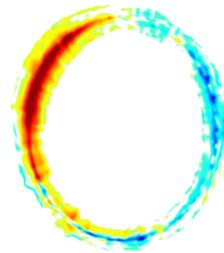


# International Partnerships to Understand, Anticipate, and Manage the Impacts of Climate

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International Research Institute for Climate and Society  
The Earth Institute of Columbia University

*Extreme Weather, Climate, and Health:  
Putting Science into Practice*

Washington, DC, 30 – 31 January 2013



# A PARTNERSHIP TO SAVE LIVES



 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

 The International Research Institute  
for Climate and Society

Face-to-face meetings  
Building trust over time  
Tailored products  
Help Desk

Shared office  
Internship program  
Joint advocacy  
Documenting experience



# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## West and Central Africa: Flood preparedness

Emergency appeal n° MDR61003  
11 July 2008

This preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 750,000 (USD 731,134 or EUR 462,475) in cash, kind, or services to support the National Societies of West and Central Africa to assist 47,500 beneficiaries.

CHF 483,047 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start the planned activities. Discussions are currently taking place to reallocate approximately CHF 550,000 remaining from the 2007 West Africa floods appeal to support this appeal. While these discussions are underway, partners are encouraged to provide timely support to this appeal.



Red Cross Volunteer, Lomé, Togo, June, 2008



# Champions

## Unsung Heroes



*The ultimate judge of a person's character is their ability to exceed expectations when little recognition or praise is given.*

# Asking the right questions

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but we do know most of the questions.”

Bill MacMillan, *Hertford College orientation*



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1. Answerable v answerable ones;
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Types of questions:

1. Answerable v answerable ones;
2. Interesting v irrelevant ones.

What are the mutually interesting *and* answerable questions?



# Asking the right questions

Without a strong partnership we will have either:



# Asking the right questions

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1. Good answers to boring questions, or



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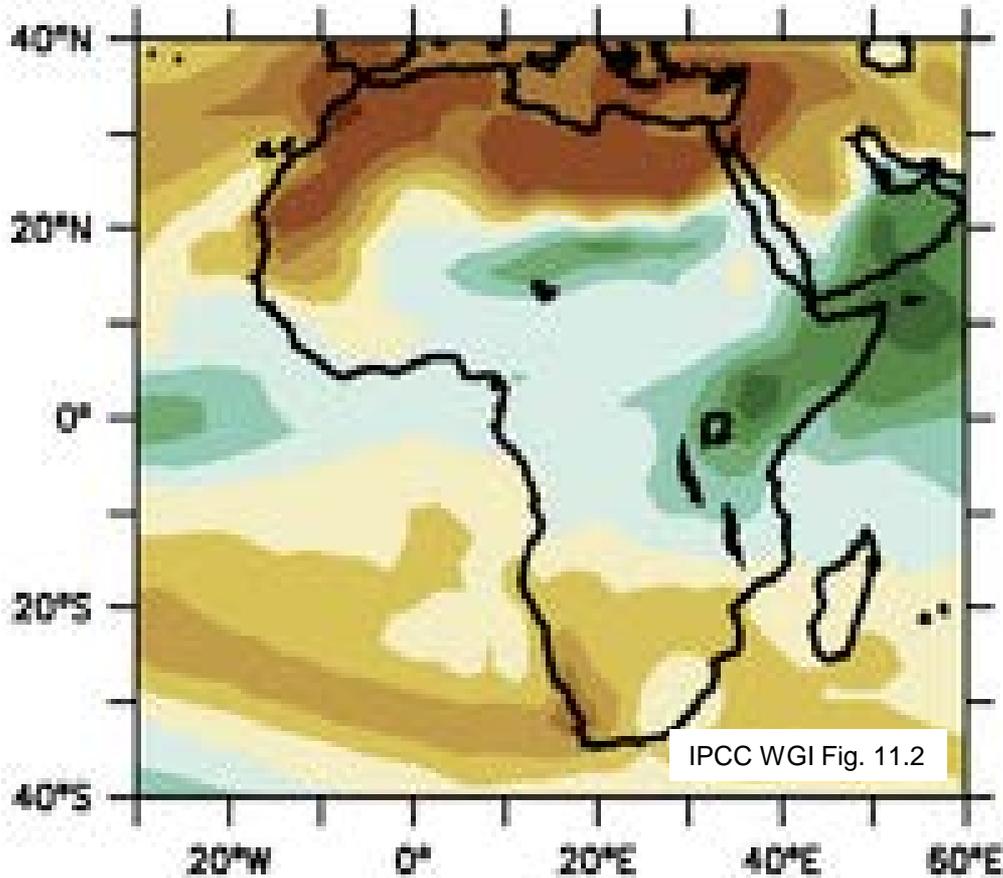
Without a strong partnership we will have either:

