



Climate information for decision-makers

A one-year project supported by
the Federal Office for the
Environment

Ralph Lugon, 2 December 2009

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA
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http://graduateinstitute.ch/cig/climate_fr.html

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying http://graduateinstitute.ch/page6480_fr.html. The browser's menu bar includes 'Fichier', 'Édition', 'Affichage', 'Historique', 'Marque-pages', and 'Outils'. The page content is in French and features a header with the Graduate Institute logo and navigation tabs for 'L'INSTITUT', 'L'ENSEIGNEMENT', 'LA RECHERCHE', 'EXECUTIVE EDUCATION', and 'LES RESSOURCES'. The main article is titled 'Climate Information for Decision Making' and describes a side event at WCC-3 on Tuesday, 01.09.2009, from 12:00 to 13:30 in CIG Room 3. The article text discusses bridging the gap between providers and users of weather and climate services through institutional changes. It lists panelists: Dr José Romero, Dr Ralph Lugon, and Dr Liliana Andonova. The facilitator is Prof. Urs Luterbacher, and the sponsor is the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. A sidebar on the right lists 'Adapting to Climate Change Events' with links to various seminars and reports. The footer contains contact information and a list of study programs.

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Climate Information for Decision Making

Effective information exchange through institutional changes
 Side event at WCC-3
 Tuesday, 01.09.2009, 12:00 – 13:30
 CIGC, Room 3

How to bridge the gap between providers and end users of weather, climate and water services? The Centre for International Governance (CIG) of the Graduate Institute organized three workshops to facilitate dialogue between scientists and policy-makers. They brought together different perspectives from various sectors addressing cross-cutting issues both in developed and developing countries. The side-event will present the key issues, best practices and barriers that emerged from these debates.

Panelists:

- > Dr José Romero, President, High-level segment, WCC-3
- > Dr Ralph Lugon, Scientific coordinator, Graduate Institute
- > Dr Liliana Andonova, Professor, Graduate Institute

Facilitator:

- > Prof. Urs Luterbacher, Chairman, Environmental Studies Unit, Graduate Institute

Sponsor:

- > Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Adapting to Climate Change Events:

- > [How to Adapt to Climate Change](#)
Public Conference, 23.02.2009
- > [Which Climate Information for Humanitarian Actors?](#)
Seminar, 30.04.2009
- > [Poverty Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities](#)
Seminar, 26.05.2009
- > [Climate Information for the Private Sector](#)
Seminar, 22.06.2009
- > [Climate Information for Decision Making](#)
Side event at WCC-3, 01.09.2009

Team

Seminar Documents [pdf]

- > [Report](#)

Presentations

- > [Institutional changes for effective communication](#)
- > [Climate Science for Adaptation: the Role of Boundary Institutions](#)

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Terminé

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A one-year project

- **Scope of the project:** study processes of weather, climate and hydrological information sharing with a focus on users' needs and identify good practices
- **Challenge:** how to bridge existing gaps between providers and users?
- **Methodology of research:** case studies of users-providers interface mechanisms in key domains (humanitarian affairs, development, etc.)

Actors studied

- Governments and central state institutions
- Public local institutions
- International and non-governmental organizations
- Universities
- Private sector enterprises

Sectors studied

- Humanitarian affairs (disaster preparedness)
- Development
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Energy
- Insurances

The demand

- The demand of climate information has really grown
- Climate information means very different things for different users

