



#### **Communication and climate services**

**CLIMRUN School on climate services** 

**Ghislain Dubois** 

October 2012







- Cite 3 arguments you would use to convince a skeptic that climate change is a reality?
- To which information source would you direct him to turn his mind?
- Did you ever communicate some climate data/results to non climatologists? With which result?



#### Communication at the heart of climate services

- 1. Climate change and society: why and how communicate?
- 2. Uncertainty and visualisation: towards more robust representations

**Conclusion** 



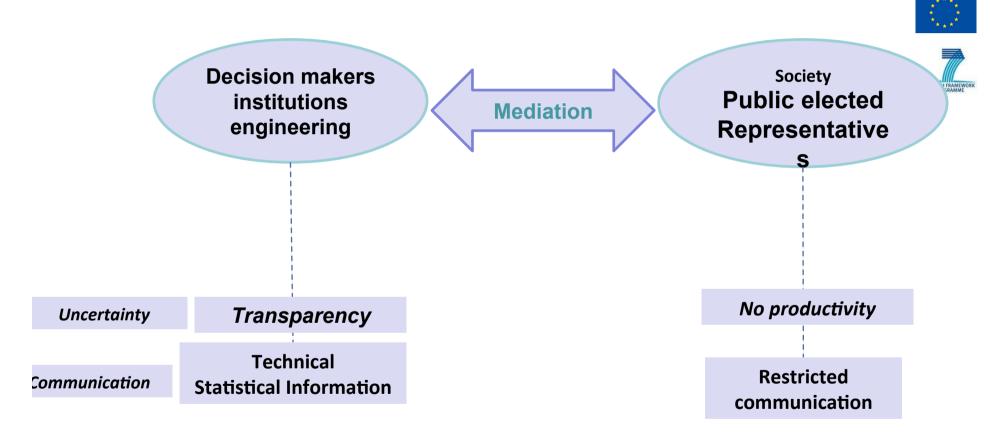
- Background information
- The worlds of scientists and decision makers differ.
- Providers of climate information are caught in a dilemma: scientific rigor <-> societal usefulness.
- The concept of uncertainty hampers effective communication.
- Visualization of climate information has advantages and risks.

#### Uncertainty and communication

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### depend on the objectives







## 1.1 In response to climate skeptics





#### En savoir plus sur le réchauffement









Recherche

ОК

Accueil

Réseau Action Climat

#### Changements climatiques

Comprendre et réagir Actualités du climat Web Bibliothèque Climat

Réponses aux sceptiques

Rapports incontournables

Secteurs d'activités Politiques et mesures Se tenir informé

Presse

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Accueil du site > Changements climatiques > Réponses aux sceptiques

#### **RÉPONSES AUX SCEPTIQUES**

#### LES ARTICLES DE CETTE RUBRIQUE



#### La science du climat salie par sa propre Académie

29 septembre 2011

La Fondation sceptique de Claude Allègre installe ses quartiers à l'Institut de France, Le Réseau Action Climat est profondément choqué par cette nouvelle et encourage la communauté scientifique à réagir.



#### La vérité du changement climatique en vidéo

16 septembre 2011



#### LIVRE : Le climat à découvert

30 juin 2011

Les climatologues français, dont les méthodes et les conclusions ont été remises en cause il y a un an par une vague climato-sceptique relayée par Claude Allègre, répondent en ouvrant en grand les coulisses de leur science complexe.



#### Stéphane Foucart assainit le climat

17 novembre 2010

Billet d'analyse de l'ouvrage de Stéphane Foucart, Le populisme climatique, Claude Allègre et Cie, enquête sur les ennemis de la science, Denöel Impacts, 2010.



