Volume 4, Issue 2 February 2012

Climate Information for Public Health Action Summer Institute

News From the Ground

This newsletter provides updates on the latest developments within the CIPHA network, including the activities of alumni and facilitators, meeting reports, news from the health and climate community and opportunities for collaboration



Editorial

The relevance that climate change has taken today in different parts of the world faces the challenge of thinking in an interdisciplinary approach that accounts for the multiple dimensions that this phenomenon exhibits and for the subsequent need of contributions from different disciplines. The climate change science has actually shifted its approach from *impact-led* to *vulnerability-led* (Adger 2004; Füssel 2007; Ford 2008).

Because public health focuses on protecting, promoting and restoring populations' health from different factors - including climate variability and climate change - we believe that the vulnerability-led adaptation approach lines up with this effort better.

The vulnerability framework offers a broad development-oriented structure. Recognition that social and ecological systems function as adaptive systems and that systems' resilience can be stimulated and managed as an adaptive mechanism is also increasing.

We need to do a lot more to understand and show the interactions between vulnerability, adaptation to climate variability and change, and the short and long term consequences of climate on public health. It is therefore critical to explore and implement an interdisciplinary approach to deal with this new paradigm.

Along the same line, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)'s

In This Issue

2 **Editorial**

3 **Updates**

5 **Upcoming Courses**

6 **Upcoming Events**

8 **Publications**

10 **Related Links**

10 **Contact Information**

10 **Internet Citation**

Adaptation Policy Framework, which provides guidance for developing climate change adaptation initiatives, defines adaptation as "a process by which strategies to moderate, cope with, and take advantage of the consequences of climate events (as opposed to just anthropogenic climate change) are enhanced, developed, and implemented". As such, this framework directs the focus of adaptation policy and research to address the root causes of climate vulnerability (Lim 2005). Ten years ago, in 2002, many countries with reduced resources signed the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development that called for greater attention to adaptation in climate change policy negotiations (UNFCC 2002). And more recently, the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had emphasized the importance for countries to focus on increasing adaptive capacity to climate change over the long term and detailed regional-scale research on the impact of, and vulnerability to, climate change.

The International Research Institute on Climate and Society (IRI), at Columbia University, has been working for the last five years in streamlining and applying these efforts to building capacity in the field of public health. In particular the IRI is actively involved in the education and training of public health professionals on the relationship between climate and public health, in order to better manage climate risk, and through collaborations with Ministries of Health to translate research evidence into action or to support decision at the local and regional levels.

All the efforts mentioned above come together in a worldwide community of practice, the Climate Information for Public Health Action Network (CIPHAN). Thanks to the commitment of its now more than 150 members, the use of the vulnerability framework as well as the interdisciplinary approach of research and operational work should take a new development soon.

For instance, some members of CIPHAN are currently working on the development of a proposal entitled “A socio-environmental vulnerability index for dengue fever in Latin America”, and some others are working on the development of an informal expert consultation for assessing research and capacity needs called "Adaptation to Social, Environmental and Climate Change Impacts on Vector-Borne Diseases in Africa", to better define the needs on this issue. Stay tuned on CIPHAN for more information on these matters, which will be covered in our next issue (May, 2012)!

Updates

Alumni

SI08 Wendy-Marie Thomas and SI10 Jennifer Vanos attended the International Congress of Biometeorology Dec 5-8th in Auckland, New Zealand. The following papers were presented by the SI alumni: "Another twist on the environment and health connection: Severe weather impacts to hospital buildings", "The state of hydro-met applications for public health in the United States" (Wendy Thomas), and "Validation of predictive sweat rate and core temperature predictive equations during intense exercise through application of the COMfort FormulA (COMFA) outdoor energy budget model" (Jennifer Vanos). These papers can be found in the conference proceedings of the International Congress of Biometeorology at: http://www.icb2011.com/icb2011/

Jennifer has also been recently appointed as Postdoctoral Researcher within the Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau, Population Studies Division, Health Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada. She has a new publication out in the International Journal of Biometeorology: Vanos, J.K., Warland, J.S., Gillespie, T.J., Kenny, N.A. Thermal comfort modelling of body temperature and psychological variations of a human exercising in an outdoor environment. International Journal of Biometeorology. 56 (1), 21-32. Online at: http://www.springerlink.com/content/u1qw99575584/

