

# Water & Climate Information Services for society

**Spyros Paparrizos**

**Assistant Professor Water & Climate Information Services**

Water Systems and Global Change Group (WSG)

Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Netherlands

[spyros.paparrizos@wur.nl](mailto:spyros.paparrizos@wur.nl)



# Outline

## Introduction to Climate Services for society

- Story on Climate Change
- 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Climate Services
- Design principles
- Co-production & Stakeholder engagement
- Data for decisions
- Climate services domains & real-life examples

# What are Climate Information Services?



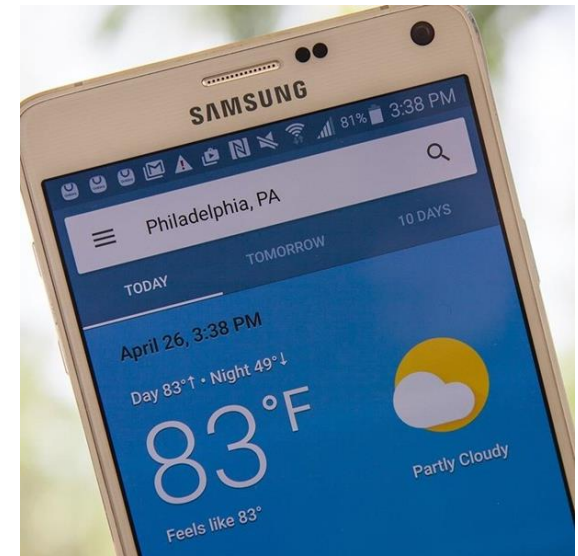
# Story on weather forecast



1920's



1980's



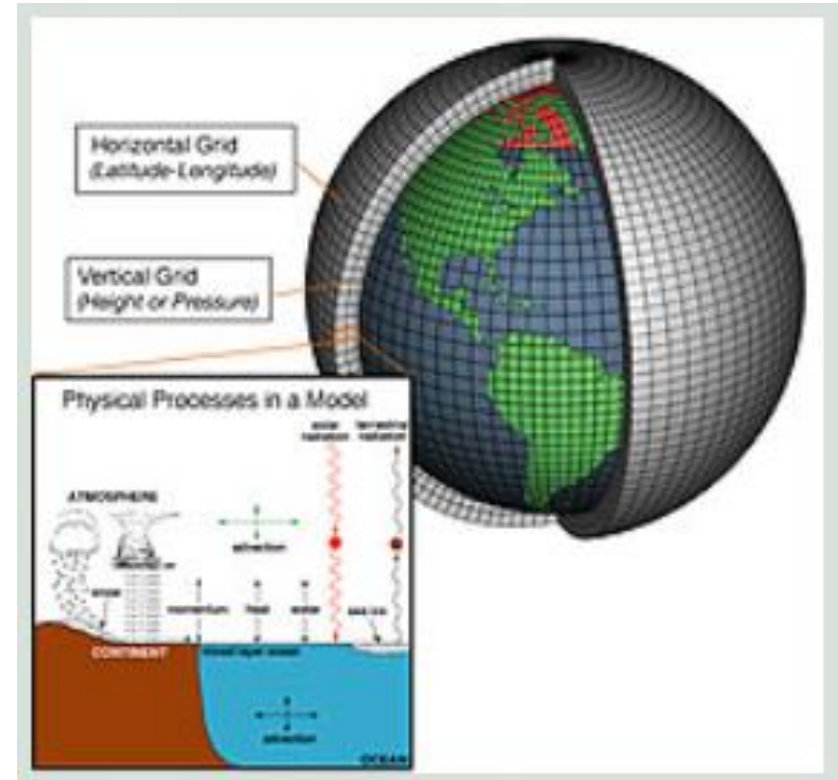
today

# Story on climate change (short version)

1938 Guy Stewart Callendar demonstrated evidence of temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> increase in the atmosphere

In the 1960s, the first-of-its-kind general circulation climate model was developed

