

# Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Steering Committee Annual Meeting

ECMWF, Reading, UK, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

## **Adaptation and climate services: GCOS role in adaptation**

ISTI could come in here – this is a tool for decision making – both the databank which can provide data for assessing current climate extremes and the portal which can host data-products of national and global climate statistics.

Needs to be easily usable – access what you want within 10 minutes or most people will give up.

Meaningful quantification of uncertainty in ways that non-scientific users can understand – DO THIS IN A COMMON WAY!!!

ISTI – link with factual anecdotes/evidence – must be verifiable though.

within reason ISTI can be anything users need it to be

data/climate info has to be integrated with socio-economic information – national climate summaries/statistics – climate services

Improved use of combined paleo proxies, instrumental records and climate projections – data are needed to verify model/reanalysis output and seasonal to decadal forecasts. ISTI could help do this by using sensible and common formats.

Key past events – how would better information have helped preparedness? Would it at all? Need some analysis of return periods/likelihood of certain events. Show value of the observing system and of how data rescue, acquisition and provenance will improve things. Would it have saved lives by enabling people to be better prepared for such events? Interest in precipitation rescue and not temperature – culture of only putting effort into precipitation as this is the most immediate concern.

## **MULTIPLE PRODUCTS!**

Could support climate services, adaptation strategies/science and attribution studies by providing a global data and products holding – e.g., ISTI – a comprehensive tool for scientists and policy makers

Robust categorisation of the baseline climate.

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## **Progress report for ISTI**

GCOS welcome the Initiative – this is a worthy effort – but cannot provide formal recognition of the databank as a GCOS databank. This request, and other formal issues, would have to come from above (WMO, ICSU - International Council for Science [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org) – ICSU goal to facilitate interaction amongst multiple disciplines and countries).

This will be passed onto the AOPC (Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate) though – likely that we could report through them to GCOS and they may be able to provide more formal support (non-financial)

Tom Peterson to liaise with NCDC AOPC representative, Kate to talk to David Parker – this will need presenting at the next AOPC meeting.

Concern about how we fund ourselves – nothing can come from GCOS – giving verbal support and perhaps formal reporting to AOPC may help with the cause though.

Concern over what we are providing beyond WMO data centres. Russia and China (for example) have many stations that they will not provide externally because the stations they do provide to WMO are seen as sufficient. *I think we're providing historical data, data provenance where possible, data in a single databank that can be referenced to metadata and non-instrumental data and benchmark analogs. We're providing a framework for an end-to-end process – not just data.*

Concern over extra effort going into data provenance. What is more important? Advancing the science or appeasing those who may never be satisfied? *I think we have to achieve a balance – archive traceable data where we can and make this a standard for future data archiving but accept that we will never be able to do this for all data.*

### **Global Surface Reference Network**

GCOS supported the idea and the necessity but passed this to AOPC and will need it presenting to them (Tom P. to speak to NCDC rep)

Could GRUAN sites be start points?

Later discussions from other areas (Cryosphere, Fluxes, Terrestrial data) all mentioned reference networks – is there scope for bringing these all together?

Also – everyone wants a portal – can these not be aligned – Land Surface Databank could plausibly cover many variables. Make sure we're not tripping over each other.

AntON – Antarctic observing network

SAON – Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks

CIMO - SPICE

Is there a logical place for cryosphere data?

Interoperable data centres – links to other's sites or you can pull other's data off this site