SI10 Paula Carvalho Pereda is in the process of finishing her PhD in Economics at São Paulo University. In December 2011, Paula was appointed Professor at the Economics and Business School, Sao Paulo University. She also participated on several trainings during the last semester of 2011, which include: Quantitative Analysis of Labor Force in Health, SGTES - State University of Rio de Janeiro, 2011 and the Summer School on Climate Impacts Modeling for Developing Countries: Water, Agriculture and Health, International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), 2011.

Paula is now working on several papers related to agriculture and adaptation to climate change: The Role of Insurance and Technology Dissemination in Brazilian Risk Management and other about Climatic Elements and Dengue Incidence in Brazil: Theory and Evidence for Brazilian Municipalities. The latest was presented in the XXXIII Brazilian Meeting in Econometrics Foz do Iguaçu, December 2011.

Facilitators

SI 08-11 IRI Madeleine Thomson, Rémi Cousin and Patricia Graves (EpiVec Consulting) and SI 08 alumni Adugna Woyessa were part of the facilitators of the Workshop on the use of Climate Information in Impact Assessment for Malaria Interventions, held in Addis Ababa in December 2011. The main goal of this workshop was to evaluate the use of Climate information in Impact Assessment for Malaria Interventions. It also served as a first platform to introduce the National Meteorological Agency (NMA)'s new enhanced national climate time series and derived products to the Ethiopian malaria community.

Twenty-eight participants took part in the workshop. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds: health practitioners from federal and regional health bureaus, researchers from universities, development, organizations, donors, and the National Meteorological Services Agency of Ethiopia

At the end of the training shop a competition was announced for writing proposals that make the best use of the newly developed data set in public health decision-making and operational research activities in

Ethiopia.

Final report available online at:
http://iri.columbia.edu/publications/download=1136

Meetings

Durban Climate Change Conference – COP17/CMP, Durban, South Africa. November 28 – December 11, 2011.

The Conference drew over 12 480 participants, including over 5 400 government officials, 5 800 representatives of United Nations (UN) bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and more than 1 200 members of the media.

The meetings resulted in the adoption of 19 Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions and 17 Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parities to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) decisions and the approval of a number of conclusions by the subsidiary bodies. These outcomes cover a wide range of topics, notably the establishment of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, a decision on long-term cooperative action under the Convention, the launch of a new process towards an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties to the Convention, and the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.

More information about the outcomes of the conference available online at: http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop17/

Projects

The Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency and IRI, with funding from Google.org, have worked to create ENACT (Enhanced National Climate Time Series) products by using a combination of locally calibrated satellite rainfall estimates and all available quality controlled ground-based station data (more than 600 stations). The new climate time series also includes minimum and maximum temperature generated by combining station measurements (from about 300 stations) with NASA's MODIS land surface temperature estimates data and digital elevation model. Both ENACT, derived products, and the web-based services are unprecedented in Africa and many parts of the world. The resulting ENACT components include: a) Enhanced national climatology time series based on 30 years of good quality 10-daily rainfall and temperature for every 10-km by 10-km grid through combining all relevant data from the national observation network with the satellite proxies; b)New monitoring products based on observed differences to long-term averages that outcompete all currently available alternative products and c) An online mapping service (built using IRI Data Library capacity/tools) installed at the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) providing user-friendly tools for visualization, querying, and accessing information products. The web page of the National Meteorology Agency (http://www.ethiomet.gov.et/) has been redesigned for better presentation of its existing products and services, and for the delivery of product derived from the new data set.

The Climate Analyses and Applications Map Room) has five parts: Climate Analysis, Climate Monitoring, Climate and Agriculture, Climate and Water, and Climate and Health (http://213.55.84.78:8082/maproom/.NMA/). The Climate Analysis and Climate Monitoring Map Rooms have been completed, while the others are still under construction. The Climate Analysis Map Room provides information on the mean climate (in terms of rainfall and temperatures) at any point or for any administrative boundary. It also shows the performance of the rainfall seasons over the years as compared to the mean. The Climate Monitoring Map Room enables monitoring of the current season. Different maps and graphs compare the current season with the mean or recent years. This information could be extracted at any point or for any administrative boundary. Data is updated every ten days, thus

enabling close monitoring of the season. Extracting and presenting information at any administrative level enables focusing on specific area of interest.

