

Climate Change and Coastal Cities: Information for Decision Making

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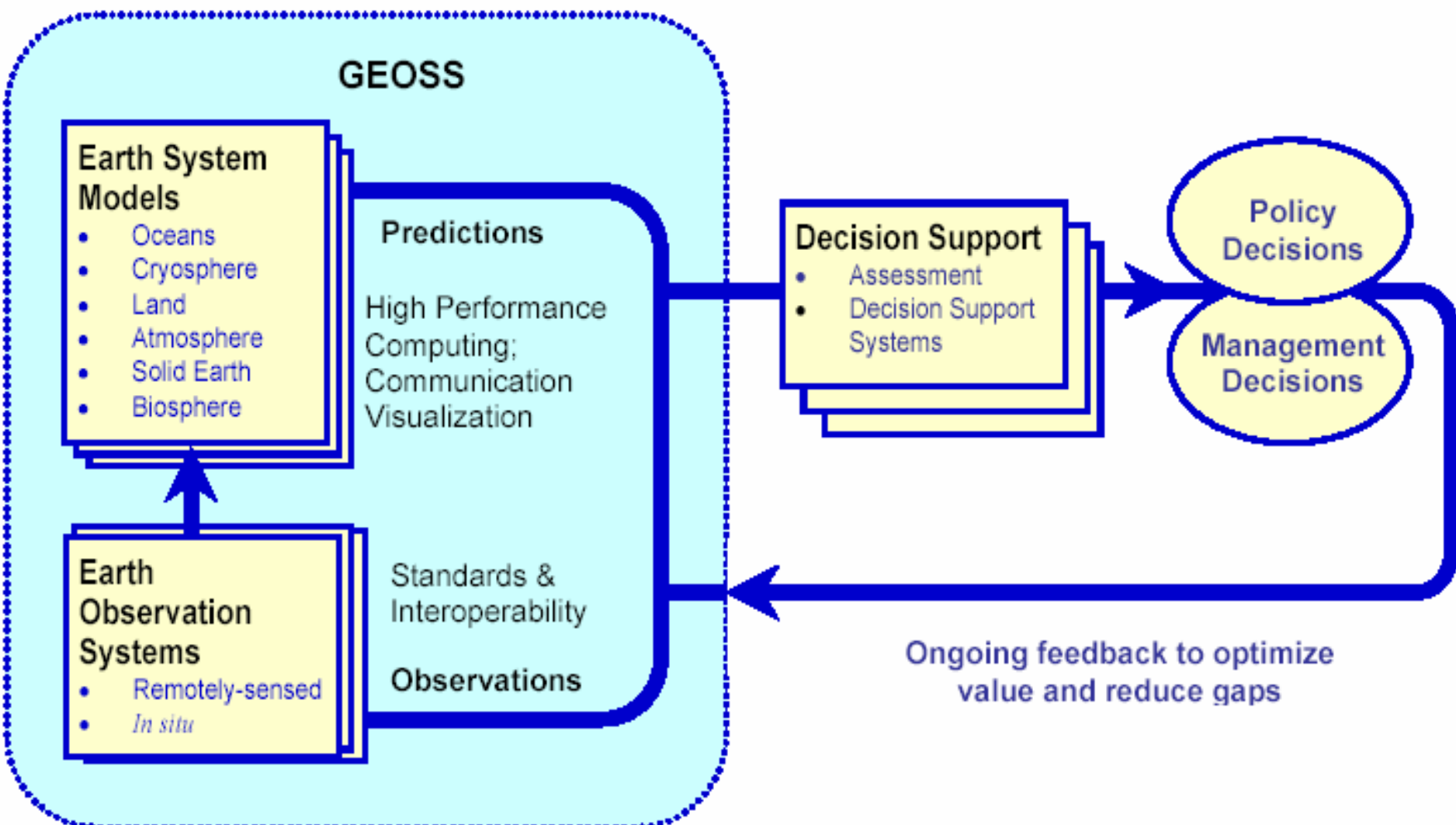
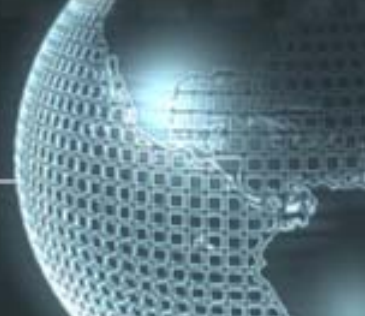


Conundrum

- Increasingly scientists operate under the presumption that information and knowledge obtained through research will directly improve decision making for policy and management.
- But the nexus between research and decision making is murky and rarely examined.



GEOSS Architecture: Mind the Gap



What Do We Know about This Gap?