#### Les thèses d'Allègre, enterrées par l'Académie des Sciences

28 octobre 2010

Le Réseau Action Climat - France accueille avec soulagement et confiance la récente mise au point de l'Académie des Sciences qui a démenti, à l'unanimité (Claude Allègre compris), les thèses sceptiques de Claude Allègre at consorts, at réaffirm à les conclusions du GIEC sur l'état des connaissances

#### ALLER

LES DERN

Le Jour de 12 octobre

Des format les élus et collectivité 9 octobre

La Taxe sur financière mieux vaut 3 octobre

Devenez fo énergie-cli 2 octobre

## 1.2 How to exist/resist in a world of communication ?



- Over-communication (companies, consultants...)
- Possible strategies
  - Using existing « weapons », jumping in the media system
  - Standing firm, resisting, as a scientist

Climatologists, researchers have hard times!

Climate services should provide structure, ready to use information, and limit the pressure

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- Pourquoi faire son Bilan Carbone ® ?
- > Déroulement du Bilan Carbone ® ?
- Comment réduire le coût d'un Bilan Carbone ® ?
- > DEMANDEZ VOTRE DEVIS EN LIGNE



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"Formation et accompagnement des entreprises à la certification"

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- 2/ France Certification a déjà réalisé **plus de 15 Bilans Carbone**, se situant dans les 10% d'experts formés qui ont réalisés + de 5 Bilans Carbone.
- 3/ Un réseau commercial national, qui vous assure une **proximité** tout au long de votre étude.
- 4/ Prise en charge partielle dans le cadre des budgets de formation
- 5/ Notre savoir-faire dans la réalisation de votre *bilan carbone*, vous accompagne et vous permet d'avoir une vision plus globale du management environnemental. Nos compétences s'étendent également aux problématiques d'analyse de cycle de vie des produits, de compensation carbone et également de certification de votre Bilan Carbone®.

## Ambigous communication on climate change mitigation



- Flying bears
- Oil addicts
- So coal Facebook
- <u>10:10 no pressure</u>

Humor, fear, anxiety...





- Femke Stoverinck Msc thesis at TEC, linked to CLIM-RUN
- From a sample of « official » climate change impact assessmet and adaptation strategies, analysis of
  - Institutional communication on climate change
  - The waty climatologists communicate outside their usual world

#### Com m unication of climate in formation: travelling through the decision-making process

Circulation, uncertainty and visualization

Femke Stoverinck
MSc Thesis in Environmental Sciences
December 2011



pervisor: Dr. S.B. (Bas) Amelung

Department: Environmental System Analysis (ESA)

titute: Wageningen University

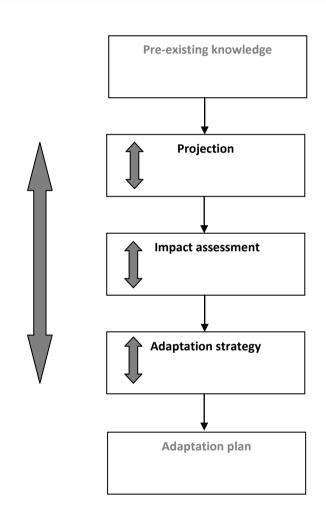
WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR

External supervisor: Ghislain Dubois

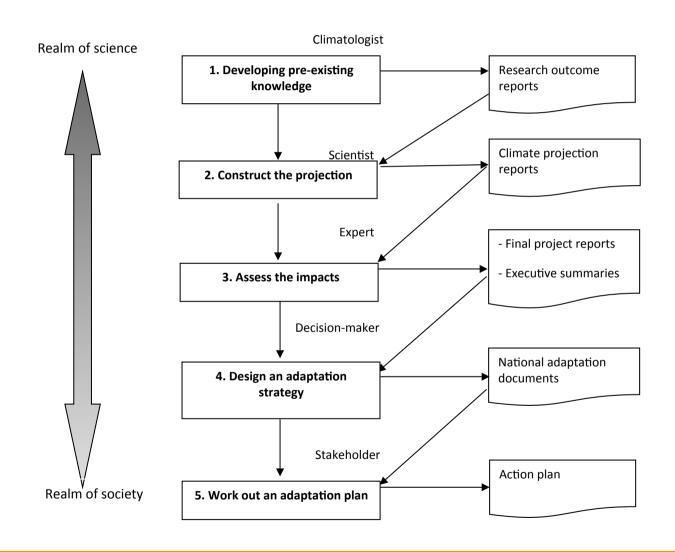
anisation: Tourism Transports Territoires Environnement Conseil



