Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 13, EGU2011-10715, 2011
EGU General Assembly 2011

MED-CORDEX initiative for Mediterranean Climate studies.

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Since early' 90s, many research projects analyzed and focused on downscaling of global climate simulations over the Euro-Mediterranean region. Euro-Mediterranean region is considered as particularly vulnerable to climate variability and change, in particular, by its vulnerability to changes in the water cycle and natural ecosystems. The Mediterranean basin has quite a unique character that results both from orographic conditions and demographic trend. The region features an enclosed sea, which is connected to the Atlantic ocean only by Gibraltar strait, surrounded by very urbanized littorals and a complex topography from which numerous rivers feed the Mediterranean sea. This results in many interactions and feedback between ocean-atmosphere-land processes that play a prominent role in climate and, in turn, determine the impact on human activities.
Based on previous stimulating initiatives and on new regional downscaling tools (Regional Coupled Systems), developed for the CIRCE-EU project, the Mediterranean climate research community proposed the Med-CORDEX initiative. MED-CORDEX is a coordinated action between CORDEX and HyMeX international programs. MED-CORDEX is a unique framework where research community will make use of both regional atmospheric and oceanic climate models and regional coupled systems for increasing the reliability of regional climate information.