- National decision and management needs influence the research agenda (ex. Apollo Project, War on Poverty, War on Cancer, terrorism)
- Research findings, when there is a scientific consensus, can influence policy in the public and private sectors (ex. Montreal Protocol)
- Most information about scientific research is inaccessible to decision makers



Scientific Products that Feed Decision Making



- Forecasts and projections
- Observations
- Indicators
- Scenarios
- Impact assessments
- “Consciousness raising”



Paths from Scientific Research to Decision Making



- Agenda setting
- Scheduled forecasts and indicators
- Technical staff and advisors
- Education
- Public Information
- The media (newspapers, TV, radio)



Public Information Approach: A Case Study



- Climate Change Information Resources—New York City (CCIR—NYC)
- Internet-based source of information on potential impacts of climate change/variability on the New York metropolitan area
- An information resource for agenda setting and information—not a decision support system
- Funded by NOAA's Human Dimensions Program



Investigators

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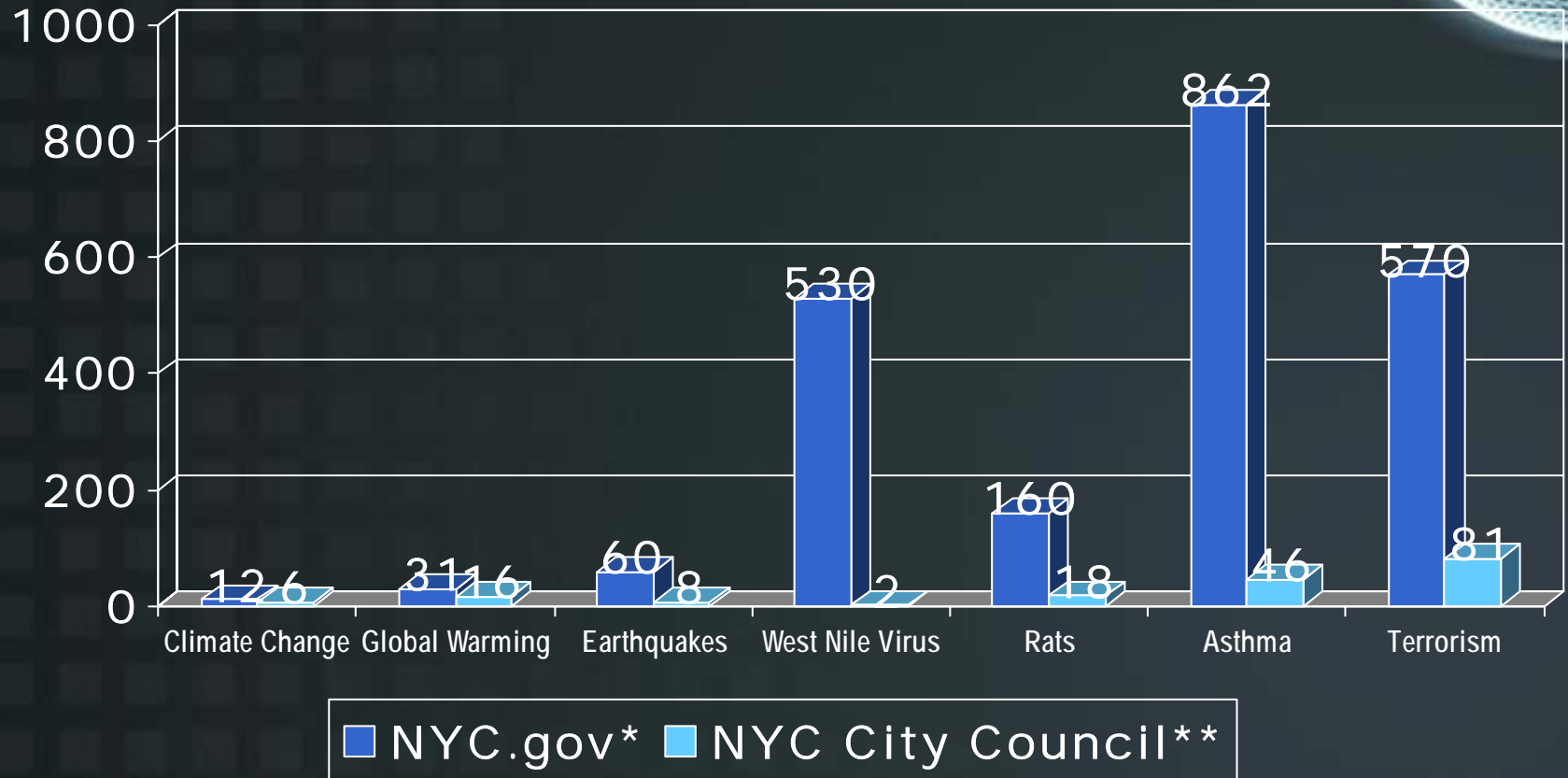


Advisory Committee

- Karen Chytalo, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Marine Habitat Protection
- Andrew H. Darrell, Environmental Defense
- Kim Tripp, U.S. Park Service, Jamaica Bay
- Edward Linky, EPA Region 2
- James Yarmus, Rockland County Planning and Transportation Dept.
- Christopher Zeppie, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Chief Environmental Policy Officer
- Paul Elston, member of Governor Pataki's GHG Task Force



Political Salience of CC



*Date range for content searched not available.