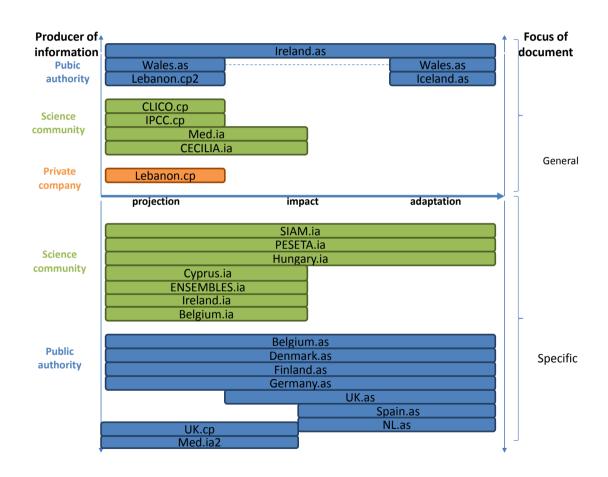
## The policy process



## Collecting material





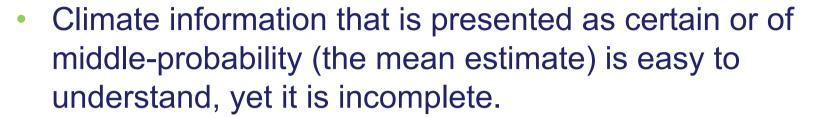


#### 2.1 Uncertainty

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#### Uncertainty







- Decision makers with a risk management perspective need full information on probabilities.
- Communicating uncertainty in qualitative terms as introduced by the IPCC is sensitive for differential interpretation and misinterpretation. (differential interpretation of 'very likely')

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### Uncertainty



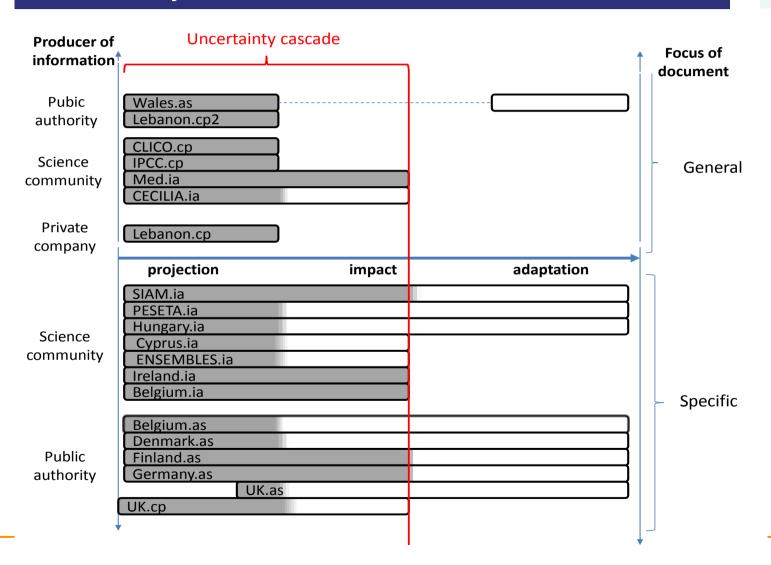




 it mainly concerns the climate projections and not other phases such as the impact assessment,



### Uncertainty





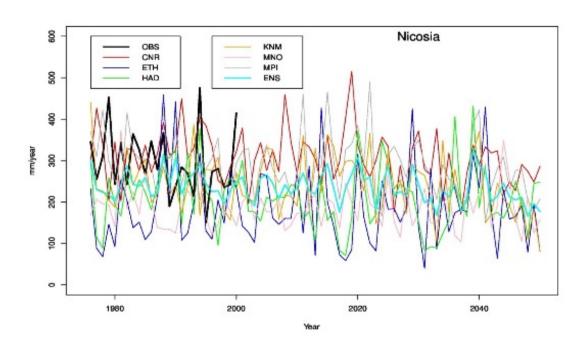


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### Uncertainty: spaghettis!







