A Preliminary Evaluation of the Latin American Observatory's Climate Services

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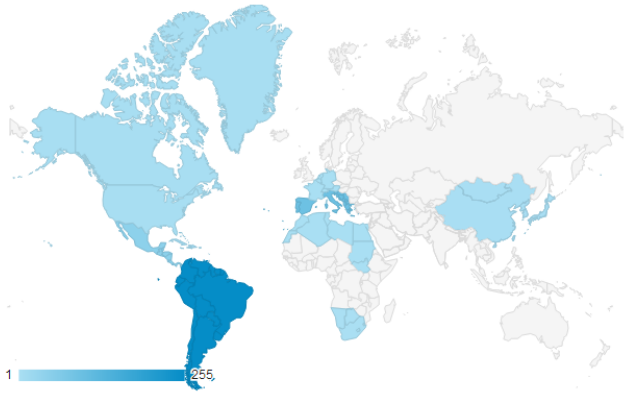
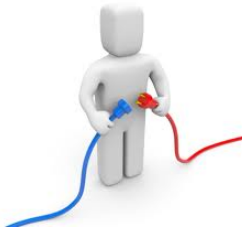
- Regional informal partnership
- Since 2008, still growing
- No external funding
- Use of resources already in existence
- Boundary institutions
- Strong training component
- Tech and knowledge transference
- Tailored, impact-oriented products: risk maps (hazard and vulnerability)!
- Model validation, but <u>NO climate service evaluation yet</u>

Observatorio Latinoamericano de Eventos Extraordinarios





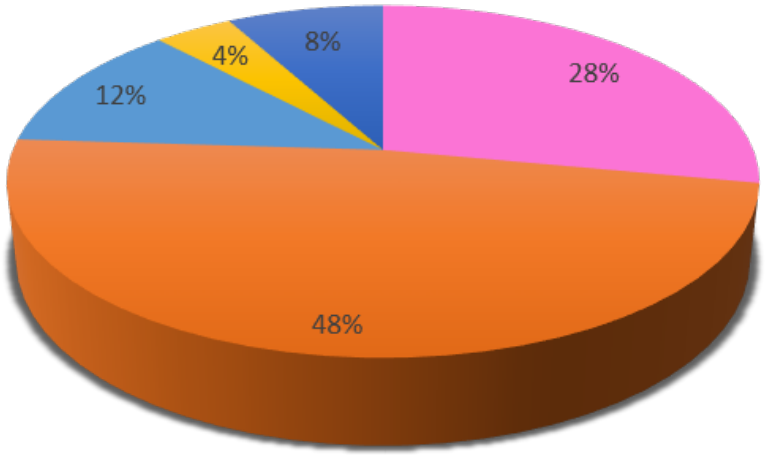
15 countries, >100 actors

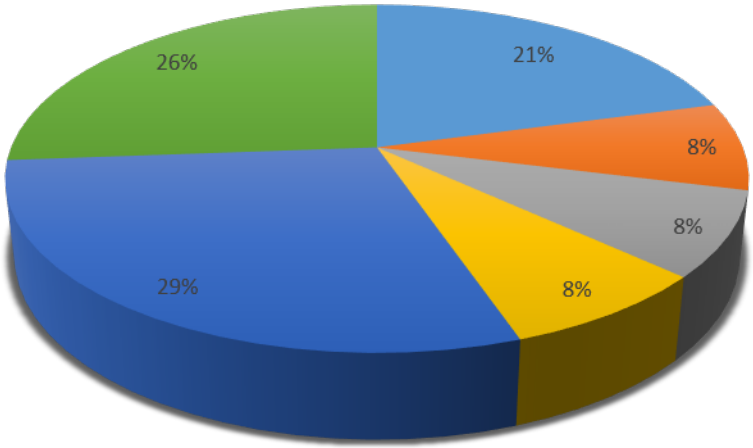
More info: http://mediawiki.cmc.org.ve; Muñoz *et al*., 2010; Muñoz, Núñez and Cova, 2011; Muñoz *et al*., 2012.; García, 2012a; García, 2012b; Recalde-Coronel et al., 2014; Stewart et al., 2014; Stewart et al., accepted.

