



How will wind energy yields change? An example of tailoring climate information

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The demand for climate information on future climate is booming. Professional users, like water managers, wind or agricultural engineers want to know how their systems of interest might change as a result of climate change. Therefore, universities, meteorological institutes and climate services invest lots of time (and money) in the development of climate scenarios, matching meteorological time series and all kind of other tools to study impacts of climate change. Yet, despite all the efforts, the use and interpretation remain difficult and the supplied products do often not exactly fit the user needs.

In 2006, the study “Tailoring Climate Information for Impact Assessment” within the research programme was set up to get acquainted with the user needs and their way of work. Next to lots of contacts with a divergent group of users and specific user workshops, we performed six pilot studies in close cooperation with six different professional users.

We define “tailoring climate information” as the supply of data and information of the current and future climate tailored for a specific group of users. In many projects, the applied method appeared less obvious than thought in. The followed approach often proved not appropriate afterwards, which gave us much of insight in what “tailoring climate information” is really about. A properly tailored product can only be achieved in close cooperation with the user.

In this presentation, we want to illustrate this on the hand of a pilot study on estimates of wind energy yields for the coming 10 to 20 years. Despite a nice cooperation, the real information need was not perfectly clear. As a consequence, intermediary products were not directly applicable for the end user. This, together with its long duration, caused many nice plot points and makes this pilot very illustrative for tailoring of climate information.