

International Climate Services *Outreach and Dissemination*

Stephen E. Zebiak

International Research Institute for Climate and Society
Earth Institute at Columbia University



The Climate Services Partnership

Informal, interdisciplinary partnership (200+) working to improve climate services development and provision

Focused on creating knowledge/information resources, fostering collaborations to establish and improve on good practices

Vision:

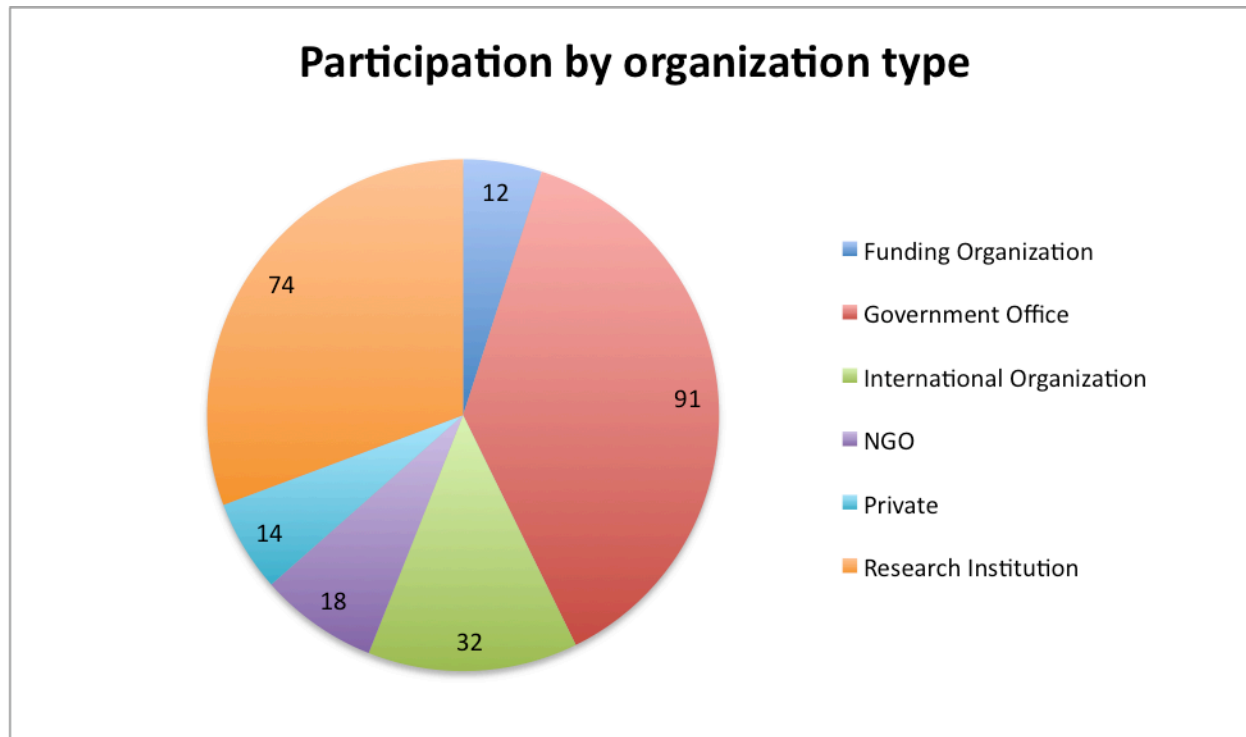
repository, clearinghouse, marketplace

Organization:

Coordinating Group
International office



Participation in CSP/ICCS process



Knowledge Capture and Exchange:

Interactive database of current climate services activities

- what, where
- theme/sector, institutions
- business model, governance, ...



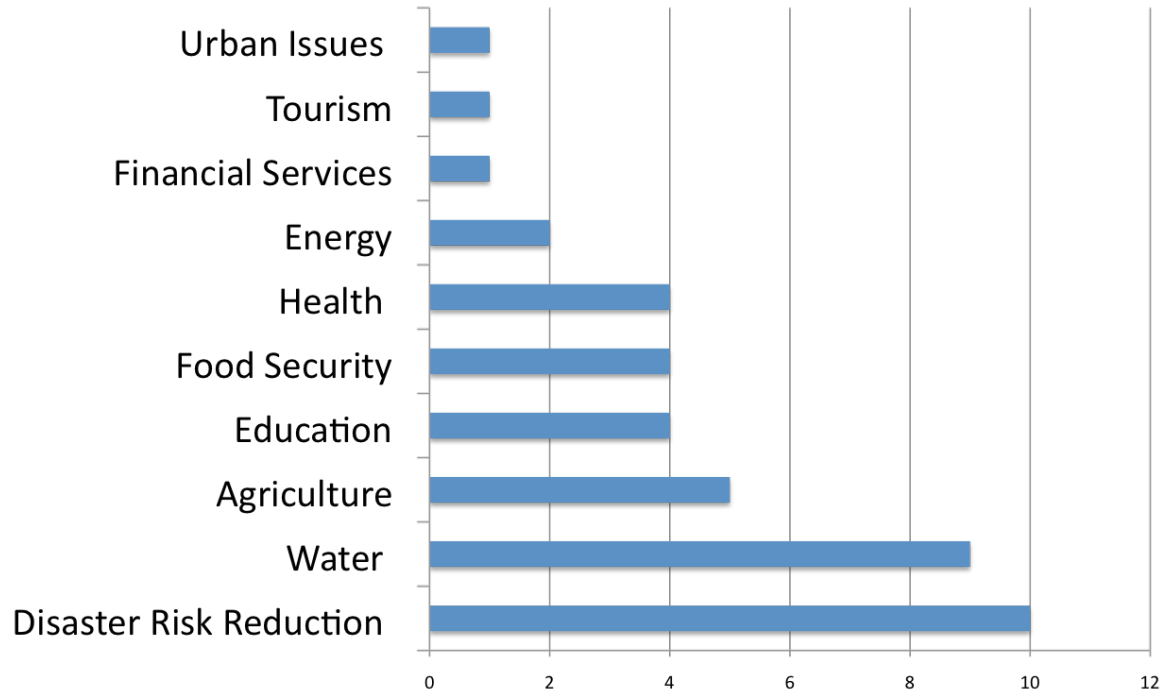
Case studies (joint with GFCS):

