



Southeastern Europe Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF)

prepared by

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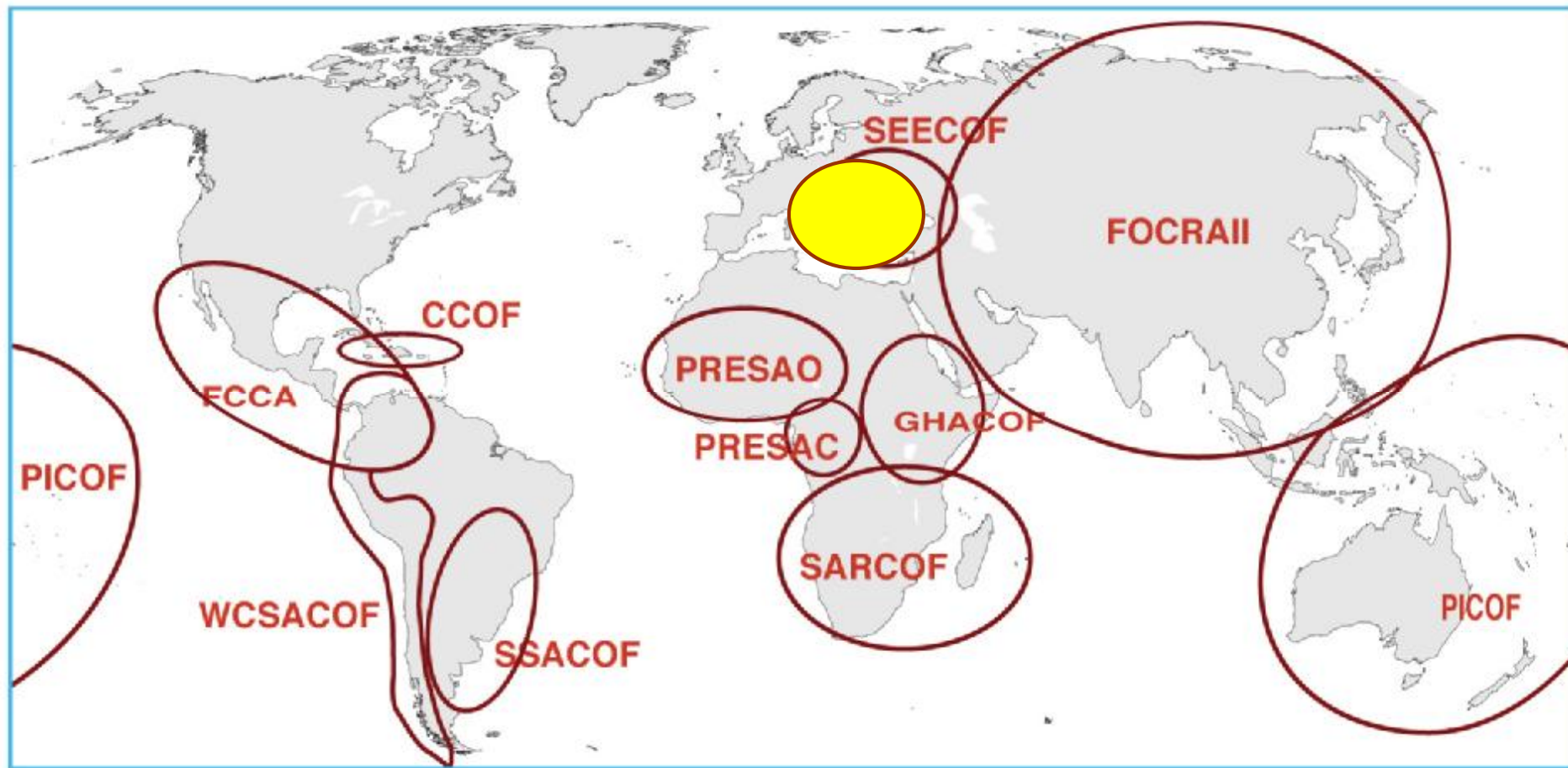
presented by

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Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs)

- n A major component of WMO Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project activities.
- n First established in 1996 at a Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
- n Gained momentum as a regional response to the major 1997–1998 El Niño event.
- n RCOF Concept was pioneered in Africa and spread worldwide.
- n WMO and a number of national, regional and international organizations (e.g., NOAA, IRI, Meteo France, World Bank, etc.) have supported their growth and expansion.

