

# Session 5-Setting Priorities: Implications of Workshop Findings and Suggested Next Steps

- ***Needs:*** What information do we need to better support decision makers and refine CCSP's future decision support priorities? What are the most promising areas for future application of climate science?
- ***Current knowledge:*** Given the answers to question 1, what types of research and observations would provide the greatest benefit to decision makers?
- ***Communication:*** How can we better communicate knowledge to decision makers, and how can we more effectively maintain a continuing dialogue? What activities might CCSP contemplate in order to better connect the whole of the research enterprise to the public interest?
- ***Capacity:*** What types of capacity do we most need to strengthen to build trust with and provide effective support to decision makers? (e.g., observations, data/information systems, nodes linking existing resources at a variety of spatial scales, training for use of climate and environmental data in decision support, analytic methods, tools, etc.)

# Preface

Location, Location, Location

Subtext to this workshop has been:

**Regional, Regional, Regional**

In another life this was termed:

Place-Based Science

What's wrong?

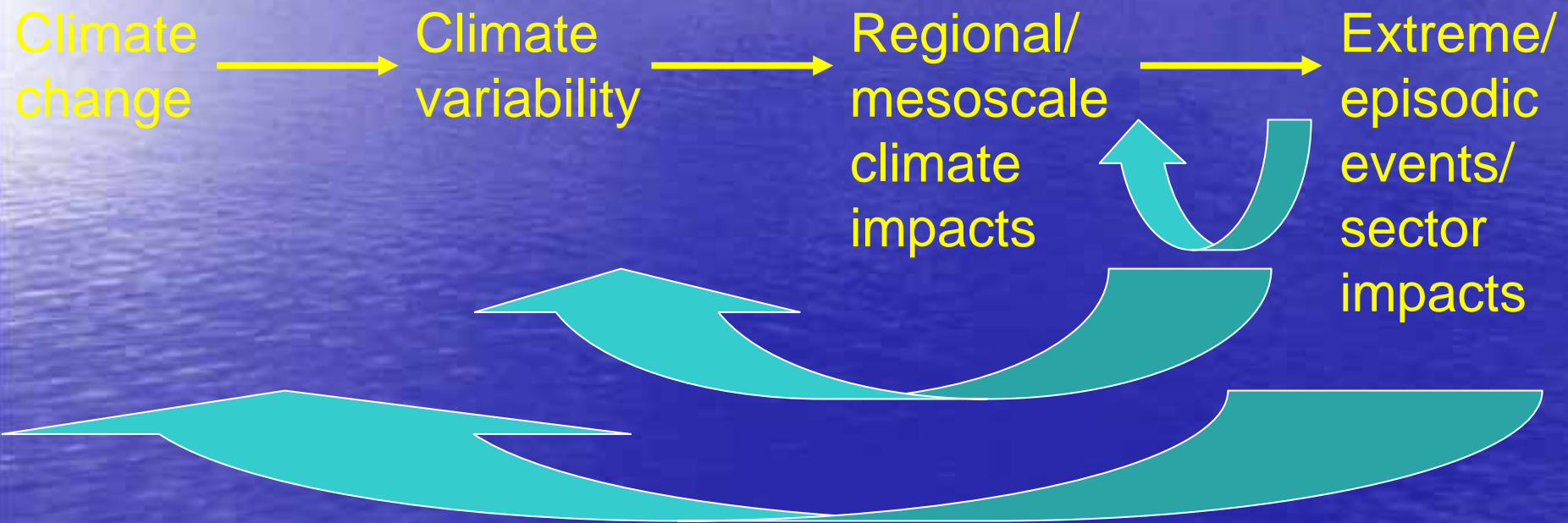
Is there something wrong with our past/present approach?

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*Needs:* What information do we need to better support decision makers and refine CCSP's future decision support priorities? What are the most promising areas for future application of climate science?

- Integration, integration, integration, need to fight against stove pipes, even the structure of workshop had aspects of this
- US climate research agenda is still not fully integrated across variability and change

Within this context,  
what are the regional implications of “global change”?



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*Needs:* What information do we need to better support decision makers and refine CCSP's future decision support priorities? What are the most promising areas for future application of climate science?

- Integration, integration, integration:  
still stove piped as exemplified by structure of workshop
- US climate research agenda still not fully integrated across variability and change
- Data management/information activities such as PCMDI and NIDIS provide an opportunity for integration both nationally and internationally
- How does the CCSP identify emerging public policy needs/concerns? How do climate impact scientists bring emerging topics to the attention of the CCSP?

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***Current knowledge:*** Given the answers to question 1, what types of research and observations would provide the greatest benefit to decision makers?

- Various user communities want to know, "To what extent is the climate system predictable? When and where, with emphasis on the short term, regional scales?"
  - Seasonal to interannual climate variability represents an urgency/immediacy of the climate time scale unto itself, and as a bridge to climate change
  - To this day we do not have a National Strategy in place for the transition from research to applications for seasonal to interannual climate prediction.
  - We lack a rigorous ongoing assessment of our ability to predict climate on seasonal to interannual time scales.
  - Need to consider forcings beyond GHG; aerosols, air quality, LC /LUC.
- What is the global impact of regional changes?

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**Communication:** How can we better communicate knowledge to decision makers, and how can we more effectively maintain a continuing dialogue? What activities might CCSP contemplate in order to better connect the whole of the research enterprise to the public interest?

- Substantive involvement of the user community at all stages
- Presentations at this workshop roughly breakdown along the following lines:

<u>Fed. Govt.</u>	<u>Academia</u>	<u>NGO</u>	<u>Public/Private Service</u>
44	25	8	12

- Contrast with II Regional Conference on Global Change: South America. Sao Paulo, Brasil November 6-10, 2005

Participation by petroleum, electricity, mining, lumber, transportation, water, media, airline, banking, accounting, agrobusiness, cosmetics

Why?

Not until economists were engaged and Business/Management/Economic Schools, did these various sectors come along

- Requires greater engagement outside the government with the stakeholder community, e.g., RISAs, professional and trade associations, user interfaces

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- Cross Assessment communication, coordination, crosstalk
- Communicating probabilistic forecasts/uncertainty and link to consequences/risk
- Need for a much more open process for identifying assessment products in the first place
- How are the products to be used? What is the process for follow-up?
- Need for accountability and transparency in development of the final **Government** product at the agency level in response to external and agency reviews. As in the IPCC, **all** input should be openly archived. What government input went into the final report, if any?
- Lessons learned from IGBP
- Importance of visuals, graphics



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- Integration and partnerships at the regional level
- To be successful there is a need for trust, commitment, long-term relationship, two-way communication, sustained, iterative
- Need for regional assessments as follow-on to National Assessment and in parallel with existing 21 SAPs
- Adaptive Management as a dynamic and robust “system of systems”
- RISA not a National program, need not and should not be just a NOAA program
- To what extent do government structures “weigh down” the assessment process, is the Federal bureaucracy getting in the way?
- Still don’t have climate services in place. NOAA has taken on the mandate, but what is the proper mix of public-private, regional climate centers, interagency involvement, state climatologists, etc?
- Government has not been successful in getting funded in a top down sense.
- **Not sufficiently constituent driven/engaged. How to address?**