Glenn T. Seaborg (Nobel price) warned of the climate crisis in 1966



70s and 80s were the firsts scientific consensus on climate change

# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

## Why the IPCC ?

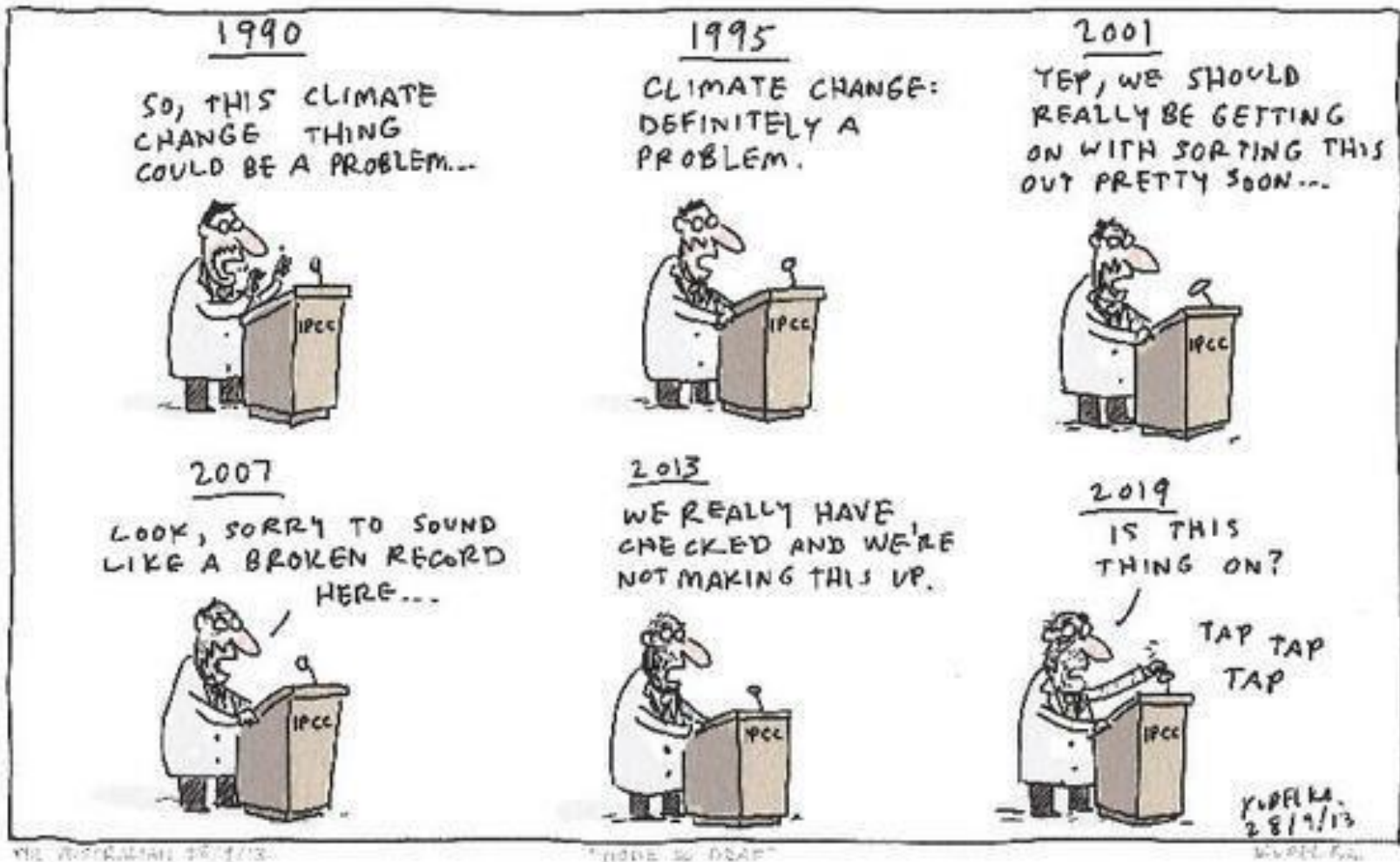
Created in 1988 by WMO and UNEP.

The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.

