

NATIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUMS AND NATIONAL CLIMATE FORUMS

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WMO OMM

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NMHSs provide Climate information and Services on a continuum of time-scales for

Climate risk management and adaptation actions



Current Climate Variability

Future Climate Change

Predictions

Projections

Weather scale

Seasonal

Sub-seasonal

Interannual

Decadal

Multi-decadal

Century

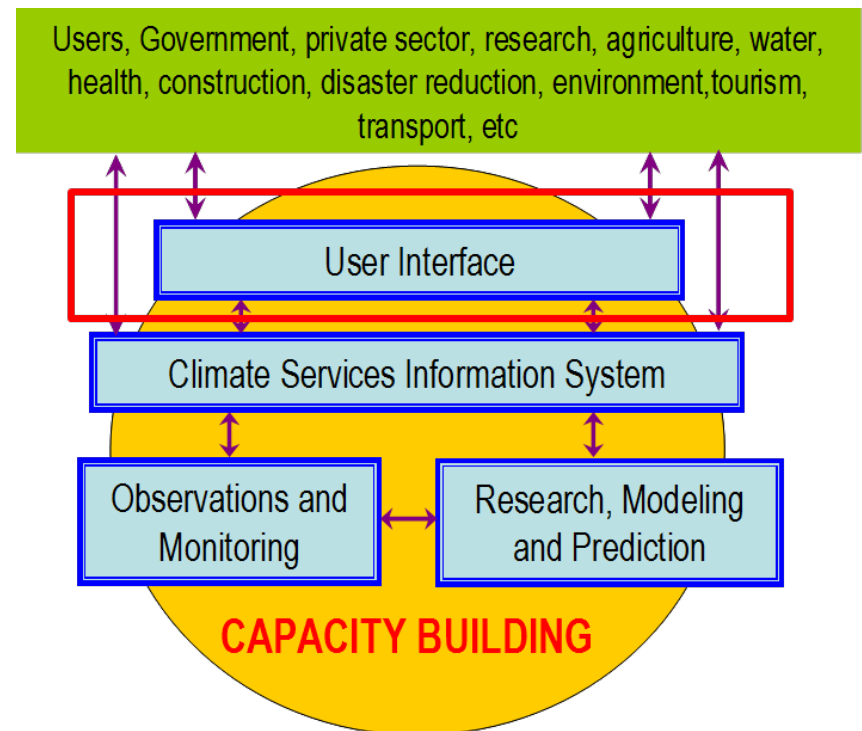
Synoptic Interpretation/ Statistical/ Dynamical/....[Seamless]

