Volume 5 Issue 4 September 2013

Climate Information for Public Health Action

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

This 20th edition comes out a bit later than expected as we reconvene a new editorial team after the summer recess. While we reflect on the network that has been developed and maintained over the years through this newsletter, the team will be looking at new ways of communicating with all of you and as usual request your thoughts on the best way to do this. One suggestion is to create a group in LinkedIn or Facebook?

An important development over the last few months has been the arrival of a new funding stream in the area of Environment, Health and Nutrition. The Wellcome Trust is the UK's largest science donor outside of government and the second largest biomedical foundation globally (after the Gates Foundation). Over the summer, the Trust released a global call for pilot projects called *Sustaining Health*. A number of you may have already submitted your concept notes, which were due at the end of August. The importance of this new funding mechanism is not the size or possible number of awards, but the fact that a major bio-medical science donor is serious about engaging in this complex nexus. Let others take note and be inspired!

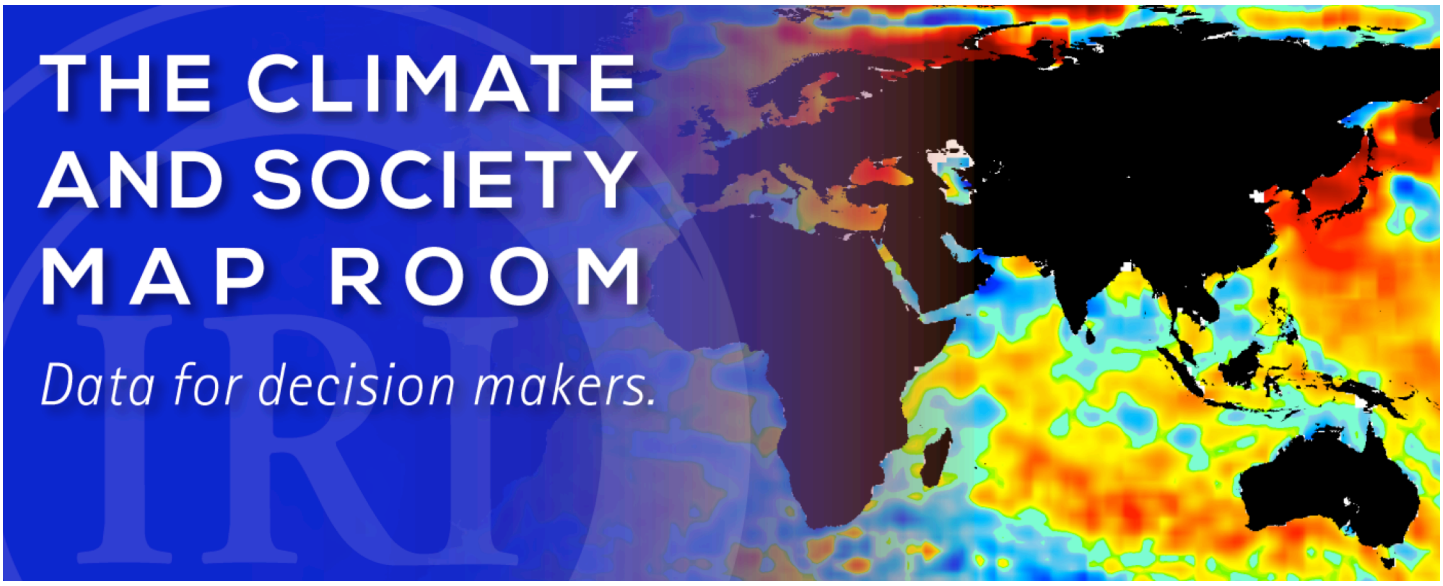
In previous editions of the newsletter we reported on the development of ENACTS products (Enhanced National Climate Services) for Ethiopia and Tanzania. The latest news is that Madagascar is now joining the list of pioneering countries in Africa, for which the Met Services are able to disseminate quality assured, nationally consistent rainfall and temperature data from a blend of station and satellite data.

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We expect the new products, managed locally via a mini IRI Data Library, to be launched in Madagascar in October, shortly after Tanzania demonstrates its own ENACTS products in a climate and health stakeholder meeting held in Dar es Salaam, October 16-18.