WMO = World Meteorological Organization

UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme







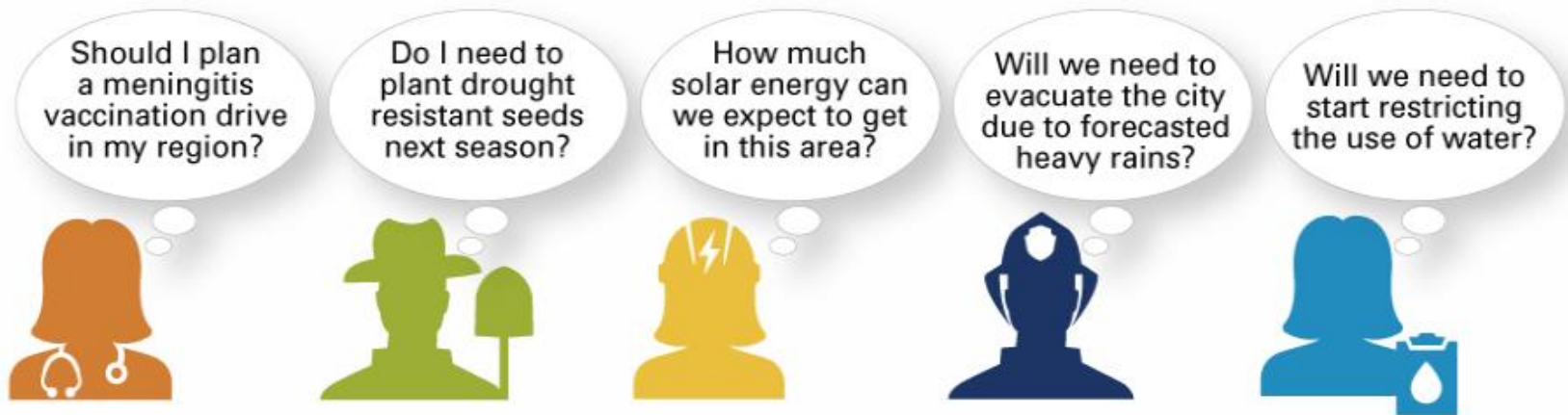
**CLIMATE CHANGE**





# What are climate services ?

Services that **provide** climate **information** to help individuals and organizations make **climate smart decisions**.

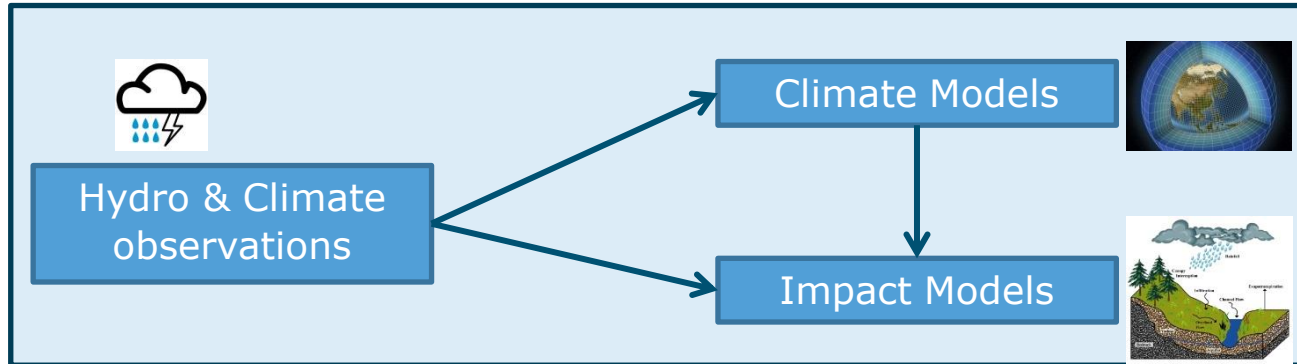


# Climate Services for sectoral applications

- Weather and climate information are used for a variety of applications:

Sectoral applications	
Agriculture	Health
Water resources	Tourism
Forest and Ecosystems	Insurance
Civil Infrastructure	Litigation
Construction	Marine and coastal ecosystems
Coastal Hazards	Transportation
Energy	National Security

