



Providing Climate Services: What does this mean for those providing these services?

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Climate Services, Graz Austria



Key Lessons Learned

- **Information needed is that to support decision and policy making**
 - Starting with the decision / policy framing – vulnerabilities, sensitivities
 - More than just descriptions of the current (and future) climate or impacts
 - Adaptation is a decision-making process that requires reflection of uncertainties framed in the context of that process
- **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**
 - Defined and delivered working with users and providers
 - Variety of information / knowledge reflecting diversity of users
 - Single snapshots are insufficient – evolving information and support
- **Continuous learning and sharing of practice and theory**
- Move from a data (supply)-driven approach to one that is **decision (demand) driven informed by science**



Understanding what is needed

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

- Need to put the organisation's decision-making perspectives centre stage – relevance and enhanced utility
- 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



Providers – Expressed needs

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

- Users' decision spaces (sectors where needs are greater, where are vulnerabilities / risks high, drivers of concern, risk appetite and timeframes for decisions/ policies)
- How climate information fits into users' decision-making processes
- Value of climate services and the need and potential for establishing standards – from the perspectives of the users
- Where users currently access climate services
- Nature and scope of current and future users' needs (foresight)
- Users' current and changing technical capacity to ingest climate services
- Capacity (including funds) and willingness to be engaged in developing and delivery of climate services and in climate services science
- Breadth of users those engaged represent and how better to engage the spectrum of users



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Role of Providers

Engage with users and other providers (including purveyors)

- Need to listen and understand requirements
- Keeping abreast of the changing nature and scope of the climate information needed and of the users
- Communicate what information is available relative requirements, including assumptions and limitations, and what these mean for use
- Co-production of climate services, including their delivery (working with users and other providers)

Scope of science required:

- Multi-disciplinary – natural/physical, social and engineering sciences
- Action research – research initiated to solve an immediate problems (actively participating in organisational change)
- Trans-disciplinary – involvement of intended users in the design, delivery and dissemination of research



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Research Role - Challenges

Retaining research credentials while providing climate services

- Peer-reviewed journal outputs and decision / policy-relevant outputs – scientific reputation and credibility
- Recognition of climate services as a legitimate science endeavour

Sustaining engagement of broader research community and users through the evolutions of supply (and demands)

Service perspective in addition to science

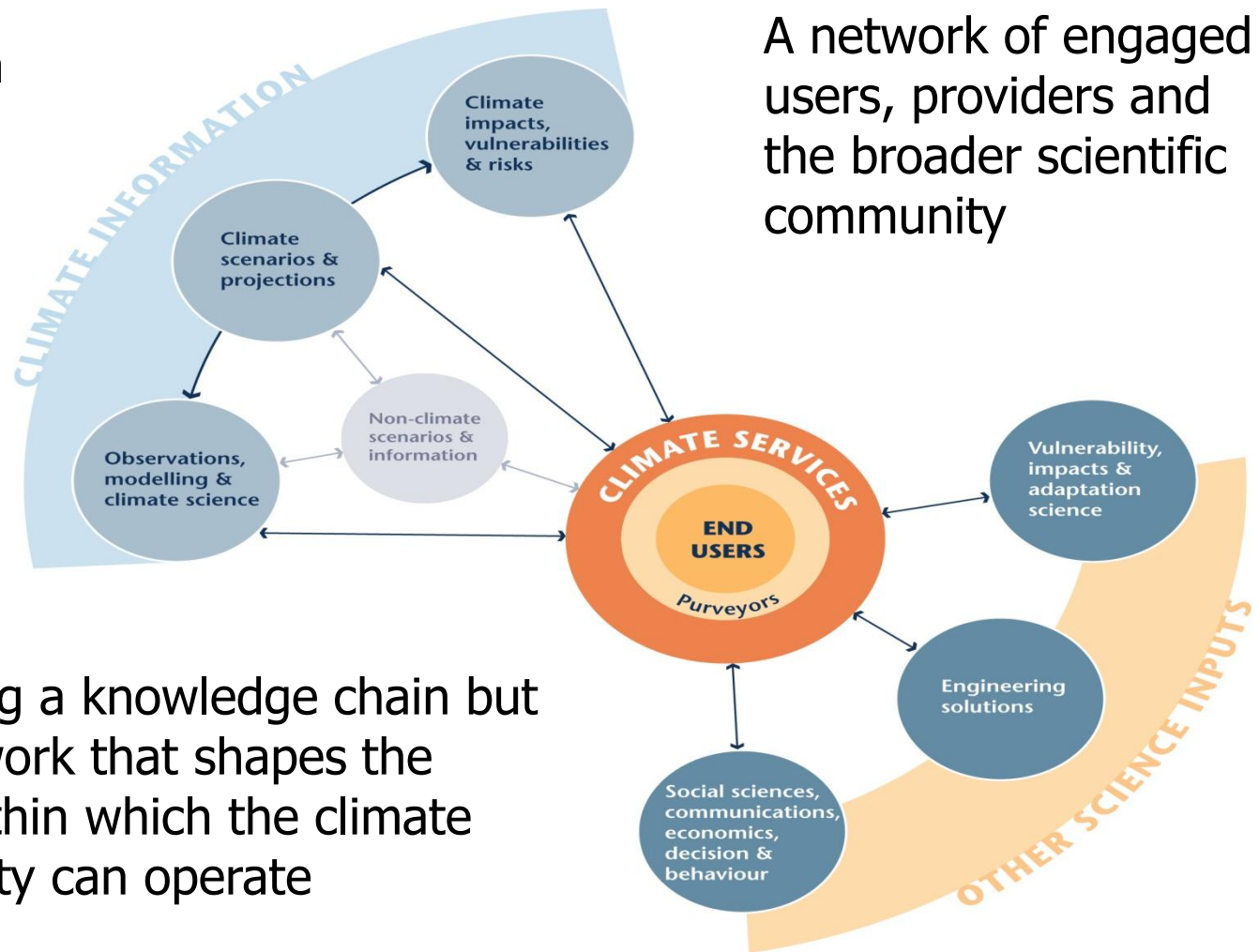
Demonstrating value and benefits of research undertaken and climate services through impacts on, and benefits to, intended users

Working with different providers and purveyors – climate services landscape



Climate Services – A knowledge network

Climate information and the knowledge to inform decision making and processes



Not simply building a knowledge chain but a knowledge network that shapes the decision space within which the climate services community can operate



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