



Creating and maintaining dialogue on climate information - Reflections on the adaptation process in Sweden

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Climate information can be communicated in many ways to various actors within society. Dialogue as a means to communicate is often emphasised as an important tool to deliver and receive information. However, a dialogue can be initiated and maintained in many different ways.

In Sweden the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, SMHI, can be seen as one of the actors in between the climate science experts and the society, and together with the Swedish Geotechnical Institute, SGI, they had recognised that the County Administrative Boards required climate information and knowledge in how to use and how not to use climate scenarios in order to start coordinating regional adaptation activities. At the same time the National Authorities called for a more detailed compilation on the needs in the counties, regarding climate information for decision making.

Together the SMHI and SGI visited the 21 counties in Sweden with a start in the autumn of 2008, initiating a dialogue with the County Administrative Boards. The process continued with a first seminar in springtime 2009, on adaptation. In spring 2009 the County Administrative Boards were appointed as the formal foci of adaptation coordination in Sweden, and a new phase in the dialogue started, when the counties had specific goals with the interaction. Personal visits and seminars have continued to be the arena for the dialogue, and new climate information products have been initiated as a response to the interaction.

Here, reflections are presented on the role of the dialogue in Sweden as a tool towards a sustainable way to communicate climate information.