# 1<sup>st</sup> generation of services: top-down



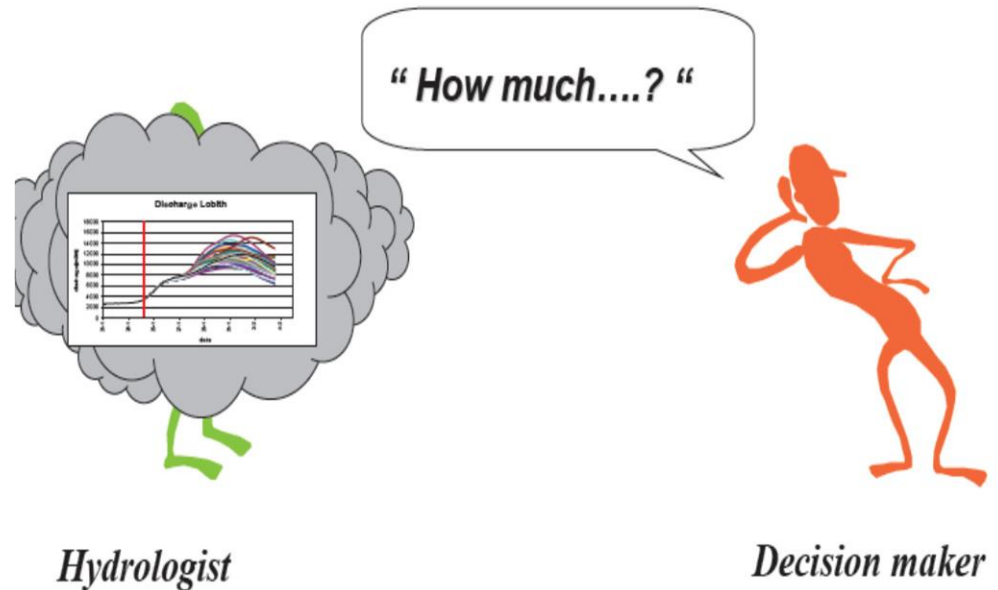
Scenario development,  
data analyses and multi  
model assessments

Visualisation and  
User interface

**PRODUCTS**

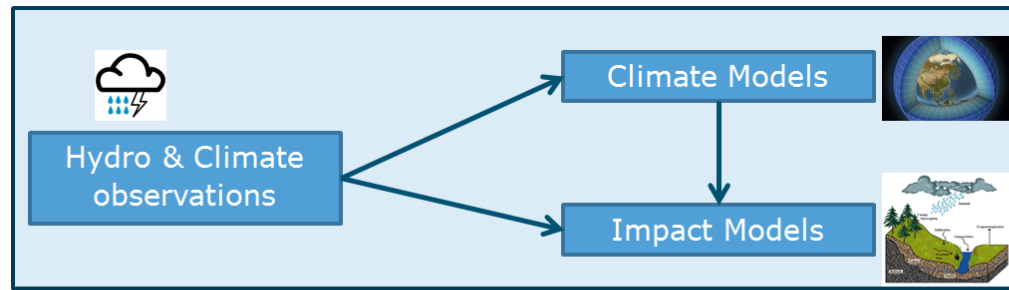


# Usability gap



“ unsuitability to inform decision-making processes in relation to adaptation against climate change”

