

There is an increasing need for detailed, high-resolution regional information regarding future climate. Such information is needed by scientists in disciplines that require climate information (e.g. hydrologists), decision- and policy-makers, and by those assessing climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Although climate change projections must necessarily be undertaken with global models, such models will never have sufficient spatial detail for all applications. Constraints on available computing resources will always limit model resolution; therefore, various techniques have been developed for 'downscaling' global climate projections (and shorter-term climate predictions) and for producing fine-scale regional climate information. These include nested regional climate models, variable resolution global models, global uniform high-resolution time-slice simulations, statistical downscaling, and/or combinations of these methods.

At present, there is a need for more information in order that users are better able to evaluate the adequacy or applicability of these various methods for a particular problem. The need has also been expressed for a strong coordinated program aimed at evaluating and improving downscaling methods as well as improving the production of the next generation regional climate change projections.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an overview of regional climate downscaling methods, their application and evaluation;
2. To improve communication between the impacts, adaptation, and other user communities and the regional climate downscaling community;
3. To discuss the establishment of an international activity, under the auspices of the WCRP, to help evaluate and improve regional downscaling methods, to foster collaboration on a more coordinated framework to improve the next generation regional climate change projections, and to promote standards in dissemination and use of regional downscaling results.

THE VENUE

Located right on the doorstep of Toulouse, just 8 km from its international airport, the Meteo France International Conferences Center lies at the very heart of Europe's leading meteorology Centre.

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WMO: World Meteorological Organization