**1990-2005



CCIR Research Approach

- Examination of information needs of individuals, educators, and policy makers/managers
- Examination of information-seeking behavior
- Iterative participatory design
- Use research to create an operational prototype—and review with users



An Operational Prototype

- ccir.ciesin.columbia.edu/nyc/
- Sectoral vs. topical approach
- Basic structure of the site
 - Home page
 - Issue briefs
 - Resources
 - Networking resources
 - Calendar



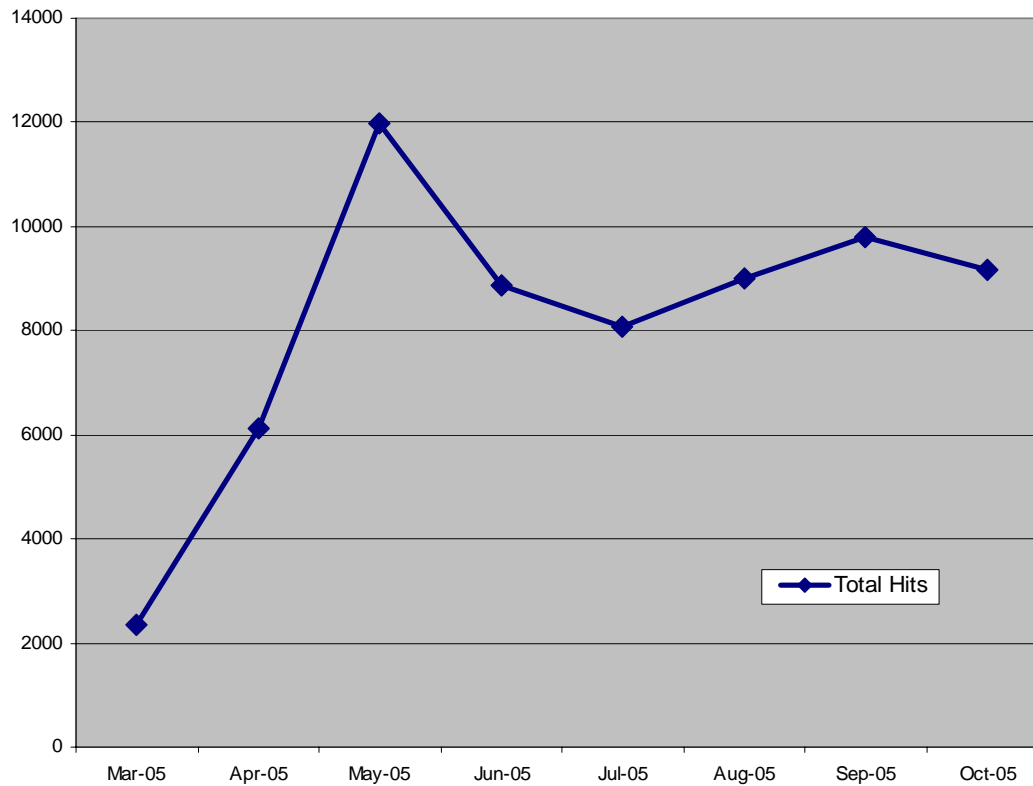
Creating and Maintaining a Public Presence



- Public launch for New York leaders
- Circulation of post cards in other venues
- E-Press release led to other web notices and reviews
- Monitor user statistics
- Repeat the above



Monthly User Stats



	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05
◆ Total Hits	2363	6136	11996	8862	8072	8989	9,802	9,172



Maintenance and Upkeep

- Date all materials and periodically update contents
- Regularly check links, update events calendar
- Periodically conduct outreach to new users
- Periodically review utility with users
- Work with other cities to take advantage of economies of scale in climate change information/education



Strategies for Influencing Decision Making

- Metropolitan focus
- Multiple users (educators, journalists, interested officials and residents)
- Multiple incentives (access to information, networking, calendar, access to NOAA weather and county information)
- Information that can be understood by the non-specialist



CCIR-NYC Access

CCIR-NYC Homepage - Mozilla Firefox
http://ccir.ciesin.columbia.edu/nyc/

Site Map About CCIR-NYC Issue Briefs Resources CCIR-NYC Network CCIR-NYC ListServ Related Events

Climate Change Information Resources

New York Metropolitan Region (CCIR-NYC)

What is climate change?
What are its impacts?
What can be done about it?
How can we limit future climate change?
Your NOAA Forecast
Enter ZIP Code/Click
Resources
Search

What's happening to the climate in the New York metropolitan area and what will it mean for the people who live here? We hear a lot about climate change, climate variability, and global warming, but how will these changes affect the New York region and people living in it?

The CCIR-NYC was created to be an information resource for policymakers, educators, and the general public on the impacts of climate change and variability in the tri-state New York metropolitan area, ways to adapt to these changes, and ways to limit their impacts in the future.

The CCIR-NYC **Issue Briefs** explain what causes climate change, how climate change will affect the New York metropolitan area and what policymakers, businesses, and individuals can do in response to climate change. Recent regional projections for changes in temperature, precipitation, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise are presented, along with impacts, likely costs, and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The CCIR-NYC **Resources** section includes an extensive compilation of links to articles, reports, data, and organizations that provide information on climate change relevant to the New York metropolitan region.

Developed under a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, with the collaboration of Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Hunter College.

Project Leadership

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For more information about CIESIN and our activities contact CIESIN User Services
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