Tourism in developing countries: responding to the climate challenge



Poverty reduction and adaptation to climate change: risk and opportunities

Seminar in preparation of the World Conference on Climate 3

Geneva, Switzerland, 26 May 2009

Luigi Cabrini

Director of Sustainable Development
World Tourism Organization

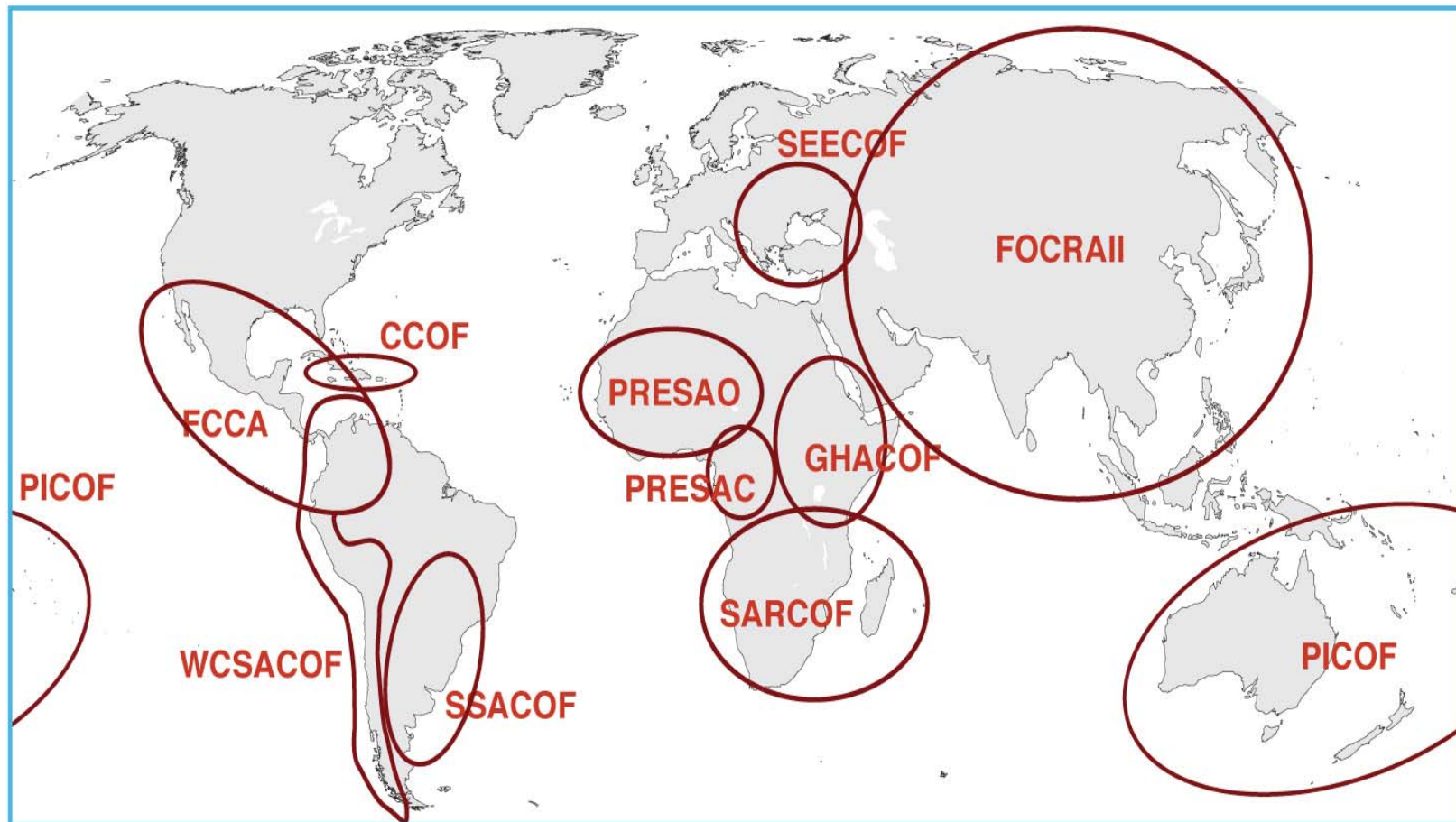
« Back to the present »: Information on climate variability

- Information on climate variability has been more readily used so far compared to long-term climate scenarios
- Weather / Climate variability has significant impact on decision-making
- There have been significant advances on forecasting on seasonal to interannual time scales in the last two decades

Information schemes identified

- Science-policy forums:
 - Regional Climate Outlook Forums: WMO, socio-economic sectors, humanitarians and health sector
- Public-private or multi-stakeholder partnerships
 - EDF- R&D partnerships with Meteo France,
 - Early Warning Systems: IFRC, IRI, NASA
- Inter-ministerial working groups
 - Mozambique: inter-ministerial committee for disaster management, with participation and outreach by district government, local authorities, and NGOs