Many of you are aware of, or have used, the IRI Data Library to further advances in climate and health research and practice, so it is easy to see that these types of information and tools can now be designed locally to serve national stakeholders. While on the subject of the Data Library …



A new Google Chrome app has recently been developed for the redesigned IRI Climate and Society Map Room, which aims to facilitate the use of climate information in decision making and planning operations for climate sensitive sectors.

The map room is a collection of interactive maps and other figures that show present, past and future climate conditions as well as measures of some societal conditions. There are, for example, interactive tools tailored to the needs of the public health and food security communities.

Users can download the maps and their underlying data, export them to Google Earth and ArcGIS, and even share them through email and social platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

Install the Chrome app here:

https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/iri-climate-and-society-m/baplejgongpocoeabgpmhmnknjafhmbo

Madeleine Thomson & the CIPHA Editorial Team

Updates

Alumni

SI 2011 Jenni Vanos started a new tenure track position at Texas Tech University as Assistant Professor in Atmospheric Sciences, in the Geosciences Department. She also published a new article entitled "Changing air mass frequencies in Canada: Linking synoptic weather to human health," *International Journal of Biometeorology*.

Facilitators

SI 2008-2011 Madeleine Thomson, Pietro Ceccato, Barbara Platzer and SI 2008 Peter Omeny participated in a WHO TDR capacity strengthening workshop in Nairobi from June 24-28 to support the IDRC funded research initiative on "Population Health Vulnerabilities to Vector-Borne Diseases: Increasing Resilience under Climate Change Conditions in Africa." Leading talks on integrating climate and environmental information into monitoring and evaluation activities, the IRI team showcased products and methodologies developed with partners. These resources are accessible through the IRI Data Library and NASA SERVIR.

Meetings

SI 2008-2011 Madeline Thomson participated in a symposium on "Global Climate Change and Health: Building Bridges Between Science and Practice" on August 22 at the "Environment and Health - Bridging South, North, East and West" conference hosted by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, Switzerland. It was the first joint conference of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, the International Society of Exposure Sciences and the International Society of Indoor Air Quality: http://www.ehbasel13.org/index.php

Funding Opportunities

CALL for EXTENDED CONCEPT NOTES: ECOHEALTH CHAIRS in HEALTH and GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE in SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (IDRC).

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is seeking to strengthen and expand the field of an ecosystem approach to health ('ecohealth') in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to transform understanding, policy, and practice regarding key impediments to development arising from health risks, as well as opportunities for health-oriented and ecologically sound development, in the context of global environmental change.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: October 20th 2013, by 23:59 (11:59pm) Eastern Africa time (UTC/GMT +3 hours).

More information available online at: http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=69

Upcoming Events

"Moving towards Malaria Elimination: Investing in Research and Control": 6th MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference. Durban, South Africa**.** October 6-11, 2013.

This conference, hosted every four years, is the largest assembly of the malaria community and will consist of both plenary sessions and symposia on the latest findings, innovations and crucial research. The conference will be thematically based on the elimination of malaria as a viable for many African countries.

More information available online at:

http://mim2013.mrc.ac.za

Conservation International's San Francisco Dinner San Francisco, California. October 10, 2013.

Conservation International's initiatives are driven by strong ethics on climate change and health. CI recognizes the critical role of ecosystems in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, as well as prioritizes the relationship between natural ecosystems and the regulation of climate, air, water, infectious diseases and their intervention. Over 80% of funds raised by this dinner will go directly to CI's conservation projects.

More information available online at:
http://www.conservation.org/Pages/default.aspx

Africa Climate Conference (ACC) 2013. African Climate Policy Center (ACPC). Arusha, Tanzania. October 15-18, 2013.

This conference is hosted every two years by the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) and the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC). At this conference, policy makers, researchers and logistic practitioners will work together to identify the state of knowledge on the African climate system. Further, they will define and drive an agenda for future research that will inform decisions up until the mid to end 21st Century. The conference aims to develop a framework for mainstreaming climate information into decision making, as well as into a network of experts who evaluate and interpret for practical applications in agriculture and food production, water resources management, climate risk management and adaptation planning. It is expected that new and concrete research proposals for these areas will be established.