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## Uncertainty



	Notion on extremes	No notion on extremes	Total
Spread of projections	5 (23%)	5 (23%)	10
Mean of projections	10 (45%)	2 (9%)	12
Total	15	7	22





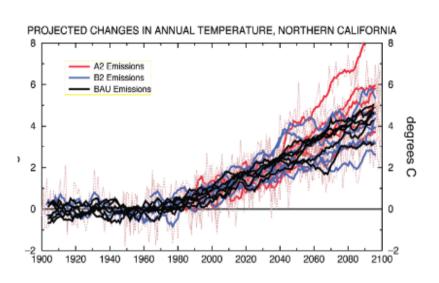


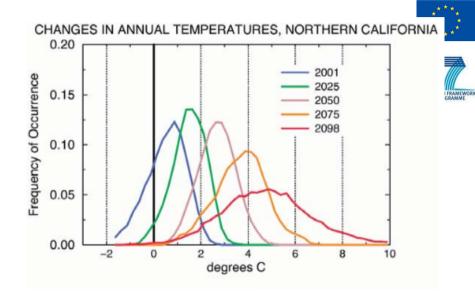
## Visualization: scientific rigor + social useful

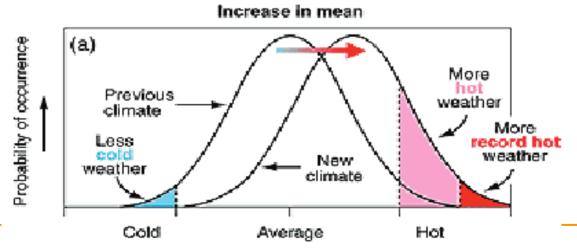














#### Uncertainty





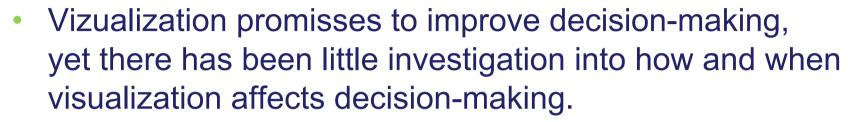


- it mainly concerns the climate projections and not other phases such as the impact assessment,
- there is a tendency towards presenting one scenario,
- the mean estimate from climate projections is presented.

#### 2.2 Visualisation



#### Visualization





- Information in visual form receives greater weight than textual information.
- People's accurate judgement of visualized information depends on the way the image is constructed.
   Judgement of a line is more accurate than colour and area.



#### Visualization





 coloured maps, the most frequent applied visualization tool, is not best tool for decisionmaking,

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#### Visualization





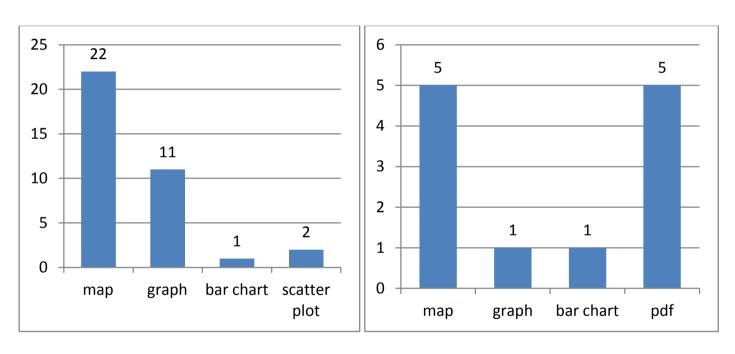


Figure 5.4: Distribution of visualization tools according to their purpose. Left: visualization tools used to visualize a projection, N = 36. Right: visualization tools used to communicate the general message on uncertainty, N = 13.

