

Climate Services Partnership UPDATES



DEC 2011

As we discussed at the meetings in October, the CSP will work on three levels:

1. Encouraging and sustaining connections between climate information providers, users, donors, and researchers by way of the continuing ICCS process
2. Gathering, synthesizing and disseminating current knowledge on climate services by way of an online knowledge management platform
3. Generating new knowledge on critical topics in climate service development and provision

Though the last months have been busy for all of us, we've managed to make progress on all fronts.

ENCOURAGING CONNECTIONS

The CSP held a side event entitled Launching the New Climate Services Partnership at COP 17 in Durban. The event featured Steve Zebiak (IRI), Jerry Lengoasa (WMO), William Breed (USAID), Kanta Kumari Rigaud (World Bank), Richard Choularton (World Food Programme), and Youba Sokona (ACPC/ClimDev Africa).

Plans for ICCS2 are underway. The event will be hosted by the German Climate Service Center. The CSC is currently exploring opportunities to link it to the next meeting of the European Meteorological Society, which is slotted for September. More information on this will follow.

We've gathered a calendar of upcoming events (see below), but we'd like your input on anything we've missed and how we might best participate in/take advantage of these events. Thanks in advance for your help in this.

We are currently working on a CSP website that can house information about the partnership and eventual knowledge capture outputs. We've also managed to upload video from ICCS1 to the ICCS website, so check it out if you're looking to relive any of that meeting's presentations.

Discussions with the GFCS are ongoing, focusing most recently on ways that CSP activities can directly feed into the GFCS implementation, including the Extraordinary Congress.

GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

The new CSP website will include a knowledge capture portal that will distribute and distill knowledge about current efforts. At present, we're developing three types of material for this portal:

> A broad scoping exercise that captures the breadth of climate services worldwide. We are currently working to make this an online-searchable database.

> A series of case studies that will characterize and disseminate lessons learned. We are currently working with the GFCS to make sure that our case study template usefully contributes to their process. Once this is settled, we will distribute the template to the wider group. Anyone who is interested in producing a case study is encouraged to get in touch with us. Members of the knowledge capture working group have agreed to serve as peer reviewers for case studies.

> Several in-depth evaluations of climate services. Evaluations are in process or in design for the Mali met service, the Red Cross Climate Center, and CCAFS. Members of the economic valuation working group have agreed to review and assist in these evaluations, where possible.

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GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE

The economic valuation working group is assessing current practices to define appropriate recommendations for evaluation methodology. Members of the group are considering a meeting in January to facilitate discussions.

PARTNER UPDATES

In addition to updates on CSP activities, I'd like to provide a few other relevant items from our partners.

The writers of the **Global Framework for Climate Services** are hard at work, and plan to have a zero-order draft ready by the end of January, so that it can be presented to the task team meeting at the end of February. This will be followed by a review process.

The **Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology** is looking for partners for an application to the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)/Caribbean Region Climate Adaptation (CRCA) Partnership Initiative. A short description is included below; interested parties should contact David Farrell at dfarrell@cimh.edu.bb.

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Higher Education for Development (HED) expects to make one (1) award of up to \$770,500 for three (3) years for a higher education partnership between one U.S. institution and the University of the West Indies/Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI/CERMES). This partnership will build additional permanent, local capacity in the area of climate adaptation at UWI/CERMES.

The partnership will focus on research and policy and will result in tangible products such as expanded research, outreach to policy makers, short-course development for academic, public and private sector audiences and strategic planning to secure long-term funding. It is expected that during the next three years UWI/CERMES will be internationally recognized as a Caribbean center of excellence in climate adaptation research and data collection and that this partnership initiative will help UWI/CERMES down that path.

Through its academic offerings, expanded research, and graduate level degree programs and continuing education offerings for professionals, UWI/CERMES will lead the way for the region in utilizing the latest data collection and analysis techniques to inform policy and address the many climate adaptation challenges facing the Caribbean region.

A secondary partner will be the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). The partnership will build on and extend the existing capacity of faculty at CIMH and will leverage their current expertise and relationships to support short-course development and outreach to policy makers, among other CRCA partnership initiative goals.