1. Good answers to boring questions, or
2. Bad answers to interesting questions.

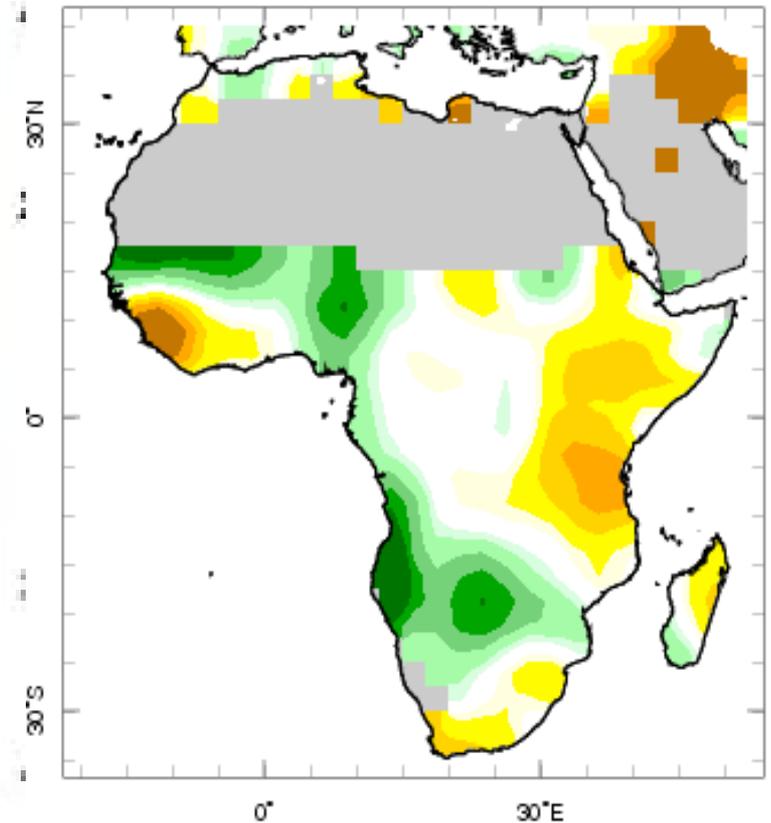


# Model Projections Compared to Recent Trends

PROJECTED % CHANGE IN RAINFALL  
(2080-2099 COMPARED TO 1980-1999)



OBSERVED % CHANGE IN RAINFALL  
(1999-2011 COMPARED TO 1979-1998)



In many areas, most notably East Africa, recent trends have been opposite to the long-term projected changes in rainfall.

# Relevance

- Climate information is like a hospital gown:



# Relevance

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one size fits nobody.



# Relevance

- Climate information is like a hospital gown:  
one size fits nobody.
- Information needs to be customised.
- Weather and climate forecasts beyond a few days is highly uncertain; we ideally need to know not only what the impacts are, but also what actions make sense.