From a user perspective

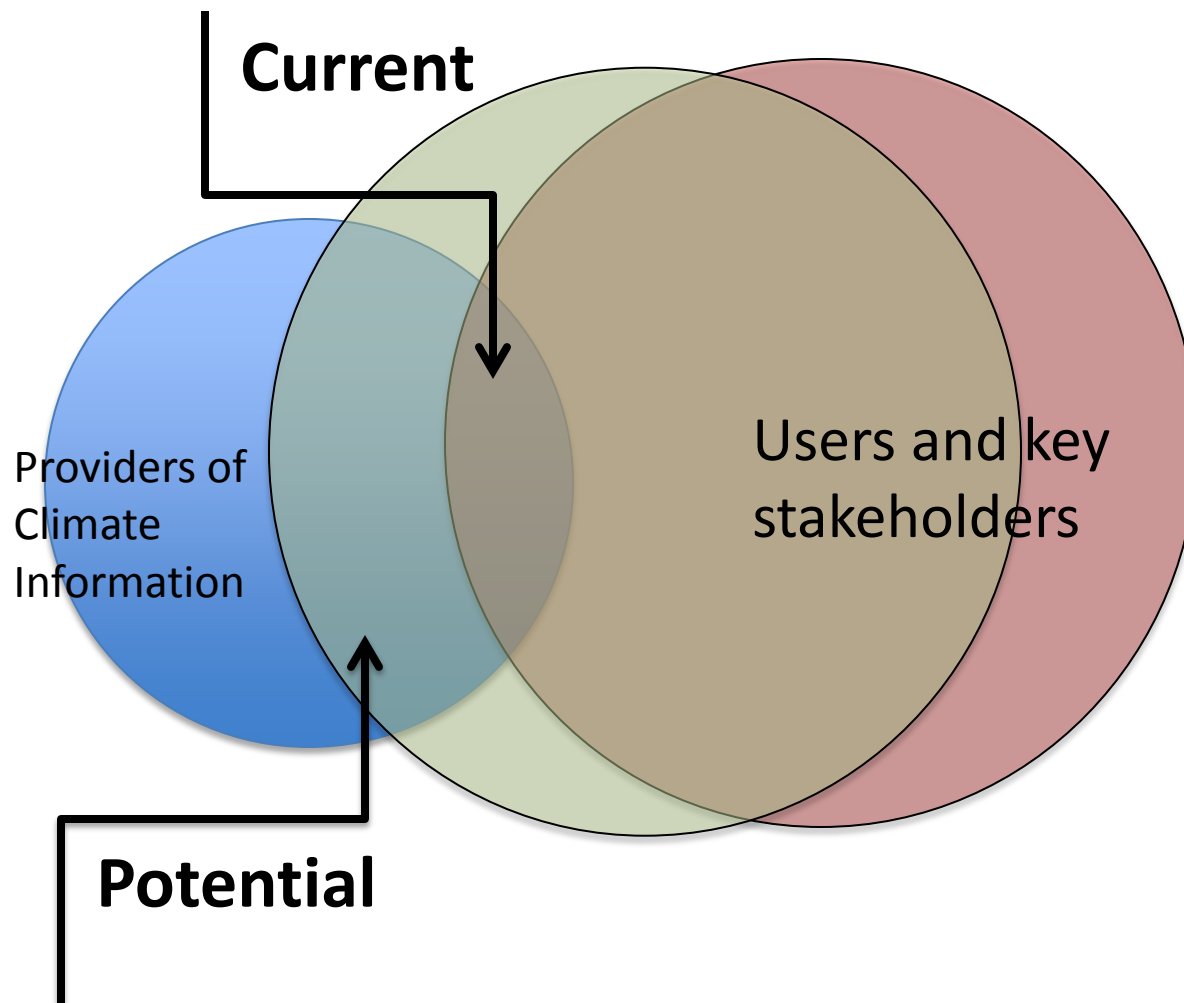
Response	Planning/ Preparedness/
Response to approaching Tropical Cyclone	Preparedness to potential events now & future
Reservoir water storage and release	Planning for the whole wet or dry season or planning major infrastructural interventions
Agriculture – operations – irrigation, spraying, harvest etc.	Formulating a range of “package of practices” to be adopted for different seasonal situations

User Interface within GFCS

- **User Interface Platform** - to provide a means for users, user representatives, climate researchers and climate service providers to interact
- **Climate Risk Management** defined as a **systematic and coordinated process** in which climate information is used to **reduce the risks** associated with **climate variability and change**, and to **take advantage of opportunities**, in order to **improve the resilience** of social, economic and environmental systems.

