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International Council for Science

Regional climate science and robust foundations for climate services – what does the CORDEX initiative have to offer climate service providers and users?

WGRC Side Event at the International Conference on Climate Services 3
<http://www.climate-services.org/iccs/iccs-3/home>
Montego Bay Convention Centre, Jamaica, 3 December 2013, 1400-1715
This event is open to all but pre-registration is required

Context

Climate services, by definition, are driven by societal needs to improve economic vitality, maintain or improve environmental quality and decrease threats to life and property by enhancing understanding of projections of future climatic conditions as they might differ from past conditions. As such, climate services must integrate and synthesize a growing and evolving set of projections, at multiple scales, into products that support climate-smart decisions. Central to these objectives is the need to increase the interaction between users and data providers. Nevertheless, the proliferation of data and intercomparison projects has generated a certain degree of confusion in respective user and research communities who stand to benefit from these experiments.

The Working Group on Regional Climate (WGRC, <http://www.wcrp-climate.org/index.php/key-deleverables/regional-climat6>) of the WCRP has a critical role to play in fostering communication between climate information/service providers and end users. More fundamentally, we are striving to integrate the user and decision maker context into the design and development of regional climate science through two-way communication and co-production activities.

One important international program under the auspices of the WGRC is CORDEX (Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment, <http://wcrp-cordex.ipsl.jussieu.fr/>). CORDEX protocols are intended to guide development of high-resolution Regional Climate Model (RCM) and empirical statistical downscaling (ESD) projections, and intercomparison of those projections, on each continent. Much of this work is underway or in development, and CORDEX events in Brussels, Trieste and Lima just prior to ICCS3 will help clarify the international picture. During the last few months of 2013 it is anticipated that many Terabytes of CORDEX data will be available online with more to come in 2014.

This side event aims to provide an opportunity to inform those in the climate-services community about the CORDEX initiative, and will help to set expectations and context for the data that is forthcoming. How to build regional networks of climate modellers, climate service providers and users around CORDEX activities will be a particular focus. Additionally, it will provide a space for dialogue and inputs from the climate services community to inform the design of subsequent regional downscaling experiments.

Event organisers:

Clare Goodess, David Behar, Bill Gutowski, Bruce Hewitson and Fernanda Zermoglio



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Outline Programme – the side event will run from 2pm to 5.15pm

Introduction to the session and the WGRC

Overview of the CORDEX initiative

- Who and what is CORDEX?
- The modeling strategy
- Dissemination, outputs and evaluation activities

How is CORDEX engaging with user communities around the world?

Panel and plenary discussion:

- Michael Taylor (Jamaica) TBC: Caribbean and South America
- Bruce Hewitson (South Africa): Africa
- Bill Gutowski (United States): North America

The CORDEX World Café

Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to all three moderated café discussions and the final plenary discussion:

- Maximising the utility of CORDEX for climate services
- Building user communities
- Managing expectations and limits to information

Panel-led discussion – thinking ahead to CORDEX 2 and CMIP6

- How to incorporate the climate services perspective in the design of major international modeling initiatives?
- What are the priorities for this audience?

Pre-registration form for the WGRC side event at ICCS3, Montego Bay Convention Centre, 3 December 2013, 2pm

This event is open to all, but please register by Tuesday 19 November by returning this form to c.goodess@uea.ac.uk

Your name:
Your affiliation/institution:
Your email address:
Please briefly outline your involvement in climate services: