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) came out in 2012, there has been intense discussion in the natural sciences, above all amongst researchers and funding agencies in the different fields of applied research and scientific service. This discussion was intensified when climate services and other fields, used to make users

participate in research and development activities (co-creation), demanded new evaluation methods appropriate to this new research mode.

This paper starts by describing a comprehensive and interdisciplinary literature overview of indicators to evaluate co-creation of knowledge, including the different fields of integrated knowledge production. Then the authors harmonize the different elements of evaluation from literature in an evaluation cascade that scales down from very general evaluation dimensions to tangible assessment methods. They describe evaluation indicators already being documented and include a mixture of different assessment methods for two exemplary criteria. It is shown what can be deduced from already existing methodology for climate services and envisaged how climate services can further to develop their specific evaluation method.

Link: <https://www.adv-sci-res.net/14/305/2017/>**Title: Meeting summaries - climate observations, climate modelling and climate services****Authors:** Hewitt, C. D., C. Buontempo, P. Newton, F. Doblas-Reyes, K. Jochumsen and D. Quadfasel**Summary:** Two hundred invited participants, including speakers and panelists from leading research institutions, international organizations, the European Commission, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), discussed advances in climate science and climate services to benefit society.**Link:** <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/BAMS-D-17-0012.1>

selection of the latest publications from the CSP community

Title: Climateurope – Coordinating and supporting Europe’s knowledge base to enable better management of climate-related risks

Authors: Hewitt, C. D., N. L. Garrett and P. C. Newton

Summary: The general aims of Climateurope are to coordinate and support Europe’s knowledge base to enable better management of climate-related risks and opportunities, thereby creating greater social and economic value.

Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405880717300791?via%3Dihub>

Title: The first Climateurope Festival: Climate information at your service

Authors: Kotova, L., M. Manez Costa, M. J. R. Pérez, F. Whiffin, N. Garrett, J. Bessembinder, M. Buonocore, P. Newton and C. Hewitt

Summary: Climateurope is hosting a number of Festivals between 2017 and 2020, inspired by the motto “Climate information at your service”. The first was organized by the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), together with the project partners, held from 5th to 7th of April in Valencia Spain.

Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S240588071730081X?via%3Dihub>

Title: Improving user engagement and uptake of climate services in China

Authors: Golding, N., C. Hewitt, P. Zhang, P. Bett, X. Fang, H. Hu and S. Nobert

Summary: The needs of decision makers in China are being used to develop climate science and climate services through the Climate Science for Services Partnership. Focusing on examples of work for the energy and urban sectors, this paper outlines the approach taken and gives case studies of climate service development. We find that there is great opportunity for climate service development within the existing China Framework for Climate Services, and for enhancing the science that underpins such services. We also find challenges unique to the socio-economic and cultural environment in China, which must be taken into account when developing climate services here, as well as challenges common to all climate service development.

Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405880716300577>

upcoming events in the climate and climate services community

International conference on climate change & water 2018

5 - 7 Feb 2018

Tours, France

The aim of this conference is to stimulate exchanges and new developments that enrich the diversity of local responses to the impacts of climate change on water, including biological, technical and societal adaptations. The conference is open to both academics and non-academics.

More details:

<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/more-events/international-conference-on-climate-change-water-2018>

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 8–13 April 2018

Vienna, Austria

The EGU General Assembly 2018 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world to one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, planetary and space sciences. The EGU aims to provide a forum where scientists, especially early career researchers, can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geoscience. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcoming you in Vienna.

More details on:

<https://www.egu2018.eu/>

Tenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses 20–21 April 2018

University of California at Berkeley, USA

Some of the changes we are experiencing today may be part of the course of natural history. Other changes, many scientists agree, are the byproduct of human activity. Key questions include the following: How do we measure and explain these changes? What are their immediate and likely future impacts? And what is to be done? These are questions of practical concern and growing urgency.

More details on:

<http://on-climate.com/2018-conference>

Adaptation Futures 2018

18-21 June 2018

Cape Town, South Africa

Adaptation Futures is the biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). It is the premiere international climate change adaptation conference where people from countries around the world go to connect, learn and inspire! Adaptation Futures 2018 provides an opportunity for international networking and dialogue with more than 1000 participants from academia, government, civil society and business, all aiming to take climate adaptation forward. Adaptation Futures 2018 aims to use our setting on the African continent to attract more African and Global South delegates than ever before to the conference and forefront developing country adaptation contexts.

More details:

<http://adaptationfutures2018.capetown/>

upcoming events in the climate and climate services community

4th World Congress on Climate Change and Global Warming

August 06-07, 2018

Osaka, Japan

Climate Congress 2018 is based on the theme: “Tackling Climate Change for a Sustainable Future” and the congress mainly focuses on the Climate change and its effects. Study of Climate change is important in today’s world if we want to leave this planet for our future generations. We have to really understand the challenges and together we have to make a pledge for a sustainable environment.

More details:

<https://climatecongress.conferenceseries.com/>

More conferences on climate, climate change, and climate services are listed under

- **JPI Climate, an initiative of European member states and associated countries:**
<http://www.jpi-climate.eu/news-events/climate-events>
- **the European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT):**
<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/more-events>
- **Climatelinks, a Global Knowledge Portal for Climate Change & Development Practitioners, with USAID:**
<https://www.climatelinks.org/events>

online surveys in the climate services community

Survey on visualisation:

International Climate Services, Met Office, and University of Leeds, for the Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) FRACTAL project

If you have a role in generating, communicating or using information from climate projections, we invite you to participate in an online survey on visualising climate projections. The survey (approx 20 minutes) has been developed as part of a research collaboration between the Met Office and the University of Leeds. The study aims to improve understanding of how different visualisations of climate projections are interpreted by people across regions, societal sectors and disciplines. Findings will be shared with those who leave contact details.

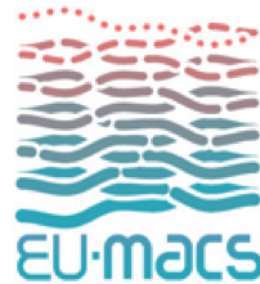
The survey can be accessed here:

<https://app.evalandgo.com/s/?id=JTk1ciU5NmoloUYIQUe=&a=JTk1biU5M2glOUeIQUI=>

EU-MACS -

European Markets for Climate Services

In order to further develop the climate service market, the European H2020 project EU-MACS aims at getting a better understanding of barriers to the European market for climate services and finding solutions to overcome them.



The survey that we invite you to participate in forms part of the baseline for further in-depth analysis in three focus sectors.

You can find the survey here:

<https://www.esurveycreator.com/s/EU-MACS>



The Climate Services Partnership (CSP) is a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration to advance climate service capabilities worldwide. CSP members are climate information users, providers, donors, and researchers; though they represent diverse interests, all are actively engaged with climate services through their own programmes and activities. Partners collaborate to develop and improve climate services; they also learn from each other by sharing resources and experiences. The CSP creates a venue to generate new knowledge, establish best practices, and promote a resilient, sustainable, and climate-smart future. More information is also available on our website: www.climate-services.org.

The CSP newsletter is a publication meant to keep all informed of the latest updates of the partnership community. We rely on you for news of your activities, upcoming events, and recent publications.

Editorial board: Tanja Blome, Daniela Jacob, María Máñez Costa, Irene Fischer-Bruns (all GERICS)



To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, email tanja.blome@hzg.de with the subject title „SUBSCRIBE: CSP newsletter“ or „UNSUBSCRIBE: CSP newsletter“