

Climate services and constructing/communicating robust climate information

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What do climate services need to do?

Understand a decision(-makers) context and contribute to generating climate information which is robust in and useful for that (their) context

A good example: Water supply in Lusaka, Zambia.

Issues – access, quality, investment, planning, infrastructure, cost ...

Actors – utilities, individuals, government, regulators, NGOs, donors ...

Solutions – standards, enforcement, upgrades, monitoring, education ...

Climate – drought, changing rainfall patterns, flooding

So in terms of constructing/communicating robust climate information

Climate services need to understand that ...

- Climate information is important but should not dominate;
- Information required about, and from, other elements of the system being focused on is often more important and usually more wide-ranging.

... and thus they need to be:

- Able to work closely with those who have expertise in these other aspects of the system to effectively communicate and all relevant information;
- Humble with but also confident and clear about the robustness and relevance of their information.

This requires applying a range of processes ...

- Work in neutral spaces with enabling processes
- Process-driven iteration

... and principles.

- Bigger picture/systems thinking
- Catalysing (local) agency
- Respect and trust
- The social element
- Inclusivity and collaboration
- Networks and relationships
- Transdisciplinarity and (un)comfortable differences

Thanks for listening.

Discuss!

