

**International Conference on Climate Services -3**  
**Implementing climate services: transition from research and demonstration to**  
**sustained services**

Montego Bay, Jamaica  
December 4-6, 2013

**SIDE EVENT**

**Session title: CLIMATE SERVICES ETHICS**

**Session lead(s):** B. Hewitson, S. Zebiak

**Date/time:** Dec. 3, 2013: 9AM-12:30PM

**Abstract:**

Today we are witnessing steadily increasing activity in development and implementation of climate services. Experience is being gained, though knowledge on the most effective means to design and operate climate services is still far from complete. In this context, there is a growing need for established good practices in climate services development, to guide new initiatives. Beyond technical, institutional, and policy dimensions of good practice, the issue of climate services ethics has arisen.

Climate services ethics has to do with the direct and indirect consequences associated with climate service provision. Many applications of climate services are likely to have high human impact, often for multiple stakeholder groups that may have different or even competing interests. What should constitute good practice in climate services delivery in such circumstances? Among the questions that could be posed for a proposed (or existing) climate service: Who is being served? Who will likely be impacted and how? Are the interests of different stakeholder groups represented equitably? Is there a means to assure the quality of information and services being provided? In addressing these and related questions, which groups – information providers, facilitators and intermediaries, and various users – should be responsible for what?

The workshop will provide an opportunity to consider these and other ethics-related questions. Drawing on experience from other disciplines, and existing climate services activities, we will debate the need for, and value in establishing ethics-related guidelines and principles to support climate services development.

## **PROGRAM**

**9:00 AM**      **Introduction:** *Stephen Zebiak*

**9:10AM**      **Panel Presentation:**  
*Lessons from past and present experience*

- *Forecasts and decision making under uncertainty/foreseeability:*  
*Michael Glantz*
- *Climate services on the ground:*  
*Arame Tall*
- *Ethics in weather v. climate services:*  
*Filipe Lucio*

**9:45AM**      **Participatory Exercise:**  
*Bruce Hewitson, Erin Coughlan, moderators*

**10:45AM**      **Open Discussion:** *Moderator: Bruce Hewitson*

**11:15AM**      **Presentation:** *Nancy Tuana*  
*Theory and practice of ethics – perspectives for climate services*

**11:45AM**      **Discussion and Next Steps:** *Stephen Zebiak*  
*Concept Note and Working Group TOR*

**12:30PM**      **Conclusion**

### **Expected outcomes:**

*Increased awareness of issues, challenges and opportunities in addressing climate services ethics. The event will result in recommendations regarding the establishment of an ongoing process to further develop the concepts of climate services ethics, and to engage the broader climate services community in exploring ethics as a component of the international climate services agenda.*

## Speaker bios:

**Erin Coughlan** is Technical Advisor, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC). She works to provide technical support for the use of climate information by disaster managers around the world. Her regions of focus are Africa and the Caribbean, where she manages disaster risk projects in the fields of climate and health, urban risk management, and resilience. She is also an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University and visiting researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her research focuses on the statistical effect of climate forecasts on disaster risk, which can be used to trigger humanitarian action in advance of a potential hazard. Other research interests include climate-based early warning systems for disease outbreaks, climate change in urban informal settlements, and participatory mechanisms for stakeholder engagement.

**Michael Glantz** is Director of the Consortium for Capacity Building (CCB), University of Colorado, Boulder. Mickey has been a Senior Scientist since 1983. He has been writing climate-related editorials for many years, first for Boulder's *Daily Camera*, and now for his own blog [Fragile Ecologies](#). He is interested in how climate affects society and how society affects climate, and especially how climate anomalies and human activities interact to affect quality of life issues. He has edited several books and is the author of numerous articles on issues related to climate, environment, and policy. He organizes multidisciplinary, multinational workshops on climate-related issues.

**Bruce Hewitson** is a Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, where he heads up the Climate System Analysis Group. He received his Bachelors degree (1988) from the University of Cape Town, and a MS (1990) and Ph.D. in climatology (1991) from the Pennsylvania State University. His primary research foci are climate variability, seasonal forecasting, and climate change downscaling for southern Africa using both regional climate models and empirical techniques. He has served for 5 years on the pan-Africa START committee, is a co-lead author on regional climate change for the IPCC Third Assessment Report, and is a council member for the South African Society for Atmospheric Sciences. A key extension activity is capacity building of regional climate modeling and analysis among young scientists in Africa.

**Filipe Domingos Freires Lúcio** is the head of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Office at World Meteorological Organization's Secretariat since July 2011. The GFCS is a global initiative intended to facilitate the coordination of activities of various stakeholders to enable enhanced production, availability, dissemination and application of climate services in support of decision making in climate sensitive sector. The GFCS has identified agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction as priority areas for implementation activities. As the framework progresses other areas such as energy, urbanization and others will be addressed. Filipe Lúcio joined the World Meteorological Organization in 2007, as a Senior Scientific Office in the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, following more than 15 years of hands-on experience in operational meteorology, 10 of which as the head on the National Institute of

Meteorology of Mozambique, where he was at the centre in the development and application of weather and climate information in support of decision-making.

**Arame Tall** is the climate services champion for CCAFS, based at the ICRISAT center. Her job includes brokering needed partnerships between national meteorological services, agricultural research and extension, and boundary organizations in all CCAFS priority countries so that farmers can access tailored climate information services to support their climate risk management efforts and contribute to their resilience to climate shocks. She is the holder of a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and a master's degree from Columbia University.

**Nancy Tuana** is the founding director of Penn State's [Rock Ethics Institute](#) and DuPont/Class of 1949 Professor of Ethics. Dr. Tuana is a philosopher of science who specializes in issues of ethics and science. Dr. Tuana is part of an interdisciplinary research team at Penn State that has developed a more robust model of research ethics to more adequately reflect the impacts of ethical issues in scientific practice. Building on this work, she is examining coupled ethical-epistemic issues in the field of climate science. She is doing this work as part of an NSF sponsored research network for [Sustainable Climate Risk Management](#) that links a transdisciplinary team of scholars at 19 universities and 5 research institutions across 6 nations to answer the question, "What are sustainable, scientifically sound, technologically feasible, economically efficient, and ethically defensible climate risk management strategies? She is also doing research on justice issues in the context of climate change.

**Stephen E. Zebiak** is head of the Climate Services Partnership Secretariat, and Senior Research Scientist at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) since March 2012. The Climate Services Partnership is an informal collaborative platform to advance knowledge, tools, and capacities in the delivery of science-based climate services to inform practical decision and policy making. Previously, Dr. Zebiak was Director-General of IRI for nine years, leading an inter-disciplinary team of over 40 scientists specializing in climate prediction, agriculture, health, water, economics and development policy. Dr. Zebiak received his Ph.D. in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 1984. His research background is in climate variability and prediction, and includes the development of the first dynamical El Nino prediction model, together with Dr. Mark Cane. Dr. Zebiak has served as advisor to a range of US and international climate research and climate services programs. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society.