Existing RCOFs worldwide



RCOF Concept (1/2)

- n Climate information including predictions/outlooks could be of substantial benefit to many parts of the world in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate variability and change.
- n RCOFs across the world have the overarching responsibility to produce and disseminate a regional assessment (using a predominantly consensus-based approach) of the state of the regional climate for the upcoming season.
- n Built into the RCOF process is a regional networking of the climate service providers and user-sector representatives.
- n Participating countries recognize the potential of climate prediction and seasonal forecasting as a powerful development tool to help populations and decision-makers face the challenges posed by climatic variability and change.
- n National and Regional capacities are varied but certainly inadequate to face the task alone.
- n Ownership now lies largely with national and regional players, but there is a continuing need for support at all levels to ensure that the momentum gained to date is maintained.

RCOF Concept (2/2)

- n RCOFs bring together national, regional and international climate experts, on an operational basis, to produce regional climate outlooks based on input from NMHSs, regional institutions, Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and Global Producing Centres of long range forecasts (GPCs) and other climate prediction centres.
- n Through interaction with sectoral users, extension agencies and policy makers, RCOFs assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the most pertinent socio-economic sectors in the given region and explore the ways in which these outlooks could be made use of.
- n RCOFs also review impediments to the use of climate information, experiences and successful lessons regarding applications of the past RCOF products, and enhance sector-specific applications.
- n These RCOFs then lead to national forums to develop detailed national-scale climate outlooks and risk information including warnings for communication to decision-makers and the public.

RCOF Process (1/3)

- n Meetings of the regional and international climate experts to develop a consensus for the regional climate outlook, typically in a probabilistic form;
- n The Forum proper, that involves both climate scientists and representatives from the user sectors, for identification of impacts and implications, and the formulation of response strategies;
- n Training programmes on seasonal climate prediction to strengthen the capacity of the national and regional climate scientists;
- n Special outreach sessions involving sector specialists as well as media experts to develop effective communications strategies.

RCOF Process (2/3)

- n Determine the critical time for development of climate prediction for the region in question;
- n Assemble a group of experts:
 - n Large scale prediction specialists,
 - n regional and local climate applications and prediction/downscaling specialists,
 - n stakeholders representative of climate-sensitive sectors;
- n Review current large scale (global and regional) climate anomalies and the most recent predictions for their evolution;
- n Review current climate conditions and their impacts at local, national and regional levels, and national-scale predictions;

RCOF Process (3/3)

- n Considering all factors, produce a climate outlook with related output (e.g. maps of temperature and precipitation anomalies) that will be applied and fine-tuned by NMHSs in the region to meet national needs;
- n Discuss applications of the outlook and related climate information to climate-sensitive sectors in the region; consider practical products for development by NMHSs;
- n Develop strategies to effectively communicate the information to decision-makers in all affected sectors;
- n Critique the session and its results:
 - n document achieved improvements to the process and any challenges encountered,
 - n Establish steps required to further improve the process for subsequent sessions.

RCOF Success

- n The RCOF process has facilitated a better understanding of the links between the climate system and socio-economic activities.
- n An increasing demand for climate services has been recorded in many parts of the world as a result of these developments.
- n Awareness has been created that climate information, including short-range climate predictions, is an essential element in mitigating against the impacts of climate variations.
- n RCOFs have fostered interactions and exchange of information between the climate scientists and users of climate information.

Climate Change and RCOFs (1/2)

- n RCOFs worldwide have been set up so far with the main focus on seasonal prediction.
- n However, the same RCOF mechanisms can be effectively expanded to cater to the needs of developing and disseminating regional climate change information products.
- n Such initiatives are already being taken up by some RCOFs (e.g., Greater Horn of Africa)
- n Regional assessments of observed and projected climate change, including the development of downscaled climate change scenario products for impact assessments, can be included in the product portfolio of RCOFs

Climate Change and RCOFs (2/2)

- n RCOFs have been recognized to have potential contributions to the UNFCCC/SBSTA Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Adaptation to Climate Change
- n CLIPS/RCOFs have been included in the UNFCCC Compendium of Methods and Tools in support of climate adaptation
- n RCOFs form a core component of WMO Action Pledge to the NWP on climate information, products and services for adaptation

Southeastern Europe Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF)

- n First RCOF in Europe.
- n The countries participating in SEECOF are: Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.