Methodology

- Case-by-case analysis of OLE^2's climate services reported in the literature [Muñoz *et al.*, 2012; García, 2012a, 2012b].
- Analysis of the partner interactions (email list).
- Online surveys
- It was followed the approach suggested by Vaughan & Dessai [2014], which involves the following evaluation elements:
  - Structure, Governance and Decision-Making Context
  - Problem Identification, Characteristics and Tailoring of Services
  - Communication, and Technology-Knowledge Transfer

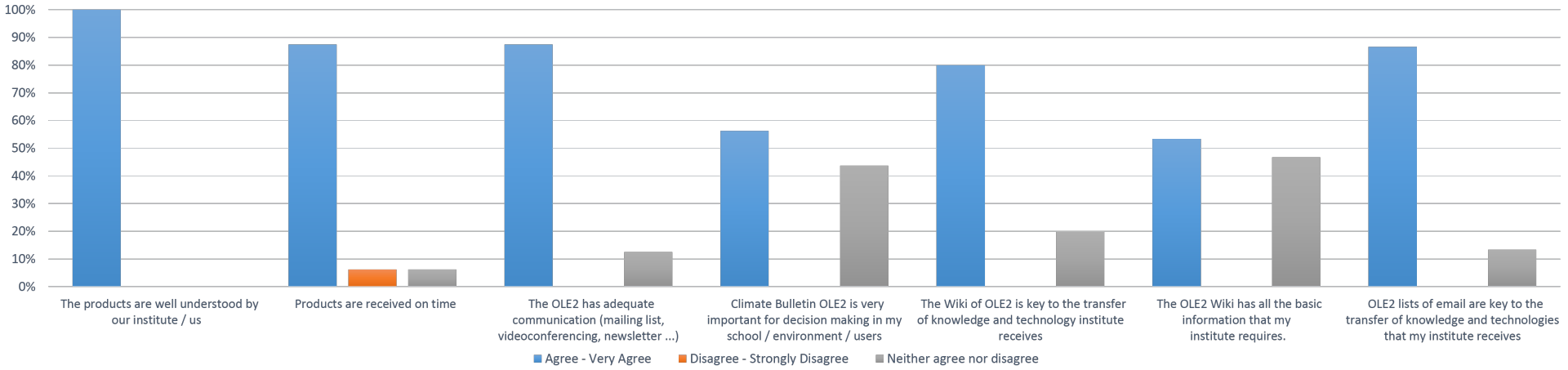
Diagnostics





Research Center/ University
National Weather Service
Border institute/ Ministry
Ag sector/Farmers
Water Management

Data quality, gridding
Meteorology
Climate Change
Climate and Health
Climatology
Training and tools



Structure, Governance and Decision-Making Context

- Flexible structure, autonomous sharing policies (voluntary)
  - 15 countries, 100+ users
  - free interaction (peer2peer and community based, loosely moderated)
  - multiple channels of communication/transference of data, methodologies, tools, experiences

Structure, Governance and Decision-Making Context

- No regional funding
  - Strong inter-dependence for co-production of services is identified as being the key element of sustainability of OLE^2
  - Stable, but slow growth
  - Local funding-dependent growth dynamic: "service propagation" in the OLE^2 network

Free riders are moved to the periphery or out of the network!

"Incentive" (e.g., funding) generates climate services

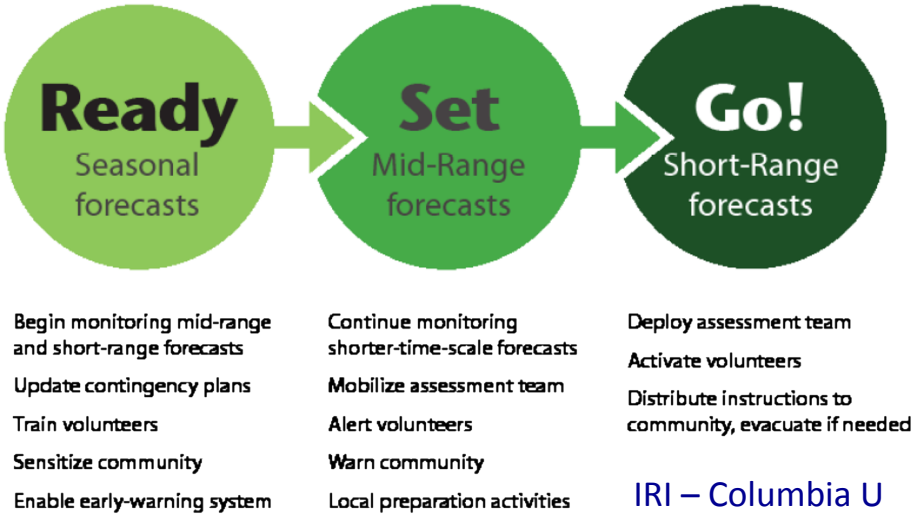
After a while service is assimilated by other partners, which also propagate the service