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### Visualization





Colour for decrease of precipitation	Frequency	Colour for increase of precipitation	Frequency
Red	4	Blue	3
Blue	1	Green	2
Yellow/red	1	Red	1
Brown	1	Blue/green	1

Table 5.3: Frequency of colours used for a decrease or increase of precipitation

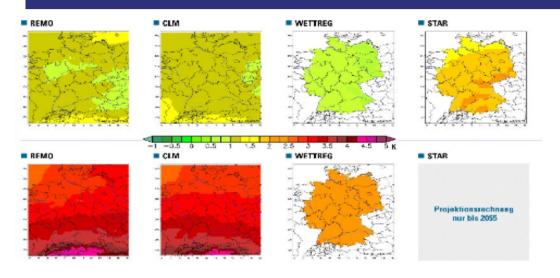
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### Maps are not appropriate for decision-making

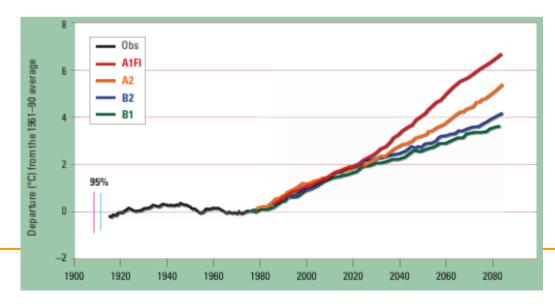








Source: German Federal Government, 2008



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, 2005



#### Visualization

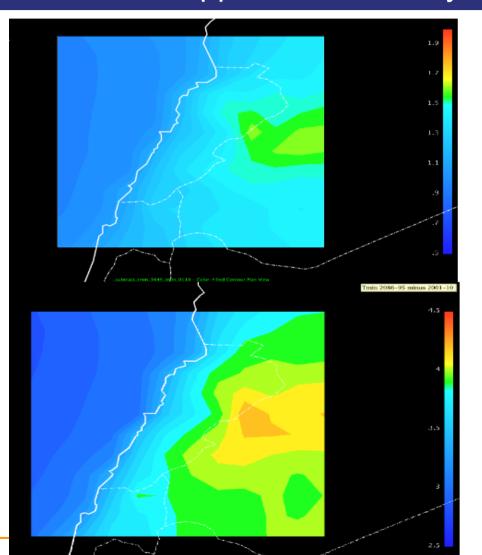




- coloured maps, the most frequent applied visualization tool, is not best tool for decisionmaking,
- colours used in these maps are not applied consistently,

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## Colours are not applied consistently

