



UK Climate Projections Project Newsletter - February 2017

Welcome to the second newsletter of the UK Climate Projections Project (UKCP18).

In this newsletter we will give you an update on the activities that we have been involving users in, information on how to get involved in demonstration projects and the release of advice related to UKCP09 marine projections and whether they are still an appropriate tool for planning.

Project update

We are pleased to report that the project is progressing to plan and there are a number of developments to share since the last newsletter.

We have continued to engage with representative users through the user groups. We've held two non-government user group workshops (hosted by Severn Trent and Yorkshire Water – see report), a series of webinars based around the key messages from the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment and a virtual meeting for the government user group. The findings from these activities are helping inform project decisions along with scientific considerations.

For example, we now have a list of the most important user variables and metrics which will inform the analyses that will be carried out in the coming year. It will also inform the strategy for developing additional products that users will need to derive from the UKCP18 climate projections beyond the end of the project (e.g. future flood risk maps).

Rich information has also been gathered about how people use emissions scenarios in their work and how they could use potential UKCP18 products for their impacts analyses and risk assessments.

The UKCP18 user groups have been consulted on the vision for the UKCP18 website and a focus group, made up of user group members, has also provided detailed comments on the data delivery platform. This valuable feedback is helping shape decisions on these aspects of the project.

Meanwhile, the science team has been busy with the further development of the climate model simulations. Simulations have started on the Met Office's new supercomputer and scientists are analysing the early outputs.

Good progress is also being made in the sea level rise projections which will build on the new science in the latest IPCC 5th assessment report. Analysis continues for the update to the storm surge projections which will be informed by the latest set of European-wide regional climate projections (EUROCORDEX).

[Website](#)

Government User Group update

The UKCP18 Government User Group (GUG) has now met three times, most recently on 22 November to discuss the latest plans for metrics, website and guidance, and derived products. Over the Christmas period and January, the GUG chair, Kathryn Brown has been canvassing individual User Group members for their views on options for producing a second low emissions scenario in land strand 2, and the trade-offs between spatial resolution and length of time series for land strand 3. The GUG will meet again in the spring to receive updates on how the projections are developing and to feed into deliverables, such as the design of the project guidance and website.

Non-Government User Group update

The Non-Government User Group (NGUG) has met four times most recently at Yorkshire Water in Bradford on 15 November 2016. The Met Office's Paul Maisey, part of the UKCP18 Project team reports on that meeting...

NGUG meeting, Bradford, November 2016

The latest quarterly Non-Government User Group meeting took place in Bradford – many thanks to Amanda Crossfield of Yorkshire Water for hosting the group.

The meeting was chaired by Harriet Orr of the Environment Agency. The packed programme included discussions about UKCP18 derived products, web site plans, a science progress update and a request for ideas for demonstration projects. There was a lot of discussion of the various project activities and associated terminology – developing clear and concise explanations of project concepts will be important to users as launch approaches. Another topic for considerable discussion was the UKCP18 website – in particular, links to other sources of information.

To stimulate ideas for derived products, four diverse user case studies were presented. This led to a healthy discussion in smaller groups that highlighted a huge range of potential user requirements using the range of diverse outputs for different applications.



Finally, users were encouraged to consider options for initiating demonstration projects looking at developing methods to explore use of the novel data that will be generated by UKCP18 (e.g. spatially coherent projections and regional scale modelling). The breakout groups came up with lots of ideas ranging from events to display the data to a large audience, to uses that link in with existing projects. Users are now being asked to propose in more detail projects that demonstrate how to use the new of UKCP18 outputs.

Paul Maisey, UKCP18 Project team

Demonstration projects call

Why not support the UKCP18 Project by proposing a demonstration project? Last month we emailed newsletter subscribers to let them know that Met Office is offering to provide advice and support to a number of prospective users who want to do short proof of concept projects over the summer that will demonstrate how to use the upgraded projections in practice. The results will be showcased at thematic workshops in late 2017 to promote wider discussions on the use of the UKCP18 data products. This is a quick reminder to send in your ideas by 13 February (max 500 words).

[More information](#)

Transition - UKCP09 to UKCP18

Technical notes on the UKCP09 website assess the extent to which advice from UKCP09 remains an appropriate tool for adaptation planning in light of recent improvements in climate science. The advice related to the UKCP09 land projections was released in April 2016. Recently we have also released advice relating to the UKCP09 marine projections, along with an overarching set of guidance. This information can be found on the UKCP09 website by clicking on the link below.

[Read more](#)

Update on CCRA Evidence Needs Meeting

Royal Society, 29 November.

The Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) and Royal Society hosted a joint meeting on 29 November, 2016 to consider evidence gaps that have emerged from the second UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report, published in July, 2016. Attendees were updated on UKCP18 by Professor Ian Boyd, Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, and completed an exercise to consider what the most important derived products using the UKCP18 outputs might be. The ASC will collate all of the feedback and will also consider how best to coordinate further research to inform the next CCRA, due in 2022.



Past events

30 August 2016 - UK Climate Projections 2018 Workshop in Scotland organised by Adaptation Scotland and ClimateXChange
15 November 2016 - NGUG workshop
22 November 2016 - GUG workshop

Upcoming events

9 February - GUG webinar
8 February, Birmingham - NGUG workshop

Feedback

The next newsletter will be issued later this year. If you have any feedback, requests for information or suggestions for content, please email us.

[Email us](#)