More information available online at:
http://www.climdev-africa.org/acc2013

Third Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA–III). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. October 21-23, 2013.

This year, the annual CCDA conference will take place soon after the Africa Climate Conference, which will allow the outcomes of the ACC to be featured prominently in the CCDA's discussion of the links between climate and development. The conference will also explore the links between climate science and climate policy through discussion of short term climate forecasts, advanced warning systems, investments in transport and energy infrastructure, downscaling projections, as well as co-development, reflection, and synergy among decision-makers.

More information available online at:
http://www.climdev-africa.org/ccda3

"Good Governance, Healthy Lifestyle, and Sustainable Environment- Trilogy for World Peace and Development": International Conference in Social Sciences, Health and Environment (ICOSSHE 2013). Sydney, Australia. October 24-16, 2013.

At this annual conference, researchers gather to provide an international forum for professional and student researchers in order to nourish, and promote high impact and quality research. This year the topics of the ICCOSSHE will pertain to good governance, graft and corruption, human rights, climate change, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, healthy lifestyles and ecology among other relevant topics.

More information available online at:
http://www.iamure.com/?page_id=11996

Fourth National Research Conference on Climate Change. Indian Institute of Technology. Madras, India. October 26-27, 2013.

The conference will cover topics related to the scientific, technical, economic and policy aspects of climate change in South Asian countries. This event, the fourth in the series, intends to nurture and enhance a dedicated network of climate researchers.

More information available online at: www.icrn.in

UNFCCC Warsaw Climate Change Conference. Warsaw, Poland. November 11-22, 2013.

This conference will be the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 9th Conference to the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Warsaw CCC will cover adaptation, finance, mitigation and technology for climate change as it affects and is affected by poverty, economic development, population growth, sustainable development and resource management.

More information available online at: http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/meeting/7649.php

2nd International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change (ICBCC 2013). Abu Dhabi. November 17-18, 2013.

This conference will provide a podium for international researchers, engineers, academics and professionals to share their research, development projects and ideas about biodiversity and climate change. Conference topics will include bioinformatics of diseases, modeling and simulation, produce disinfection and antimicrobials, climate change and global warming, remote sensing and environment, and water pollution and treatment.

More information available online at: http://www.icbcc.org/cfp.htm

"Adaptation Futures 2014": The Third International Climate Change Adaptation Conference. Fortaleza, Brazil. May 12-16, 2014

The conference will be co-hosted by the Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) and the Earth System Science Center of the National Institute for Space Studies (CCST-INPE). The need to share experiences in adaptation is crucial to building a knowledge base that supports policies and practices for those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The biennial conference seeks to enhance this knowledge base by bringing together research scientists, policy makers and practitioners from developed and developing countries to share knowledge about adaptation challenges and opportunities.

More information available online at: http://adaptationfutures2014.ccst.inpe.br/

Publications

Climate change and health: a tool for estimating health and adaptation costs

The WHO Regional Office for Europe prepared an economic analysis tool to support health adaptation planning in European Member States. This tool is expected to be applied mainly by line ministries responsible for climate change adaptation . It provides step-by-step guidance on estimating (a) the costs associated with damage to health due to climate change, (b) the costs for adaptation in various sectors to protect health from climate change and (c) the efficiency of adaptation measures, i.e. the cost of adaptation versus the expected returns, or averted health costs.

The tool consists of a document describing the methods step-by-step and a manual with an Excel spreadsheet, which is a visual aid for calculating costs. To obtain the Excel spreadsheet, please send an e-mail to climatechange@ecehbonn.euro.who.int.

Indian Climate Change Policy: Exploring a Co-Benefits Bases Approach by Navroz K. Dubash, D Raghunandan, Girish Sant, Ashok Sreenivas.

Economic & Political Weekly (2013) XLVIII (22) 47-61.

There is a growing body of climate-related policy in India; at the same time, there is no clear and consistent approach or framework that directs and guides these efforts. In this paper, the authors propose and develop a methodology for operationalizing a co-benefits approach to climate policy formulation.

