Climate Services: What does this mean for those want to use these services?

Thursday, 18th October 2012
Climate Services, Graz Austria

Roger B Street
Technical Director, Adaptation Science

Key Lessons Learned

- **Need for a clear understanding of what information, data and support is needed and why**
  - Starting with a clear articulation of what is the intended use and why
  - Not need to accept just descriptions of the current (and future) climate or impacts
- **Need to understand what is available, assumptions and limitations**
  - Clear understanding of what is on offer and what is possible
- **Sustained engagement of users and providers of information**
  - Aim is informed engagement from concept to delivery and beyond
  - Continuous improvement informed by users' needs and science capabilities
- **Both access and support are necessary**
- **Continuous learning and sharing to improve services**

- Approach that is **decision (demand) driven informed by science (supply)**

UKCIP eci UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Articulating Users' Requirements

Climate information that can be integrated into existing processes and integrated along with other information

- Need for the users' perspectives to be centre stage – relevance and enhanced utility informed by science
- Descriptions of climate are necessary, but often insufficient
- Recognise that adaptation is a (decision-making) process and that information, including uncertainties, needs to be framed within that process
- Consideration of thresholds, sensitivities and risk tolerances

Information is not enough – needs to be supported with knowledge (e.g., case studies and guidance) and with expertise

Information and expertise need to be **credible (legitimacy)** – trusted source and with clear articulation of assumptions and limitations

UKCIP eci UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Users' Perspectives

How to improve the effectiveness / relevance and the delivery of climate services, including:

- Different users have different needs, not a single / uniform community
- Partnerships between those providing and those using climate services
- Flexibility in the manner that services are provided that recognises different users' capabilities and resources
- Easily accessible information at various spatial (local to global) and temporal scales
- Accompanying documentation (metadata, assumptions and limitations), support (guidance and case studies) and information that gives the services provided credibility
- Fora for discussions with other users – share experiences and lessons learned

UKCIP eci UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Towards Improved Climate Services

There is a need to be able to articulate:

- **The relative role of climate information** and why is it needed
- Nature and scope of their **current and future needs** (foresight)
- **Current and changing technical capacity** to ingest climate services
- **Capacity and willingness to be engaged** in developing and delivery of climate services
- **Breadth of users** those engaged represent and how better to engage the spectrum of users
- Characteristics of the information / data that enhance its **relevance and utility**
- Expectations regarding the **standards** of the climate services provided

UKCIP eci UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Users' Role - Challenges

Different providers and purveyors – climate services landscape

Changing nature of climate information – new and additional information leading to an evolution of supply

Changing nature of adaptation to a changing climate and the resulting demands for information / data needed to support

Difference in time frames – when information / data is needed and when it can be available

Engaging with the climate service community – resources and time

Challenging the provider community – having a voice

UKCIP eci UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/