



Engaging with UK Climate Services providers – Scotland and northern England 14 November 2014, Edinburgh

Report of meeting

Purpose

- What does our 'climate services' community looks like? Do we need to develop partnerships or networks to better deliver and engage in climate services initiatives in the UK and Europe?
- How can we inform UK and European delivery of climate services – including the European Commission's current '*Research and Innovation Roadmap for the development of climate services*'?
- Can we identify research needs, knowledge gaps and potential innovations in climate services? How can these be linked to UK and Horizon 2020?

Participants

Maida	Ballarini	Forestry Commission Scotland
Anna	Beswick	Adaptation Scotland
Stephen	Blenkinsop	Newcastle University
Jim	Densham	RSPB Scotland
Kim	Dowsett	Environment Agency
Kit	England	Newcastle City Council
Graham	Esson	Perth & Kinross Council
Paul	Fagan	Scottish Government
Ioan	Fazey	University of Dundee
Catherine	Foley	Mott Macdonald
Joseph	Hagg	Adaptation Scotland/Sniffer/ECCI
Andrew	Harding	
Max	Hislop	GCV Green Network Partnership
Andy	Kerr	Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, University of Edinburgh
Ragne	Low	ClimateXchange
Ewan	Mearns	Scottish Enterprise
Alan	Motion	Met. Office

Peter Singleton SEPA
Ruth Wolstenholme Sniffer

Agenda

Introduction 10:00 – 10:20

Defining climate services & European Commission roadmap

Where do you stand? 10:20 – 10:50

Are you a provider – purveyor – end user of climate services?

What do climate services support? 10:50 – 11:40

Explore how climate services can support decision making

Our climate services community 11:40 – 12:45

Mapping of the community in Scotland/UK – and Europe/Global

Lunch

Is there an opportunity? 13:30 – 15:00

What needs to happen? How can we access funding? What do we do next?

Close

1. Introduction

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is funding a series of four workshops across the UK (Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales) to engage with providers and purveyors of climate services.

The aim of this meeting in Edinburgh was to explore whether there is a demand for climate services within Scotland and northern England, to consider potential opportunities for supporting research and innovation and to discuss how local, regional and national organisations could work together to realise these opportunities.

Towards a European market of climate services Roger Street, UKCIP (presentation)

Within the Horizon2020 research and innovation programme, there will be up to €800m available for developing the climate services market. The European Commission have established an Expert Group on climate services tasked with informing this investment by developing a long-term research and innovation roadmap for H2020 investment in climate services and by identifying the demand-side measures that could facilitate the growth of the market. This roadmap will be delivered by end 2014 (targeting the 2016/7 investment cycle) and a workshop to present the work and engage with the European climate services community will be held in Brussels on 16 or 17 March 2015.

Outputs from this workshop for Scotland (and those for Northern Ireland, England and Wales) will be used to identify UK/Scottish priorities so that they can inform the development of the roadmap. It is hoped that there will be representation from the workshops at the meeting in Brussels (Innovate UK may have funding available).

2. Where do you stand? Provider – purveyor – end user

There are many different roles in providing user-driven climate services with researchers, providers, purveyors and end users all having a role to play. Participants were asked to consider where along this continuum (network?) of roles they would place themselves in terms of delivering climate services.

In trying to identify where participants might stand, it was clear that many organisations (and individuals) are involved in, or can offer expertise in, more than one step of the process. The actual position chosen along the continuum was often dependent on the nature and context of a specific project being undertaken at the time, but with the recognition that overall responsibilities often spanned a range of roles.

Key aspects raised during discussion included:

- The lack of specific roles may reflect the lack of maturity of the market where there is no natural chain of provision and no traditional one-way flow of information.
- Many participants reflected the need to engage in both directions, both with those academics providing the data and with purveyors and end users further along the decision-

making process. Facilitating this flow of information within and across sectors is a key requirement, with informal and formal knowledge exchange networks and knowledge brokers playing an important role towards meeting user needs.

