



Describing “bad” practices: improving climate services by learning from what can go wrong when using climate data

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In many projects on Climate Services people describe the so-called good or best practices as examples for others on how to use climate data and information. However, personally I learned most from the “bad” or improper practices that I saw. These were mainly due to a lack of knowledge by the users and providers of climate information. When developing or delivering climate services, (climate) scientists often do not realize that they may have a different view compared to users on what is known or logical when using climate data. Therefore it would be good to promote the sharing of observed improper uses and challenges related to the use and interpretation of climate data and information. This information is as useful for improving climate services as best practices.

In the presentation, I will share some of my experiences from the past 10 years and the lessons learned. Describing these “bad” practices may not be that straightforward, since no one wants to figure in an example of incorrect or improper climate data use. However, most examples can be described without mentioning names or by constructing examples similar to the original improper practices.