



Tracing the use (and potential use) of seasonal climate forecasts across Europe

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Seasonal climate forecasts (SCF) can play an important role in informing and supporting decision-making processes in sectors susceptible to weather and climate events and their impacts. However, in Europe the use of SCF by organisations is recent and, as a result, very little is known about the uptake and information needs of decision-makers in Europe. To fill this gap we conducted in-depth interviews with 80 European organisations across a range of sectors.

Our analysis has shown that many of these organisations do not currently use SCF and those that do tend to be related with the energy, water, transport, and agriculture sectors. However, the ways in which these organisations use SCF differs and issues with the provision and adequacy of the information available remain.

Those not using SCF identified the lack of reliability of climate forecasts as the main perceived barrier to their uptake. In addition, other aspects such as the difficulty of integrating SCF into existing operational models were also identified as relevant impediments by some organisations.

Notwithstanding, many of the organisations recognised the potential to use this type of climate information to help manage their operations and activities. In addition, the potential to link SCF with other types of weather/climate information was also noted by some.

However, differences in SCF information needs across and within organisations and sectors were also highlighted. Such diversity, largely underpinned by factors such as the aims of the organisation, the range of decision-making processes, and broader institutional settings, characterise the complex and heterogeneous landscape of users and potential users of SCF across Europe.

Our paper provides valuable insights into this mosaic landscape of the uses and barriers to the uptake of SCF in Europe which should be considered in the emergent context of climate services in Europe.