

Climate projections in the force field of adaptation strategies

A. Spekat and F. Kreienkamp
Climate & Environment Consulting Potsdam GmbH (arne.spekat@cec-potsdam.de)

Since roughly a decade users of climate information have climate projection data at their disposal. In the past, these users have developed models, based on observation data, and applied them to study processes pertaining to their field of expertise. In the context of an ongoing climate change, studies have to be carried out in these fields which focus on the relevant consequences of this change. These consequences in turn are the foundations for adaptation strategies to be developed.

The application of climate projections in user-related research has turned out to be quite problematic. As it turned out, and is supported by a multi-year experience in consulting of users, the expectations in climate projections cannot be matched with what regional climate models are capable of. The talk aims at stimulating and sustaining a discussion as to how a scientifically sound usage of climate projection data will be possible.