FIRST SESSION OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-1), Zagreb, Croatia, 11-12 June 2008

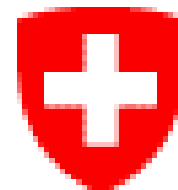
Organized by
World Meteorological Organization

Co-sponsored by
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DHMZ, Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia
MeteoSwiss

Deutscher Wetterdienst

ARSO, Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia



www.meteoswiss.ch

SEECOF-1 Participants

- n Altogether 80 participants from 21 countries, including:
 - n Representatives of the Croatian Government and EU Presidency
 - n International Organizations (WB, UNDP, WMO)
 - n 4 Permanent Representatives with WMO
 - n 9 International experts
 - n Climate experts from SEECOF countries
 - n 20 representatives of user sectors of climate information from 5 SEECOF countries and various economic sectors (agriculture, water management, energy, environment, civil protection, transportation and media).

SEECOF-1 Agenda

Day 1: Seasonal Climate Outlooks

- n General Concepts : Seasonal Prediction and Applications
 - n Expert Talks
- n Current Climate and Seasonal Outlook for July-August-September 2008
 - n Regional climate review
 - n Seasonal Predictions
 - n Global Producing Centres (GPCs)
 - n NMHSs of SEECOF countries
 - n Consensus Statement of Seasonal Climate Outlook for SEE
- n Potential Impacts and Way Forward
 - n Sectoral break-out sessions

SEECOF-1

Consensus Seasonal Outlook

- n Since the 1980s, summers in the South-Eastern European (SEE) region have frequently been hotter than in previous decades. The 2008 summer season is likely to be more similar to some of the hot summers of recent decades than to those of the generally cooler 1960s and 1970s. A hot summer brings risk of heat waves and their associated impacts, but given the information available it is not possible at this stage to make any specific statement about the risk of heat waves in 2008.
- n Unlike temperatures, there have been no region-wide trends in summer rainfall in SEE. There is currently little agreement among available predictions of summer rainfall for 2008, but there is some suggestion that the eastern part of the region will be drier than average, while the western part will be wetter than average.

SEECOF-1 User Perspectives

- n To sustain SEECOF will require a clearly articulated demand by users for the 'products'
- n Need for more targeted indices rather than just generalities
- n Essential to provide probabilities rather than a single value forecast
- n Each sector needs to have their 'champions' who can systematically identify and analyse existing leverage points for climate information and communicate/discuss this with climate experts
- n Need for mutual recognition that climate is only one of many risk factors that decision makers need to consider → their challenge is the integration of these risk factors for effective decision-making
- n Need to determine the most appropriate time for a SEECOF meeting
- n Consider establishing a regular (monthly?) process that enables regular and timely updates including the ability to take corrective action as new information emerges
- n Use the media to raise awareness / visibility but not to communicate the message
- n Use SEECOF as a means to design and manage the process and particularly the communication between the cascades of producers/users/producers/users
- n Consider the different needs for practitioners and policy clients

SEECOF-1 Agenda

Day 2: Climate Change Projections

- n IPCC Assessments of Climate Change
 - n Expert Talks
- n Projections of regional climate change over SEE
 - n Regional climate change assessments for SEE
 - n Downscaled climate change projections for SEE and South Caucasus
 - n Downscaling over SEE and uncertainties in climate projections
 - n Research plans for regional climate change in SEE countries
- n User requirements of regional climate change information
 - n Long-term data
 - n Country presentations of observed changes
 - n Open discussion
- n RCOF Processes for Regional Climate Change
 - n Panel discussion

SEECOF and Climate Change

- n Moving towards a future consensus on regional climate change over SEE
- n Individual results vary, but some common signals are apparent:
 - n Warming
 - n Increase in the frequency of extreme climate events
 - n Drier climate in summer

SEECOF and Climate Change

- n SEECOF noted that several attempts have been made to develop regional climate change scenarios for SEE, but that there is considerable diversity in approaches.
- n SEECOF processes can play a crucial role in promoting a collaborative and complementary approach, thereby facilitating consensus and consistency in generating climate change information in support of climate adaptation.
- n SEECOF promotes regional ownership of climate knowledgebase, and supports region-driven climate change actions.



Thank You