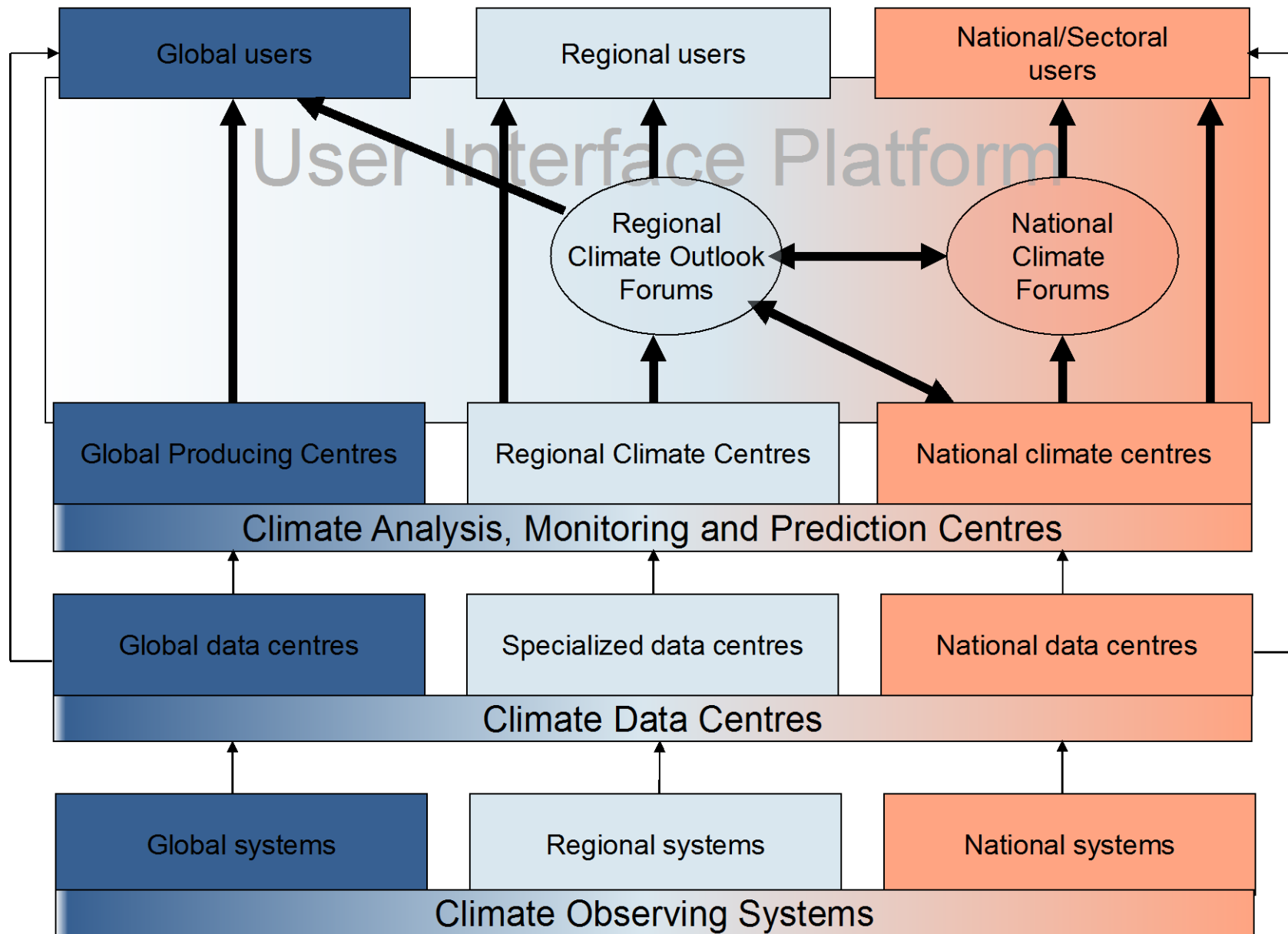


Interaction of Climate Providers and Users



User Interface

- **Feedback** – allows providers to obtain information on how needs for services are being met
- **Dialogue** - discussion and interpretation, improving the “service chain” through research and coordination
- **Evaluation** – monitor, verify systematically the delivery and effectiveness of services
- **Outreach** – improve communication and dissemination (both policy makers and downstream users)



Potential National Mechanisms

- Framework for Climate Services at the national level
 - well-coordinated arrangements between the key national institutions responsible for observations, research, tailored products and expert advice as well as the user sectors.
- National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs)
 - Adapting the global and Regional scale forecasts to the national context
 - Tailoring products and translating key messages for users (Multidisciplinary Working Groups)
 - Facilitate understanding/interpretation of climate information provided for effective use
 - Jointly Evaluating the impact of expected conditions (with existing vulnerabilities)
- Coordination mechanisms at National level
 - Depend a lot on specific National context
 - Depend a lot on the positioning of NMHS within the Framework at the national level
 - Needs a strong and sustained users liaison
 - Needs coordination of Research (including climate change aspects)
 - Needs coordination of climate data and knowledge base