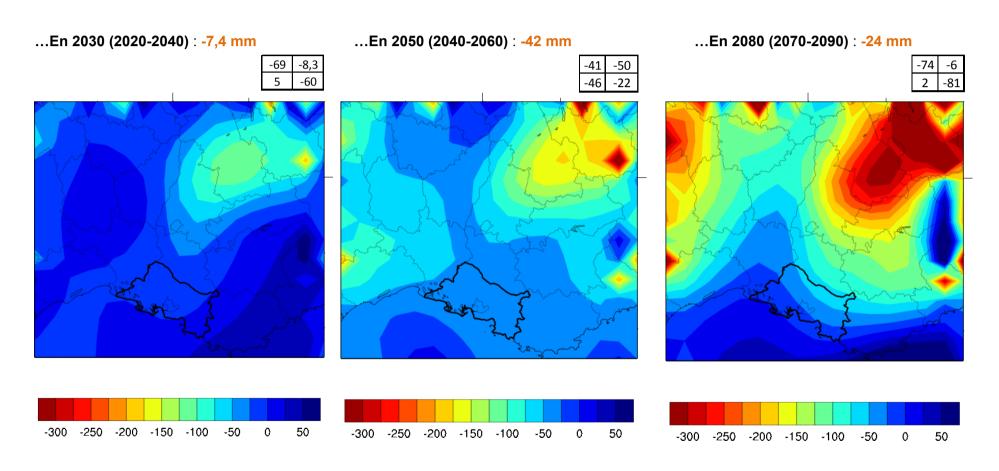






Source: Lebanese Ministry of Environment, 2011

## ...not necessarily drier...



Evolution du cumul de précipitation annuel, projection de référence <u>Ecart (en mm)</u> à la période de référence 1961-1990



#### Visualization





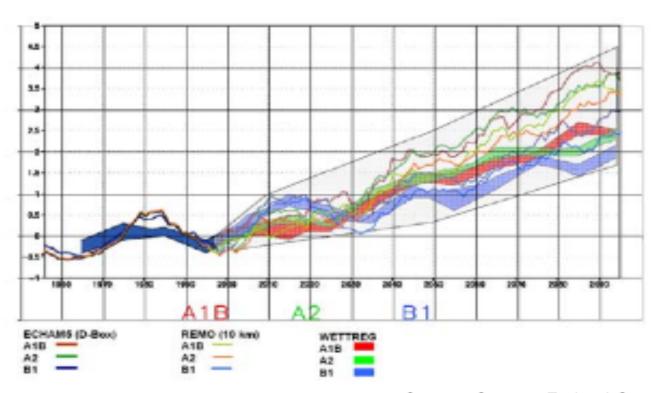
- coloured maps, the most frequent applied visualization tool, is not best tool for decisionmaking,
- colours used in these maps are not applied consistently,
- visualizations do not show uncertainty, can be repellent/distractive and are sometimes used as decoration

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### Distractive vividness



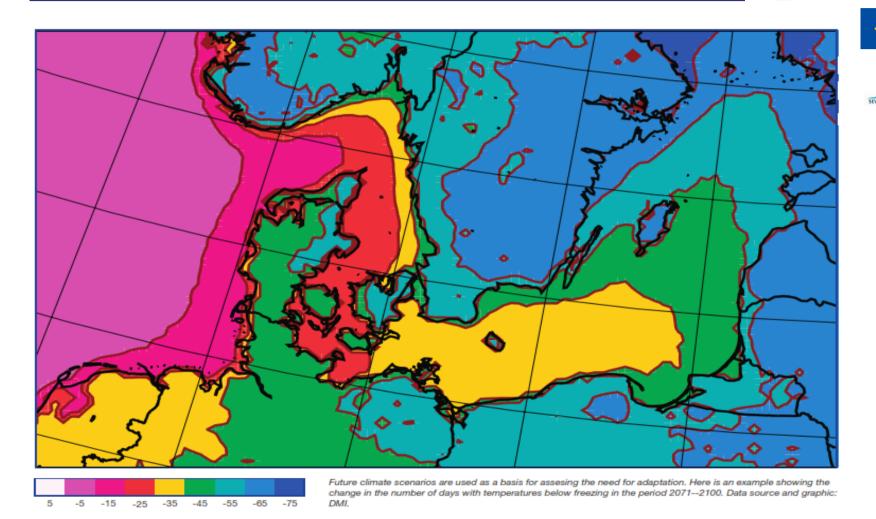




Source: German Federal Government, 2008

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### Visualization as decoration



Source: The Danish government, 2008

#### 2.3 Recommendations



- Be clear and concise
- Use maps only when essential
- Consider your map/ graphs as prototypes rather than final products
  - Need some finalization (Photoshop, Power Point…)
  - Details matter (scale, font size, location...)
- Collaborate with/involve your communication department: a sound communication requires knowledge

### Thank you for your attention

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