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Climate services at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

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The SMHI provides climate scenarios on the national and regional (sub-national) scales. One of the challenges is to explain the SRES and the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) scenarios and climate modeling to different users, considering the overall climate change scenario uncertainty. There is a great demand for information on how climate scenarios best can be interpreted, including limitations. The SMHI website is the main channel for communication, but also reports, fact sheets and communication in meetings and seminars. Meetings where scientists and stakeholders meet and share experiences, ideas, questions, answers and overall information are crucial.

The SMHI will continue the dialogue with users of climate scenario information in order to expand perspectives on useful ways to present the updated climate scenarios. Developing pedagogic and efficient ways to present different scenarios, including how the RCP scenarios relate to the SRES scenarios is of great importance and so is the dialogue with stakeholders on how to select scenarios appropriate for their needs.

Since 2009, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) has the governmental assignment to support the County administrative boards with climate change information and so to facilitate their coordinative and knowledge disseminative role in the Swedish climate change adaptation efforts.

The SMHI has developed climate services on national and regional level, such as climate indicators and indices. Visualizations of the historical and projected future climate on national and county level are provided on the SMHI website in the format of data, maps, films and more interactive ways. The information is also adapted for presentations in dome theatres and decision theatres. Similar information is provided specifically for hydrological catchment areas and regions used in the delivery of weather forecasts. Furthermore, SMHI provides lectures at seminars and workshops nationally as well as in the counties.