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Meeting the challenge: generating and disseminating actionable climate information with the new Swiss climate change scenarios CH2018

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To make sound decisions in the face of climate change, governmental agencies as well as policymakers and private stakeholders require the best available information on future climatic changes in their environment. The project CH2018 provides such a basis in the form of climate change projections, derived with accepted scientific methods and communicated in the form of climate change scenarios. Projections of future climate are a basis for adaptation to the consequences of climate change, and also help to understand which changes can be avoided by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).

The CH2018 scenarios are jointly produced under the umbrella of the National Center for Climate Services (NCCS) by the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss, the Swiss science institutions ETH Zurich and University of Bern, and the Swiss Academy of Sciences' Forum for Climate and Global Change ProClim.

CH2018 represents the third generation of Swiss climate scenarios. The previous reports, named CH2007 and CH2011, have been used extensively both in research on climate change impacts and in the planning of adaptation measures. Compared to the previous generations of climate scenarios, CH2018 includes more information in key areas such as extreme events, covers a broader array of variables and indices, and offers more data for research and application. These advances have also brought about additional complexity in methodology, and have accentuated the challenge of producing a consistent and transparent set of results. CH2018 further aims to improve the dissemination of results by producing separate publications for research and applied users, tailored to the needs of these groups.

In the presentation, we will discuss the CH2018 approach to optimize the consistency, robustness, and relevance of our findings, given the complexity of the methods used and the results produced within the project. We will further show how the new scenarios are disseminated in a hierarchical manner: a technical report serves as an extensive and solid basis geared towards a science audience; a brochure condenses actionable information for a general audience; and a web site provides extended resources through a platform for climate services hosted by the Swiss National Center for Climate Services NCCS.