NMHSs: Powering GFCS Operations



NMHSs already provide climate services



Mandated both nationally and internationally



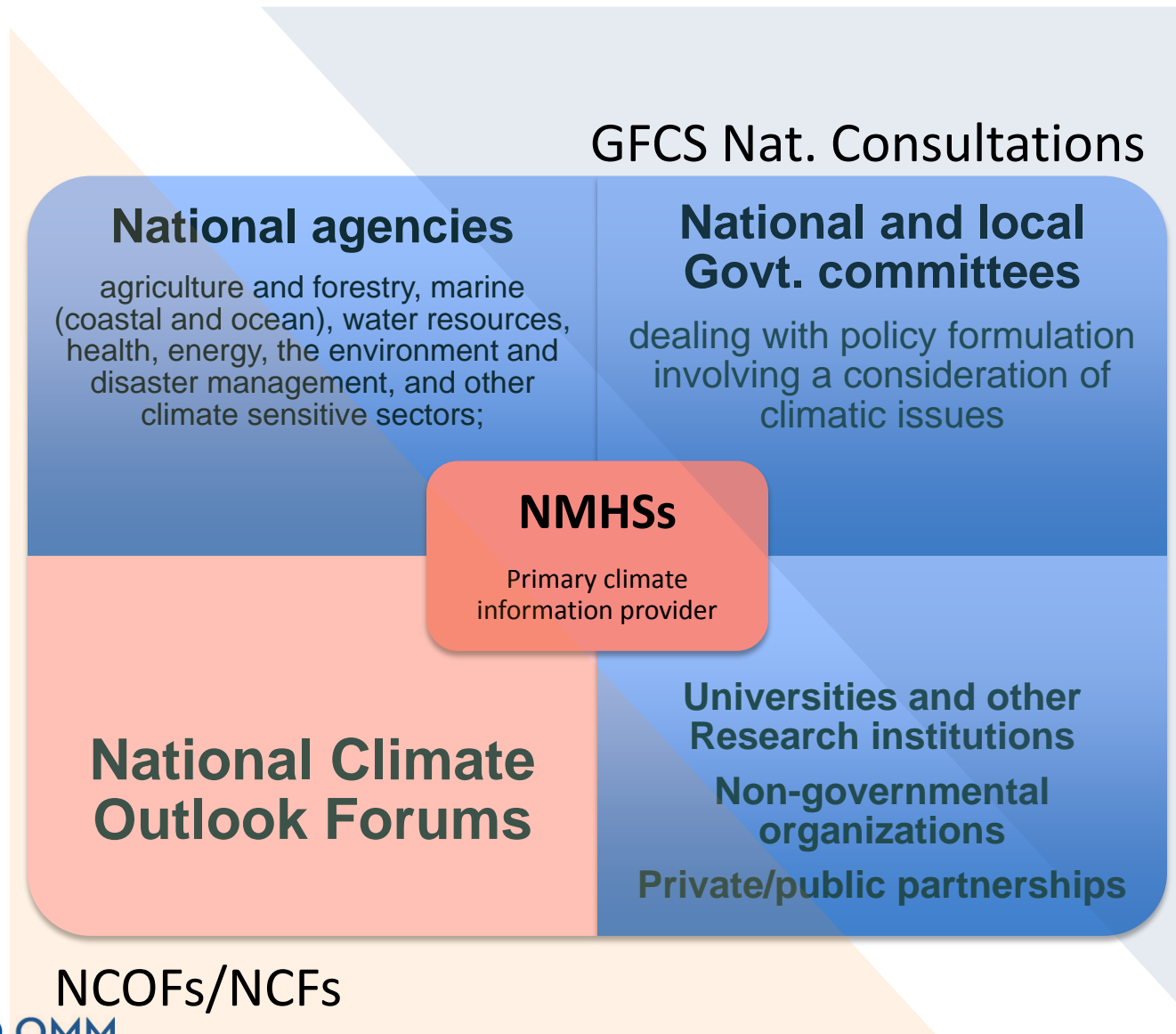
Structured and trained to provide 24/7 services with standard practices



Constitute a pool of technical expertise dealing with weather and climate



National Level Components of Climate Services



Challenges

- Confidence in convening a multi-stakeholder process
- Confidence in their own products
- Concerns that limitations of predictions may undermine credibility
- Human resources and infrastructure
- Mandates at the national level

NCOF Aim

- National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) are envisioned as an essential mechanism for promoting inter-agency coordination and **regular multi-stakeholder dialogue between information provider and users** at the national level, which will support national level implementation of both the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) and the UIP pillars of the GFCS.
- NCOFs facilitate provision of **standardized climate products** based on high quality climate information from Global Producing Centers (GPCs), Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) and relevant Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) at **user-relevant scales**.



