



Side Event 5

CS4AWA, A research proposal on Climate Service for the AWA region

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Abstract

CS4AWA's main objective is to develop better tools, methods, and standards on how to produce, transfer, communicate, and use reliable climate and related information for the African Atlantic coastal region. It will, thus, contribute to the development of climate services (CS) for this region; where to our best knowledge, no consistent CS exist for Ocean sectors, despite their great societal and economic significance, and despite an urgent demand (see e.g., Ocean climate declaration of Dakar, 2015), particularly since CoP21. CS4AWA has three specific objectives that contribute to integration and application of climate science for decision-making, and research for co-development of advanced CS: 1. To integrate improved climate predictions with coastal erosion (and associated risks, 1), marine ecosystems, and fisheries bio-economic impact models to provide relevant user demanded information for the three African Atlantic large marine ecosystems (LME): Canary Current (CCLME), Guinea Current (GCLME), and Benguela Current (BCLME). 2. To support science based decision-making at local, national, regional and international level by analysing how climate change (CC) impacts will affect the socio-economic development of the coastal zone, with focus on small-scale fishing communities and coastal populations. 3. To co-develop advanced tools, methods and instruments to produce, transfer, communicate and use scientific information and model outputs in order to enhance the capacity of decision-makers to deal with climate uncertainties knowledge. In the first, knowledge of user requirements gained from the AWA and PREFACE projects will be refined with respect to climate impact prediction capabilities and according to the UG. The second will assess whether user requirements are being met, and revisit user and researcher expectations. The final workshop will provide products and summary information to the UG, evaluate whether expectations were met, and design the next step in CS based on CS4AWA's results. We will develop CS using seasonal and long-term climate predictions. Climate predictions from PREFACE using innovatively corrected models will drive regional marine ecosystem, fisheries, and coastal impact models for the three LMEs. Output from AWA and



PREFACE bio-economic models that integrate survey derived user behaviour with climate predictions will be used to assess the vulnerability of small scale fishing communities and identify appropriate adaptation strategies. Uncertainty measures will be provided by multi-model data. CS4AWA will develop an interactive web-platform as a key instrument to disseminate CS products to the UG: general public, academia, and decision makers. This project and its AWA and PREFACE precursors actively contribute in capacity building in African countries on the Atlantic coast both in natural and social sciences, through active involvement and training (including summer schools and graduate level courses) of CC impacts researchers from the region. CS4AWA will engage these African countries in using CS and increase market opportunities locally and for Europe. CS4AWA will thus improve the communication of prediction uncertainties to the stakeholder community. We will communicate climate knowledge in a way that is both scientifically sound and easily understood, facilitating decision making, and integrating into the broader context of societal, economic, and environmental changes.



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Extended book of Abstract

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