



## **Importance of user dialogue when communicating the new RCP scenarios in Sweden.**

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The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, SMHI, provides climate scenarios on the national and regional (sub-national) scales as part of the climate services in Sweden. Regional climate scenarios have been made available for the last years, based on the SRES emission scenarios, global climate models and regional modeling. Some of the challenges have been to explain the SRES scenarios to different users, for example with respect to the overall climate scenario uncertainty, how they are best interpreted, and the limitations of climate scenarios. The channels to communicate the SRES scenarios have mainly been reports and fact sheets, the website and meetings and seminars with external users.

From year 2012 SMHI has been appointed by the Swedish government to set up a National Knowledge Center on Climate Change Adaptation. This will further expand the role of SMHI within climate change adaptation in Sweden in relation to climate services. In these efforts, it is fruitful to build up and apply dialogue with the users as a mean to enable insights, facilitate the use of climate information, and further develop tools and methods for climate change adaptation measures in different sectors of the society. This has led to a formalization of a user-provider dialogue instead of the former sender-receiver inspired communication.

During 2012 first new climate scenarios have been derived from updated climate models and the new Representative Concentration Pathways, RCP, by the SMHI researchers. Many of the former challenges will remain even with the new scenarios. However, as the new RCP scenarios underline the new climate scenarios, not only does one need to explain the RCPs, but also their relation to the earlier SRES scenarios. The novel approach for SMHI is to apply the dialogue with the users to expand perspectives on different ways to present the new scenarios. Here, reflections are presented on the process of developing a pedagogic and efficient way to present new climate scenarios, and to deal with the common question from the users: "Which one should I use?"