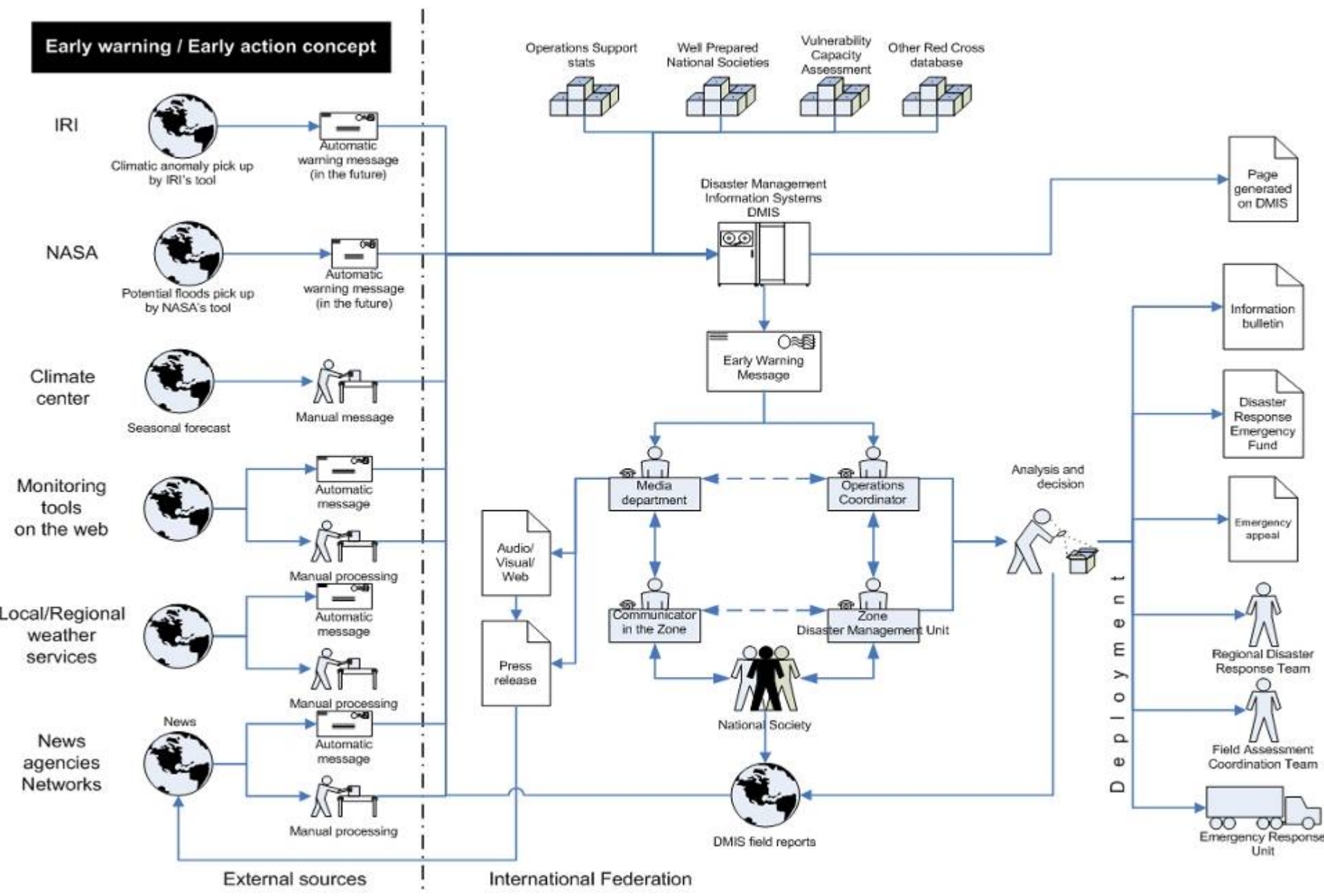
Existing RCOFs worldwide Regional Climate Outlook Forums



Comments and questions from the audience

- Useful for numerous socio-economic sectors but...
- for the humanitarians, RCOFs do not seem well equipped to answer their needs except for the health sector
- How information is spread within countries and to the local level?
- Impact of this information on the market? Is there any economic impact assessments?

Early warning / Early action concept



Source: Peter Rees, IFRC, 30 April 2009,

Focus on the IFRC-IRI-NASA scheme: Questions from the audience

- How much does it cost to build such a complex system?
- How does IFRC succeed in building this partnership with scientific institutions?
- Are these tools tailored properly with the local community?
- E.g. why not share this early warning system with other NGOs?

Project's main conclusion

There's a need to further explore and define good practices and ways to institutionalize them to ensure climate services provide users of climate information with a 'translation service' that decode scientific information and makes it directly comprehensible and usable by the grassroots level.

Role of “boundary organizations” in translating climate information

- Boundary organizations, a traditional metaphor: a bridge builder, a broker
- Effective systems cultivate institutions that act as intermediaries, e.g. between scientists and decision makers
- Boundary organizations facilitate dialogue by defining the science-policy boundary and define accountability of each side

Building a global framework for climate services:

Recommendation for further research

- There is strong demand and lots of institutional experiences to learn from (e.g. creation of boundary organizations) in the domain of **climate variability prediction**
- Focus on lessons learned in **boundary organizations** and identify key features for the design of efficient climate service institutions

« Back to the future »

« Knowledge-action system »* for climate change forecasting

- The role of a national climate service?
 - Currently, few, if any, countries provide a comprehensive national climate and environmental service.



Cash & Buizer, 2005, Nat. Res. Council of the National Academies