Service has propagated, and matured, in the OLE^2 network

Problem Identification, Characteristics and Tailoring of Services

- Problems are in general clearly identified (user feedback), BUT
- Services not necessarily defined in terms of the actual end-user's requirements, but in terms of other institutional commitments and funding availability (international donors with specific agendas, e.g. climate change scenarios).

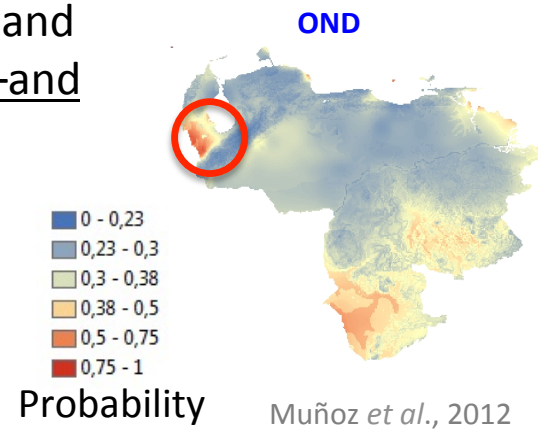
➢ OLE^2 is committed to follow IRI's "Ready-Set-Go approach", but there is still a huge inertia.



Problem Identification, Characteristics and Tailoring of Services

- Different partners focus on different time scales but typically the order of importance is
  - Weather (up to 48-72 hours)
  - Seasonal (next two seasons)
  - Historical (20-40 years)
  - Climate Change (end of the century)
  - Near-term Climate Change (next 20-30 years; only a few)
  - Sub-seasonal (interest)
- More work *with* the user instead of *for* the user is required.
- Partners recognize the importance of using both hazard and vulnerability products (e.g., risk maps), but more effort –and funding- is required to implement pilot projects.

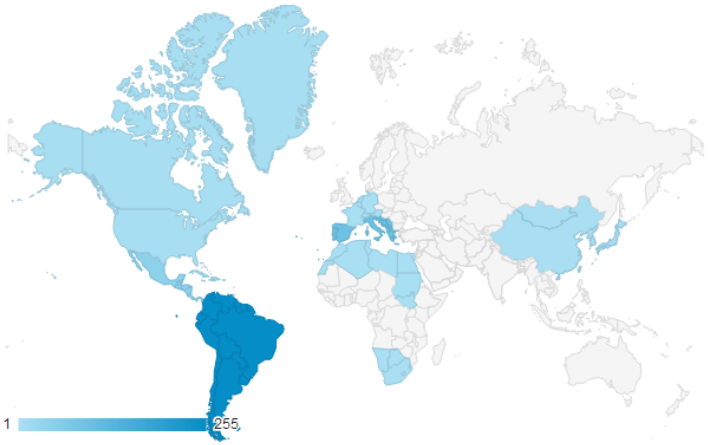
Flood Risk (Probabilities)



Muñoz *et al.*, 2012

Communication, and Technology-Knowledge Transfer

- Strong training component (virtual and *in situ*).
- OLE^2 as a boundary institution between "providers" and "middle-users" (NWS, ministries, development project agents): better services for the end-user.
- Uncertainties are typically communicated in terms of probabilities, but some partners consider this insufficient.
- Unanimously, partners recognize the OLE^2-Wiki as the most important reference for technology and knowledge transfer. It's used outside the partnership too (in Spanish)!



Conclusions

- This is a preliminary, internal evaluation. An external one must be accomplished (partners provided a “too good” evaluation).
- With no external funding, the Observatory is stable and slowly growing; it is suggested that this is due to *inter-dependence and co-production*. The OLE^2 provide high quality training, project support and training in Spanish, basically for free.
- Two ways of supporting OLE^2: fund the partnership or fund one or a few partners (the service will propagate).
- Several ways to advance, one is to increase the number of services considering both hazard and vulnerability (e.g., risk).