- Climate services covers mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management issues. But in many cases the arguments for taking action do not refer to climate but to drivers such as improved security, enhanced resilience and reducing supply-chain risk
- End-users are primarily driving demand but also working to disseminate information through their own channels. Policymakers are looking for the best available evidence both to inform and help implement policies but also to help evaluate the success of measures.
- There is a central knowledge exchange role for providers and purveyors to play with respect to gathering, synthesising and translating data and information and providing added-value outputs suitable for a range of users.
- Effective and trusted knowledge brokers can help match providers and users and overcome barriers to co-production, e.g. improved communication between all parties, a better understanding of capacity and expertise available.
- The capacity of smaller end users needs to be reflected to strengthen their understanding of the potential implications of using climate services on their activity/business and to help build their capacity to enable a strong user-driven process.
- For the academic community, the research councils are encouraging a move beyond traditionally-perceived 'pathways to impacts' but further long-term funding is needed to support the capturing and transferring of evidence and information to the wider market. Career paths within academia need to reflect the developing needs for user engagement and promoting impact.
- When working with a specific audience, it is necessary to understand their capacity to work with specific levels of outputs, e.g. large data sets requiring specific IT skills and facilities.

3. What do climate services support?

A roundtable activity focussed on defining the demand for climate services in Scotland and northern England:

- What decisions are being made? How would climate improve decision-making?
- What climate services would be needed? Products? From whom?
- What research and innovation is required?

This discussion provided an opportunity to focus on a number of examples of specific decisions being made and to consider how climate services can help inform better decision-making. This process was then continued towards defining the climate services community in Scotland (Section 4).

4. Mapping our climate services community

The term 'climate services' can be used to cover a variety of specific outputs: products, tools, assessments, case studies, advice and guidance, plus less tangible outputs such as greater awareness-raising, better knowledge exchange and improved understanding of complex scientific and decision-making processes. These services are needed both now and in the future to inform the identification and assessment of potential solutions and to support action and its evaluation.

Participants were asked to identify both the climate services needed and the organisations which are, or could be, involved in the provision of these services for Scotland. These outputs were then grouped into 11 clusters reflecting the different themes arising:

- Engagement } considerable overlap between 2 clusters
- Better methods, including what and who }
- Making the case: 'first date'
- Making the business case
- Assessments, especially land use and water } considerable overlap between 2 clusters
- Tools especially land use and water }
- Providing climate information
- Tailored guidance
- Tailored solutions
- Knowledge 'dating'
- Data suitability and translation

Full details for each cluster are given in Annex 1.

Much of the discussion focussed on the two key inter-related clusters: 'Engagement' and 'Better methods'. These focus on areas where the state of the market is not yet driving change and where there is a need to look at approaches to stimulate uptake and use of climate services. Multiple actors are often involved so how best can the relevant parties be brought together to promote partnership work? There is also the challenge of enabling the move from managing small incremental changes to driving major transformational changes.

5. A European and UK climate services community Roger Street, UKCIP (presentation)

The H2020 roadmap recognises the need for a viable and sustained climate services community that engages users, providers/purveyors and researchers in supporting and growing climate services in Europe. It builds on discussions with the JPI-Climate related to the need for a knowledge hub. It also recognises the Climate Services Partnership which was established following the First International Conference on Climate Services in 2011 and operates globally and the European Climate Services

Partnership which was launched in May 2014 and helps ensure coordinated climate services across Europe (annual meeting, 6 May 2015).

These deliberations raise the question of whether there is a need for an initiative at the UK and/or Scotland level for a climate services community, and, if so, what should be its purpose and scope and form?

6. Delivering climate services – an opportunity

Scotland (and the UK) has the attributes of a strong climate services community, but how can this be taken advantage of to grow the climate services markets and better meet end user needs? This session focussed on:

1. Does Scotland need a strong, coherent community (or group/network/initiative/framework) to drive the climate services agenda to meet specific Scottish needs?
2. How can the various funding sources be accessed and what do individuals and organisations need to do? The EU funding system tends to be very resource intensive. Also need to consider how to seek and integrate private sector funding.
3. What needs to be done in the forthcoming months to take this forward in practical and specific steps?

6.1 Community:

Within Scotland, an informal network of academics and practitioners working in areas related to climate services already exists (including Adaptation Scotland and ClimateXchange). It may be that such a network is all that is needed, with a few enablers to bring relevant contacts together at specific times.