This is a very exciting step forward in the creation of climate services.

Upcoming Courses

Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change: Two-year Master's Degree Program in Environmental Policy and Law. University of Eastern Finland, Department of Law, Joensuu, Finland. From fall 2012.

This is a new multidisciplinary program that combines high level teaching with working life oriented educational objectives. The programme provides advanced training in policies, law and environmental and social impact assessment for climate change and sustainable management of natural resources. Registrations are now open.

More information available online at: https://www.uef.fi/envlawandpolicy/

Climate Change and Development short course. University of East Anglia (UEA) and UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. September, 5-18, 2012.

This course aims to equip non-specialists with a broad understanding of what climate change may mean for low-income populations and what the scope and prospects are for adapting to change in the context of development issues and poverty reduction.

The course does not set out to provide a practical 'toolkit' guide for policy and practice. Instead it is designed to equip participants with a deeper awareness of the ideas, opportunities and trade-offs represented by adaptation and mitigation: an understanding that is increasingly needed if we are to achieve effective action on climate change.

For more information visit: https://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/co/prodev/ccd.

Workshop on International Climate Policy (ICP). Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems Freiburg. May 3-4, 2012.

The ICP workshops series is organised twice per year under the auspices of the European Ph.D. Network on International Climate Policy. It aims to offer doctoral candidates the opportunity to present their research ideas and results, receive feedback, and exchange information and assistance in an informal setting. PhD students from all disciplines working on topics relevant to climate policy are invited to submit applications.

The ICP workshop will cover topics of relevance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as policy instruments, carbon markets, science-policy interface, climate and development, renewable energy and forests in a changing climate, as well as climate change negotiations and post-Kyoto governance architectures.

Participation is free of charge, but workshop participants are expected to cover their travel and accommodation expenses. To apply for the workshop, please submit the application form available on the workshop's homepage at http://www.wipo.uni-freiburg.de/tagungen/24icpworkshop

2012 Call for Proposals Grant Awards for Global Environmental Change Research in Africa

START, the global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (http://www.start.org), is pleased to announce the 2012 Call for Proposals (CFP) for Global Environmental Change (GEC) Research in Africa. The theme for the 2012 CFP is global environmental change, agriculture and food security.

Deadline for submission of proposals: Midnight

(2400 hours) US Eastern Standard Time March 28, 2012 at the International START Secretariat office based in Washington, DC, USA. Please use the Application Form) and submit your proposal electronically to: proposals@start.org.

Upcoming Events

"Knowledge Gaps in Climate Change Research – How are you tackling it?". Norwich, UK. April 11-13, 2012.

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change is hosting the second annual PhD Conference which theme is "Knowledge Gaps in Climate Change Research – How are you tackling it?", reflecting the innovative and interdisciplinary research being carried out by PhD researchers across the United Kingdom and wider world.

The overarching purpose of this conference is to facilitate discussions regarding what gaps exist in climate change research, and how PhDs, the Postdocs and Professors of the future, aim to address them.

In addition to the sessions presenting research, there will be an opening key note speech from Professor Mike Hulme (UEA) addressing "Climate change: what sort of knowledge for what sort of politics?", a session concerning career options after your PhD, and a panel debate to close the conference.

More information available online at: http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/knowledge-gaps-conference

Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change. Hanoi, Vietnam. May 7 – 11, 2012.

Global leaders, practitioners, scientists, civil society and the private sector will demonstrate early action on climate-smart agriculture as a driver for green growth during the 2nd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change that includes a High Level Meeting and will be co-organized by Vietnam and the Netherlands, in close collaboration with other partners, including the World Bank and FAO.

More information available online at: http://www.afcconference.com/

Rio+20. United Nations conference on Sustainable Development. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. June 20 – 22, 2012.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The Conference will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges

More information available online at: http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/

The 4th Biennial Conference of EcoHealth 2012: Sustaining Ecosystems, Supporting Health, Kunming City, China. October 15-18, 2012.

