



## Regional climate service in Southern Germany

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Climate change challenges science, politics, business and society at the international, national and regional level. The South German Climate Office at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a contact for the structuring and dissemination of information on climate and climate change in the South German region. It provides scientifically based and user-oriented climate information.

Thereby it builds a bridge between the climate sciences and society and provides scientific information on climate change in an understandable way. The expertise of KIT, in which several institutions operate on fundamental and applied climate research, and of partner institutions is the basis for the work in the climate office. The regional focus is on the south of Germany. Thematic focuses are e.g. regional climate modeling, trends in extreme weather events such as heavy rain and hail event, and issues for energy and water management. The South German Climate Office is one of four Regional Helmholtz Climate Offices, of which each has a regional and thematic focus.

The users of the Climate Office can be summarized into three categories. First, there is the general public. This category consists mainly of non-professionals. Here, special attention is on an understandable translation of climate information. Attention is paid to application-related aspects, because each individual is affected in a different way by climate change. Typical examples of this category are school groups, citizens and the media. The second category consists of experts of other disciplines. Unlike the first category they are mainly interested in the exchange of results and data. It is important to the climate office to provide support for the use of climatological results. Typical representatives of this category are ministries, state offices, and companies. In the third and final category are scientists. In addition to the climatologists, this category also holds representatives from other scientific disciplines, which are directly or indirectly cope with climate change. This category encompasses for example hydrologists (estimation of future flood events) and engineers (housing in a changing climate).

For these three categories, different approaches are needed. First, the South German Climate Office reaches a wide audience through regular appearance in the media (newspapers, radio, and television). Because for such appearances the information content needs to be simplified quite strongly, experts will be better addressed through workshops and conferences. For example, the Climate Office has carried out a few events on "Climate and Constructions" in recent years. Several collaborations that led to project work between different scientific disciplines resulted from these events.

The experience at the South German Climate Office has shown that the demand for information about climate change and its consequences is very diverse. Therefore, part of the activities is to carry out a categorized view on the requests in order to allow such a user-oriented answering. An additional role of the climate office is to enhance the general visibility of climatological results by workshops and conferences.