Local to Regional Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

An International Symposium hosted by:

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Symposium Overview

Many decision makers need climate information at the regional and local levels to address short- and long-term challenges posed by variable and changing climate. Risks posed by climate variability would include hurricanes, droughts, floods, freezes, heat stresses, and wild fires. Risks posed by climate change, include changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme events, sea level rise, and emissions of greenhouse gases. In addition to risks, climate change offers new economic opportunities, such as bio-fuel production, carbon sequestration, and new markets for green information and technologies.

Climate risks and how we can best respond to those risks are highly complex, as they are affected by economic, demographic, and cultural factors in addition to changes in physical and biological systems. Because of this complex nature of climate risks, solutions will depend on integrated research, teaching, and outreach, with decision-makers and other stakeholders included as partners in these programs. We will need new educational curricula, new research programs, and new communications tools to provide information that decision makers can use to manage risks and benefit from new opportunities.

Symposium Objectives

• To provide a forum to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas for diverse professionals from scientific fields that address issues of climate, from organizations that are engaged in dissemination of new climate information to decision makers, and from the decision makers themselves.

• To identify priorities and plan strategies for future climate research, education, and outreach that will enable universities, agencies, and organizations to provide climate information for decision makers in agriculture, water resources, coastal communities and ecosystems, and terrestrial ecosystems.

• To explore opportunities and needs for developing climate information and decision support systems, as well as how to produce and apply global climate information at both regional and local levels.

Who Should Participate

• Research, teaching, and extension faculty, administrators, staff, and students, including those participating in RISAs, climate centers, and others involved with improving the use of climate information for agriculture and natural resource management.

• Representatives from federal, state, and local agencies conducting climate research or offering climate services.

• Non-government and private-voluntary organizations.

• Intermediaries or representatives of potential climate information users from the private sector, for example, state Farm Bureaus, crop consultants, commodity associations, producer organizations, agricultural and natural resources media, and others.

• Land planners, developers, environmental consultants and others engaged in managing or setting policy for changes in land use and land cover.

Early Bird Registration
by March 28, 2011
Plenary Sessions
Experts from around the world will be invited to address the following topics:
• State of knowledge on climate variability, climate change, coastal inundation at seasonal, decadal, and multi-decadal time scales
• Developing local scenarios for decadal and multi-decadal climate change
• Likely impacts and opportunities for adaptation to climate change for vulnerable sectors, including agriculture, coastal communities, forests and wildlife, water resources, and wetlands and estuaries

Concurrent Panel Discussions Sessions
Panelists will be invited from volunteer abstracts. Topics will include, but are not limited to:
• Climate change and sea level rise scenarios at local and regional scales
• Methods for stakeholder engagement
• New tools for decision support
• Climate in the classroom
• Climate change impacts and adaptation for vulnerable sectors, including but not limited to: agriculture, coastal communities, forests and wildlife, water resources, and wetlands and estuaries

Poster Session
Presenters will be invited from volunteer abstracts to further advance discussion on the above topics.

Call for Abstracts – Deadline: February 28, 2011
Individuals who wish to present their work on climate information for managing risks are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration as a presentation. Visit the website for more information on presentation options, topics and abstract submission instructions.
www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR

Sponsorship Opportunities
Aligning your organization with CIMR will provide you with the opportunity to strengthen relationships with leaders, managers, and others from the public and private sectors. If you are interested in providing financial assistance in support of the symposium, please visit the Sponsorship Opportunities section on the website or contact us.

Questions
For more information about CIMR 2011 visit the symposium website. If you have specific questions, contact the symposium coordinator Mandy Stage, mstage@ufl.edu or 1-352-392-5930.

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