EcoHealth 2012 in Kunming will represent the ten-year anniversary of the EcoHealth journal and its initiation as a scholarly field aimed at supporting areas of practice that had largely begun several years before.

The EcoHealth 2012 conference will serve as a forum for scientists, local practitioners, policy makers, and students. EcoHealth conferences facilitate research and policy exchange among experts in ecosystems and health, create and sustain a dialogue on practical approaches, and reinforce leadership and collaboration for ongoing development of the ecohealth field. The deadline for submitting abstracts: March 30, 2012.

More information available online at:
http://www.ecohealth.net/

Publications

Rethinking Support for Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change: the Role of Development Interventions. Levine S., Ludi E., and Jones L. Overseas Development Institute, 2011.

This paper is based on an analysis of three country studies conducted by national research teams in eight research sites in Ethiopia, Uganda and Mozambique for ACCRA. It describes the Local Adaptive Capacity (LAC) framework developed for this project, its application during the research, and the evidence found about the impact of development interventions on the adaptive capacity of people and communities.

Please access the report on:

http://community.eldis.org/.5a35bbfb/txFileDownload/f.5a35bbfb/n.ACCRA%20Rethinking%20Support%20Report%20Final.pdf

EcoHealth Research in Practice: Innovative Applications of an Ecosystem Approach to Health. Charron Dominique. International Development Research Centre. IDRC. Ottawa, ON, Canada, 2011.

An ecosystem approach to health, integrating research and practice from such fields as environmental management, public health, biodiversity, and economic development, is based on an understanding that people are part of complex socio-ecological systems.

Featuring case studies from around the world, Ecohealth Research in Practice demonstrates innovative practices in agriculture, natural resource management, community building, and disease prevention, reflecting the state of the art in research, application, and policymaking in the field. The book demonstrates how ecohealth research works and how it has led to lasting changes for the betterment of peoples' lives and the ecosystems that support them.
Available online at: http://bit.ly/so4gkn

Climate Change and Migration: Security and Borders in a Warming World. Oxford University Press, 2011.

The book is at the intersection of three fields - environmental studies, security studies, and immigration studies - and challenges conventional policy notions about unauthorized migration to the North Atlantic region. It focuses especially on African emigration to Europe via North African "transit states" such as Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya, and casts a skeptical eye on Africa as a future source of climate-induced migration (CIM). Drawing on natural science scholarship on the prospective impact of climate change on Africa, the book argues that CIM has been increasingly and unduly framed as a security concern by policymakers and security analysts.

More information available online at:

http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Politics/InternationalStudies/?view=3Dusa&ci=3D9780199794836

TR12.Final Report. Training Institute on Climate and Health (ICCS11).Piriapolis, Uruguay . 7 to November 18, 2011. G.Mantilla, C. Vaughan , M. Ohira , C.Ciganda

The Training Institute on Climate and Health 2011 (ICCS11) becomes the first initiative of its kind in Latin America by the IRI, IAI, CISAT and PAHO. Its development was designed based on the curriculum on climate information for public health which the IRI developed and has implemented over the last 4 years in New York, Colombia, Ethiopia and Madagascar; so far, this program has over 100 graduates. This report describes the curriculum, the content of each module developed, course evaluation and summaries of each of the proposal developed by the participants.

The report is available from the IRI's website at: http://iri.columbia.edu/publications/id=1137

Contact Information

Please contact ciph@iri.columbia.edu to send your comments or materials to be included in the next CIPHA newsletter. The deadline for documents to be included in the next issue is April 20th, 2012.



If you have questions about IRI activities, please visit our home page: http://iri.columbia.edu

Internet Citation

CIPHA Newsletter, February 2012, Vol. 4 Issue 2.

International Research Institute for Climate and Society, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Palisades, NY

Available from http://iri.columbia.edu/education/ciphnews

Related Links

http://iri.columbia.edu

Editorial Board

Laurence Cibrelus, SI08 Alumna
Gilma Mantilla, IRI
Madeleine Thomson, IRI