Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Vision: enable society to manage better the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change. Using science-based climate information

Launched in 2012

Priority areas:
- Agriculture and food security
- Water resource management
- Health
- Disaster risk reduction
- Energy

Hewitt et al., 2012: Nature Climate Change, 2, 831-832, https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate1745
Refocussed GFCS

Vision: enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change

1. Strengthen climate service capacity and capability, particularly in NMHSs
   - Improve availability of, access to, and use of, climate information, providing scientific and technical support
   - Establish National Frameworks for Climate Services, and National Climate Fora, and link to regional structures

2. Support climate policy and finance with authoritative scientific information
   - Produce regular reports and advice to support adaptation and mitigation (such as Global and Regional State of Climate reports; State of Climate Services; ENSO Bulletins; Climate Updates. Build on IPCC knowledge)
   - Provide tools and expertise to help incorporate climate science into actions and investments

3. Develop Standards, Quality Management and Training
   - Assess and develop Climate Service capacities (basic ⇒ essential ⇒ full ⇒ advanced) and needs
   - Produce guidance on standards and competencies (through WMO’s SERCOM and INFCOM)

4. Develop the climate services value chain/cycle
   - Scientific capability (including Obs., data, WCRP) ↔ climate services information ↔ user engagement
   - Generate value and enable actions

5. Improve visibility and effectiveness of GFCS, promote coordination
   - Climate services are essential for society. Needs global-regional-national coordination
   - Provide a forum for stakeholder communication, knowledge sharing, collaboration
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Opportunities/requests to WCRP

• “Rapid science”, e.g. can we mobilise the research community to rapidly answer key societal climate issues such as:
  • why was 2023 so warm in so many places
  • why is 2024 continuing to be so warm
  • Can we attribute recent extreme events to climate drivers (“rapid attribution”)
  • etc.

• Can WCRP complement IPCC between Assessment Reports? Perhaps on key societal issues around sea level, cryosphere, etc.
Some challenges for climate services:

• Only worth delivering if it is to be used to influence an outcome
• Coordination and engagement — Time-consuming, but beneficial
• Requirements versus capability — Often a big gap
• The concept of “users” — Who are they? What do they need?
• The role and importance of other disciplines — e.g. social science
• Capabilities and capacities — Providers and users
Thank you