



ECONADAPT / THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Quick Insight: Reflections on climate services and adaptation

Clare Goodess

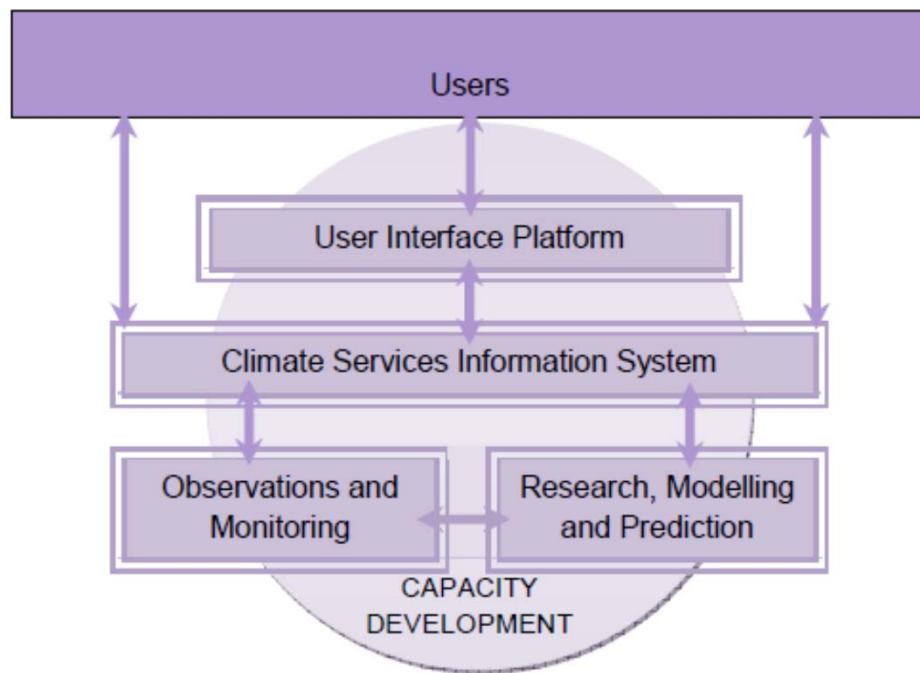
Climatic Research Unit, UEA, UK

With thanks to Ole Christensen (DMI), Paul Watkiss
and the ECONADAPT case-study teams



What are climate services?

Global Framework for Climate Services (WMO)



“Climate information provided in a way that assists decision making by individuals and organizations. Requires appropriate engagement along with an effective access mechanism and must respond to user needs.”

Some assumptions and prejudices from the physical climate scientists!

- IAV/VIA communities tend to be seen as the same thing (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability)
 - e.g. VIA and Climate Services Advisory Board for CMIP6
 - but levels of engagement with these communities are very different – so there is a tendency to focus on impacts:
- Users always want/need high resolution
- Everybody should work with large climate model ensembles in order to address uncertainty
- Users need data and data products
- More interest in predictions & projections than observations



Working with the ECONADAPT case studies

“One size doesn’t fit all”

- Different climate variables and events (not just temperature, rainfall, also: wind, sea level, sea water temperature, tropical cyclones; not just mean climate, also: variability and extremes)
- Different spatial and temporal resolutions (country averages to point locations; annual means to daily time series)
- Differences in capacity to use climate data and information (type of impact/assessment/economic model, computing resources, technical expertise in different data formats, qualitative vs quantitative approaches, time available, policy cycle timeline & deadlines) – particularly affects handling of uncertainties

What worked well in ECONADAPT?

- Time to develop understanding on “both sides”
- A specified climate expert working in partnership with each case study – providing advice and guidance not just data
- Case-study leaders acting as ‘intermediaries’ and ‘translators’
- Ability to call on wider expertise (e.g., DIVA for sea level)
- Some inbuilt flexibility so could respond to *ad hoc* requests

i.e. a policy-first approach