Available online at:
http://www.cprindia.org/publications/papers/4589-indian-climate-change-policy-exploring-co-benefits-based-approach

'Understanding the Concept of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action' by Sudhir Sharma and Denis Desgain, URC. UNEP

The publication intends to enable national policy makers and other stakeholders, such as the private sector and technical experts, to acquaint themselves with the concept(is concept the right word/maybe goals of or objectives of, content of) of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA). It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the concept and enhance the understanding of NAMAs by explaining the underlying decisions of the Conference of the NAMA Parties.

Available online at:
http://www.uneprisoe.org/upload/unep%20risø/pdf%20files/understanding%20the%20concept%20of%20nama_web.pdf

An Agent-Based Model Driven by Tropical Rainfall to Understand the Spatio-Temporal Heterogeneity of a Chikungunya Outbreak by Carlos J. Dommar, Rachel Lowe, Marguerite Robinson, Xavier Rodó. Acta Trop. 2013 Aug 16. pii: S0001-706X(13)00209-X. doi: 10.1016/j.actatropica.2013.08.004.

The spatio-temporal transmission of chikungunya is investigated by implementing an agent-based model (ABM) where individual hosts are explicitly represented and vector population are linked to precipitation estimates in a tropical setting. This model can help to inform public health officials on both the impact and potential spatial expansion of the disease through both urban and rural regions under the influence of dynamic climatic conditions. The climate sensitivity of such vector-borne diseases highlights the importance of linking the monitoring of meteorological conditions to public health surveillance and control.

The abstract can be found here: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23958228

Climate and Non-Climate Drivers of Dengue Epidemics in Southern Coastal Ecuador by Anna M. Stewart-Ibarra, Rachel Lowe. Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. 2013 May;88(5):971-81. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.12-0478.

This paper reports a statistical mixed model for assessing the importance of climate and non-climate drivers of interannual variability in dengue fever in southern coastal Ecuador. Results indicate that monitoring the climate and non- climate drivers identified in this study could provide some predictive lead for forecasting dengue epidemics, showing the potential to develop a dengue early-warning system in this region.

The abstract can be found here: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/ 23478584

A Climate and Health Partnership to Inform the Prevention and Control of Meningoccocal Meningitis in Sub-Saharan Africa: The MERIT Initiative by Madeleine C. Thomson, E. Firth, M. Jancloes, A. Mihretie, M. Onoda, S. Nickovic, H. Broutin, S. Sow, W. Perea, E. Bertherat, S. Hugonnet. *In*: Climate Science for Serving Society: Research, Modeling and Prediction Priorities, Edition: 1st, Chapter: 17, Publisher: Springer Netherlands, Editors: Ghassem R. Asrar, James W. Hurrell, pp.459-484

This chapter describes the origins and activities of the Meningitis Environmental Risk Information Technologies initiative; a research consortium focused on improving health outcomes through a better understand and use of climate and environmental data in health decision-making.

The chapter can be found here:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240379347_A_Climate_and_Health_Partnership_to_Inform_the_Prevention_and_Control_of_Meningoccocal_Meningitis_in_Sub-Saharan_Africa_The_MERIT_Initiative

Tropical pacific forcing of a 1998–1999 climate shift: observational analysis and climate model results for the boreal spring season by Bradfield Lyon, Anthony G. Barnston, David G. DeWitt. Clim Dyn DOI 10.1007/s00382-013-1891-9

This article is an important read for those who wish to understand the causes of the region-wide extensive drought in Eastern Africa, which started in 1999. The results of these authors analysis point to the fundamental role played by the tropical Pacific in driving the response to multi-decadal variability of SSTs and provide important context for recent seasonal climate extremes in several regions of the globe including Eastern Africa.

http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00382-013-1891-9

Contact Information

Please contact ciph@iri.columbia.edu to send your comments or materials to be included in upcoming CIPHA newsletters and communications.



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

Internet Citation

CIPHA Newsletter, September 2013, Vol. 5 Issue 4.

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Related Links

http://iri.columbia.edu
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