# Decision-making across timescales



Begin monitoring mid-range and short-range forecasts

Update contingency plans

Train volunteers

Sensitize community

Enable early-warning system

Continue monitoring shorter-time-scale forecasts

Mobilize assessment team

Alert volunteers

Warn community

Local preparation activities

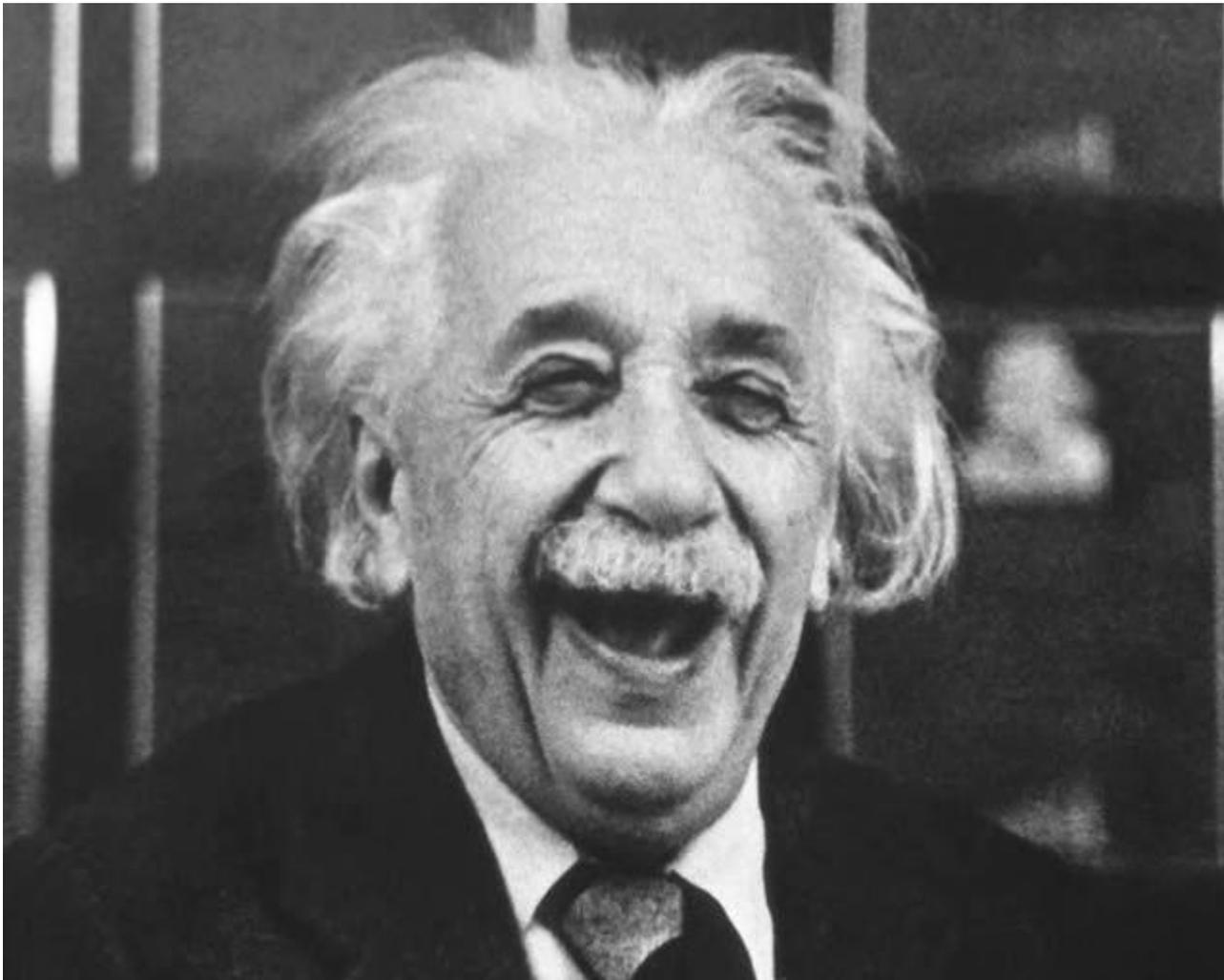
Deploy assessment team

Activate volunteers

Distribute instructions to community, evacuate if needed

# Simplicity

“Everything should be made as simple as possible but not simpler.”





Team A scores 320 for 7 in 50 overs in a one-day international. Would you bet on them winning the match?



# Practicality

The technically best solution is not necessarily the most practicable solution.

Simple solutions for immediate needs.



# Credibility

- Data quality is not necessarily the highest priority - it has to come from a mandated source (particularly important for any users linked to government).

τάχ' ἄν τις εἰκὸς αὐτὸ τοῦτ' εἶναι λέγοι,  
βροτοῖσι πολλὰ τυγχάνειν οὐκ εἰκότα.

Aristotle, *The Poetics*

*It is in the very nature of probability that improbable things will happen.*



# Key factors for successful Climate and Health Partnerships

- **Champion individuals** who can innovate and motivate
- **Intention to build trust** and dialog, plan to find and work out differences
- **Institutional frameworks** to guide and define clear aims and roles
- **Enabling factors and incentives** are in place to make the partnership work
- **Maintain focus** on the health problem