- basic information
- experiences, lessons learned, opportunities for improvement (30+ contributed)

Assessments:

- facilitated, independent analysis; address costs/benefits; gaps; opportunities
- Mali agromet program, India agricultural climate services first subjects

Case Studies



All regions (most in Africa)

Subnational to regional; 2 global

Weather to climate change timescales (most seasonal to interannual)

Case studies: some lessons

- Human capacity is key and requires continuous investment
- Bridging & tailoring takes time and resources
- Working with existing programs/infrastructure can be extremely effective
- Climate services should be part of a larger risk management strategy
- Challenges in defining success

Finding: insufficient user perspective

Emphasis of follow-on case studies

CSP Collaborative Activities – Working Groups

Evaluation/assessment of climate services

Motivation: with increasing investments, strong interest in understanding their value, and the appropriate measures of value

Intent: develop guidelines, protocol for assessment (practical but informative); apply and refine; disseminate

Numerous challenges to be addressed

Initial design structure includes problem identification, context, supply, demand of information, user engagement, and identification of good practices

CSP Collaborative Activities – Working Groups

Economic valuation of climate services

Motivation: continuing and new investments in climate services demand more rigorous means to assess economic return on investment

Intent: develop guidelines, methodological approaches and tools for valuation (manual)

Review of literature

Guidance to include: definitions, measures of costs, benefits, benefit-cost analysis, designing/commissioning a economic benefits study

CSP Collaborative Activities – Working Groups

Ethics of climate services

Motivation: a growing need for community standards/guidance in the conduct of climate services (quality assurance, equity, access, transparency, accountability)

Intent: propose a set of standards for climate service information products; propose a code of conduct for climate service delivery

Working group being constituted now

Code to include guiding principles and operational standards

GFCS endorsement and support



CSP Collaborative Activities – Working Groups

Research Prioritization

Motivation: tap experience in implementing climate services to inform and inspire research that improves services

Intent: create a mechanism to identify service-oriented research priorities and linkages to international/national research programs

Working group and TORs under development



Other CSP activities

- ICCS process
- CSP Knowledge Exchange
(webinars/e-discussion forum)
- CSP quarterly newsletter
- CSP Knowledge Mgt. Platform



January 2014 newsletter

January 2014 newsletter [See more](#)

What's New

Post-conference coverage: **SERVIR**

ICCS 3 coverage continues into the new year, as SERVIR thinks back on the Tools Expo and the SERVIR presentation of the CREST hydrological model....

[See more](#)



What are Climate Services?



Climate services involve the production, translation, transfer, and use of climate knowledge and information in climate-informed decision making and climate-smart policy and planning. Climate services ensure that the best available climate science...

[See more](#)

Upcoming Events

February 24 - 25, 2014

CLARR 2014 - International Conference on Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Towards Climate Adapted and Resilient Regions
Germany

March 10 - 15, 2014

CIRCLE 2 - Frontiers in European Climate Change Adaptation Research and Practice
Lisbon, Portugal

[See more](#)

Program Linkages

Global Framework for Climate Services

Coordinated activities

White paper on program linkage under development

Development programs (eg, World Bank PPCR)

Sector and regional climate services communities

European initiatives (eg, EUPORIAS, CCCS?)



Additional interest areas:

Stakeholder engagement

Coordinating investments

Climate services training curriculum

Fostering Good Practice

Program Concept: Good Practices Guide to Climate Services

Purpose: guidance for climate service implementers and sponsors, capturing collective knowledge on good practices approaches, tools, and available resources

To include: context, descriptions, examples, metrics and indicators, recommendations, references and resources – for each area

Topics: eg, climate information products for services, stakeholder outreach and collaboration, communication and dissemination, evaluation, conduct of climate services, capacity building, institutional arrangements, policy engagement, investment.



IRI Role in Climate Services Agenda

- **Research, information, practice, policy aspects of CS**
- **18 years experience, place-based demonstrations**
- **Approach to CRM/climate services**

Information

Seasonal forecasts, decadal outlooks, satellite/in situ analyses

Climate risk management tools

Decision support systems (agriculture, water mgt); malaria EWS, weather index insurance

Data management and dissemination

IRI Data Library and “Map Room” facilities

Stakeholder engagement/collaboration process

Multidisciplinary working groups, staff exchange, help desk, ...

Training

Policy engagement