NCOF Objectives

- Ensure that climate information products, including their uncertainties and limitations, are communicated to and understood by users.
- Discuss user views to make climate information accessible, user-friendly and applicable.
- Facilitate understanding of risks and opportunities of past, current and future climate; and inter-agency coordination of policies, sectoral plans and programs linked to potential impacts of hydro-meteorological hazards.
- Evolve a culture of working together through joint climate information interpretation sessions for managing risks in various climate-sensitive sectors, like agriculture, irrigation, disaster risk reduction and health.
- Strengthen and enhance the interface for inter-agency coordination of policies, sectoral plans, and an ongoing process of understanding and responding to risks posed/opportunities brought about by past, current, and future climate.

NCOF format

- NMHSs (co-organized with key stakeholders) to convene regular forums at least once around the onset of main season to ensure the receipt, interpretation, communication, and application of climate information for managing risks.
- Scheduled during an appropriate month every year to give enough lead-time for preparedness and contingency measures.
- A post-season verification may also be held with provisions for forecast delivery and application for the next season.

NCOF Agenda

- National Climate Monitoring status;
- Review of the seasonal forecast performance in the previous season;
- Report of the actions taken by user agencies;
- Delivery of current seasonal climate outlook, and discussion of potential impacts and preparedness measures to be undertaken;
- Interpretation in sector specific working groups
- Identification of areas for improvement and actions to address gaps in preparation for the coming season.
- Special topics and current issues of interest may be also discussed – climate change projections, impacts

NCOF Agenda: Some additional elements

- Support the integration of weather and climate information applications into broader national development platform.
- Support and encourage sub-national meetings and activities that would strengthen further application of climate services from national down to the local level.
- Soliciting the feedback (structured questionnaires) from users on the early warning information and services provided by NMHSs.
- Planning demo-projects to illustrate potential use in new areas
- Reporting – brief, but providing summary of critical aspects

NCOF Examples

- Pilot NCOFs conducted in Mexico (Aguascalientes, November 2013), Mozambique (Maputo, March 2014), Belize (June, 2014), Bhutan (October 2015), etc. as well as similar forums being convened by NMHSs in other countries successfully demonstrated the importance of creating a regular platform for linking climate information being generated by NMHSs with key stakeholder institutions.
- These sessions exemplified the effectiveness of the NCOF concept in improving application of climate information, particularly the seasonal scale climate outlooks including through the interpretation of global and regional information in the national context.

National Climate Forums (NCFs)

- As already articulated in the GFCS Implementation Plan (within the the Annex on Climate Services Information System), there is a need to formulate national forums in ways that allow more flexibility and dialogue for design of tailored climate information.
- This includes data, monitoring, prediction and projection, and even the overarching climate knowledge.
- Therefore, the NCOF concept could be generalized to go beyond the “climate outlook” context, i.e., to develop and establish “National Climate Forums” (NCFs).
- NCOFs and NCFs are likely to attract substantial participation of user sectors and are possible avenues for building the capacities of users of climate information, and could also be viewed as effective mechanisms for national implementation of both the UIP and Capacity Development pillars of the GFCS, offering excellent opportunities for NMHSs to interact with other stakeholders.

Concluding Remarks

- Considerable efforts are already being made by Members; need to optimize these efforts
- NCOFs/NCFs:
 - promote systematic and coordinated process for production and use of climate information
 - facilitate more effective application of global/regional climate inputs to national levels
 - help build capacities to build bridges and serve community-specific needs
 - help maintain consistency in multi-stakeholder application of climate information
- A comprehensive WMO NCOF guidance document under preparation
- WMO EC-68 requested CCI to circulate a concept note on NCOFs/NCFs to promote their wider implementation by WMO Members

Thank you Merci



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