If a more formal and coherent network is envisaged, there is a need to be very clear about benefits to individual organisations and the tasks required. Building on existing, trusted mechanisms and structures e.g. Adaptation Scotland as a knowledge hub to highlight potential links, would be preferable to establishing new systems. Such an approach would need to recognise that additional resources would be required, and that flexibility is needed to allow suitable responses to meet emerging requirements.

A broadening and deepening of any community is needed to help engage all relevant actors and to better influence wider initiatives (including funding). The private sector is working on relevant tailored solutions particularly, for example, in the water sector but, as mentioned previously, may not term this as 'climate services'.

Mainstreaming of climate services goes beyond providers and purveyors pushing out information and needs to ensure the range of users are engaged in the development and provision of outputs and can identify and access appropriate data and information (is it good enough?) to drive the decision-making process. There is also merit at looking at other emerging markets as they become

established (carbon market, ecosystem services). This may help to identify how best to build public/private partnerships in specific sectors, and how to look to global opportunities for climate services knowledge and skills to be exported.

Within Scotland, there is a need to demonstrate the value of action to leverage wider engagement and demand. Start with those organisations already involved and which have case studies and examples to share. With no statutory requirement for action and reporting at least on climate change adaptation, awareness-raising and the use of case studies to demonstrate the value of climate services becomes increasingly important to grow the market both in Scotland and more widely.

6.2 On funding:

Consider what it takes to secure financing, and how various organisations can work together to present the process from ideas to maturity in a way that is attractive to funding agencies. The funding landscape is changing (towards very large projects?) but both researchers *and* the business community need to work closely with research councils and funding agencies to help ensure future funding opportunities achieve the requirements for societal impact and support practical action.

There is a good understanding of available *research* funding at the UK-level. It is the *innovation* stage that is missing; Innovate UK could do more to help leverage action here. The forthcoming NERC Environmental Risks to Infrastructure Innovation Programme (ERIIP) is focussing on working with end users to drive innovation and may have lessons to share.

There is a need to identify what other sources of European/UK funds are available. H2020 funding calls can be very tight on timings and the bidding process is resource intensive. Innovate UK may funds to support the preparation of specific bids. Is there an appetite for a community in Scotland (including links to UK and European partners) to work together to identify and access available funds and to share the risks and responsibilities?

It is recognised that not all funding calls will addresses Scottish priorities.

It would be useful within the Scottish context to understand collectively who has money to do what as they will also have the relevant expertise in accessing funds that could be shared more widely. It is currently difficult to find funds to make the most of existing data and knowledge, e.g.

- to scale up excellent Scottish examples
- to share best-practice across Scotland
- awareness-raising at local/regional scale.

6.3 For the near future:

All participants at the workshop have the skills to influence action in specific areas by framing the message as appropriate arguments in the context of their community, and by horizon-scanning to identify key opportunities and timings, including funding opportunities.

There is a need to investigate whether there are any sources of funding currently available that could be accessed now to help establish a climate science community for Scotland. This could build on existing structures e.g. Adaptation Scotland, to increase traction and share information.

A statement arising from this first meeting could be used to promote action.

Given the fast-moving climate services landscape, in terms of both funding and interested organisations, it would be useful to have a follow-up meeting in 6 months' time. Tangible progress needs to be made – the focus could be on producing information demonstrating the value of climate services to decision-makers (case studies specific to Scotland focussing on achieved benefits, illustrating that actions need not always be difficult).

7. Next steps

Reports from this and the other three UK workshops, and links to relevant climate services initiatives, will be prepared and shared with all participants. (EA/UKICP, by mid Dec 2014)

A summary note from the workshops highlighting common areas of interests and regionally/sectorally specific interests and challenges differences will be prepared to inform The UK involvement in climate services and the on-going Horizon2020 mapping exercise. (UKCIP, by end Dec 2014)

The roadmap will be circulated to all participants once it has been finalised by the Commission in early 2015. (UKCIP)

Anyone interested in participating in the H2020 roadmap workshop to be held in Brussels on 16 or 17 March 2015 should contact Roger Street (roger.street@ukciop.org.uk).

Information on relevant calls from the Horizon2020 programme will be made available as they arise. (UKCIP, 2015 onwards)