



In Pursuit of a Multi-lateral Dialogue – the Swiss National Centre for Climate Services (NCCS)

Angela Michiko Hama, Mischa Croci-Maspoli, Mark Liniger, Cornelia Schwierz, Reto Stöckli, Andreas Fischer, Stefanie Gubler, Sven Kotlarski, Andrea Rossa, Elias Zubler, and Christof Appenzeller

Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss, Zurich, Switzerland

Kick-starting, fostering and maintaining a dialogue between primarily public and academic actors involved in the co-design, co-delivery and use of climate services is at the core of Switzerland's National Centre for Climate Services (NCCS), which was founded in late 2015 in recognition of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). This coordination and innovation mechanism is a concerted national effort comprised of seven Federal Agencies and Institutes and further partners from academia committed to implementing the Framework at national to subnational level and creating synergies the world over. The NCCS is to be regarded as vital alongside the Swiss National Adaptation Strategy, and it also contributes to putting words into action with respect to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The services of the Centre provide information to support policy-makers from national to local level as well as the private sector and society at large in minimising their risks, maximising opportunities and optimising costs in the context of climate change and variability. They are indispensable for setting effective mitigation and adaptation measures and for instigating societal transformation. Hence, the goals of the NCCS are to bundle the existing climate services of the Swiss Federation, co-create new tailored solutions with users, act as a network agent and knowledge broker – to boost climate literacy and enable climate-sensitive decision-making leading to increased resilience. The services reflect the specificities and requirements of the Alpine region and its particular challenges and vulnerabilities.

Pursuing a participatory approach, the NCCS has brought together essential key players, acted as a sounding board for governmental stakeholders and their needs, and accordingly defined and populated six priority themes in line with the priority areas of the GFCS. These themes are: natural hazards, health, agriculture, energy, forestry and water resources. Specific studies are underway within each theme, encompassing, inter alia, questions on extreme events, solar energy potentials in the housing sector as well as spread of pests and invasive species. In response to the GFCS advocating stronger international development cooperation, Peru and Switzerland are frontrunners in climate services twinning, jointly developing climate services-related capacities and sharing knowledge via the WMO-GFCS project CLIMANDES2.

In order to gain further traction in 2017, a communications and network strategy will be designed and rolled out, the set-up of an interactive web portal initiated and the engagement in international cooperation activities strengthened. As one of the core products of the NCCS, the new Swiss climate scenarios for 2018 will be developed in a user-oriented fashion. Enhancing the relevance and uptake of the CH2018 scenarios, stakeholder dialogues will be conceptualized and conducted in all phases and communication formats collaboratively devised and tested.

This presentation will give an overview of the founding phase of the NCCS and its first accomplishments since its inception as well as discuss its strategies, activities and current challenges. Following the interactive nature of the session, feedback and input will be sought from the participants with regard to user requirements and communication tools.