# 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of services: bottom-up



**Co-creation of Locally specific weather & climate Information services**

Scenario development, data analyses and multi model assessments

Visualisation and User interface



**Local knowledge and observations**

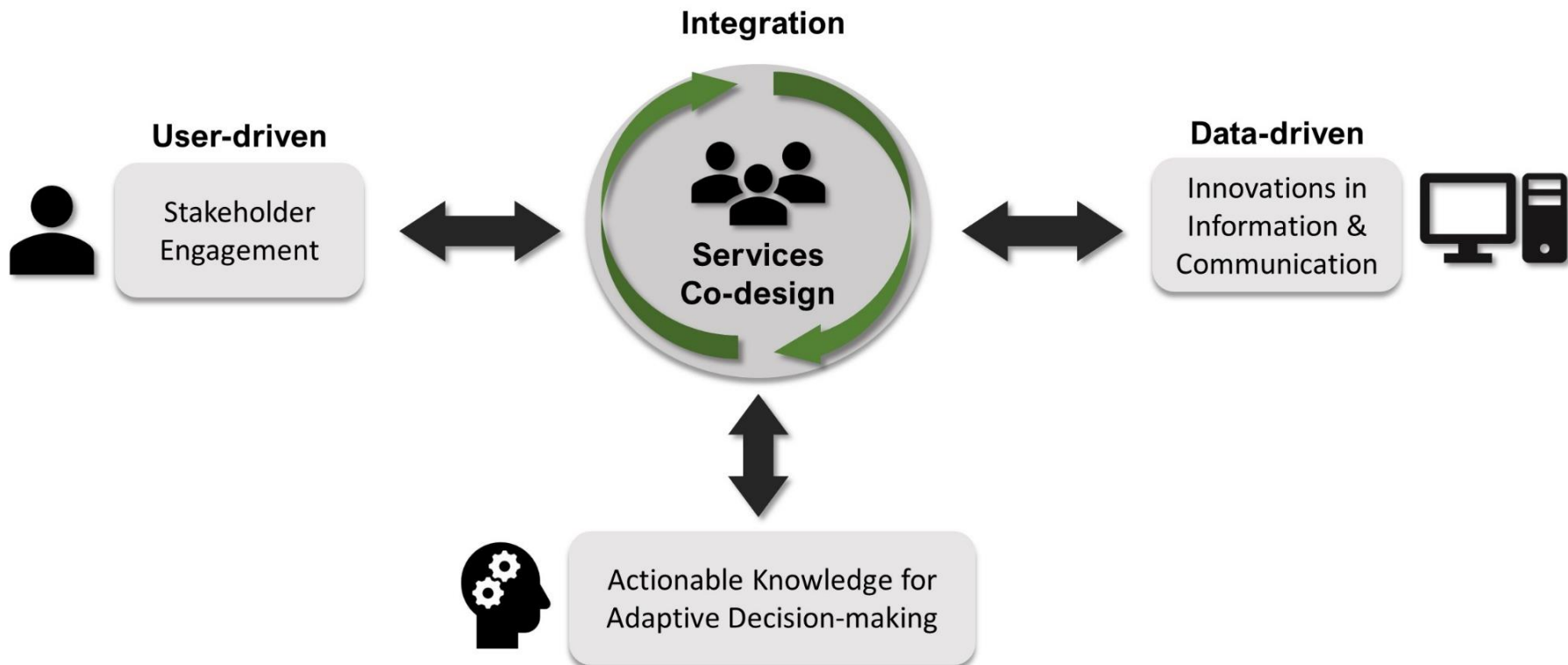


**Actionable Knowledge & Informed Decision Making**

*Inspired by Karpouzoglou et al. 2016*

# How can we design our services?

## Services tailored to the needs of end-users



# Participatory services for decision-making

Co-designing participatory services incorporates 3 components:

1. Stakeholder engagement



2. Use of innovations in information and communication technologies



3. Actionable knowledge for adaptive decision-making



# 1. Stakeholder engagement



- ✓ Information that is relevant to the users
- ✓ Helps build trust
- ✓ Active engagement on the arena
- ✓ Harness local knowledge
- ✓ Jointly (co-)develop services
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Multi-sector & multi-actor approach





## 2. Innovations in Information & Communication



- ✓ Knowledge sharing platforms
- ✓ Virtual communities
- ✓ Possibilities for interaction
- ✓ Evolving capability to predict weather
- ✓ Possibilities for interaction
- ✓ 'More local scale' information
- ✓ Enhance digital literacy



# 3. Adaptive decision making



- ✓ Actionable knowledge
- ✓ Individual & collective decision-making
- ✓ Climate services → an adaptation option
- ✓ CC adaptation → governance
- ✓ Public-Private Partnerships
- ✓ Institutional uncertainties
- ✓ Services' hybridization



# Why do we co-produce our services?



Vincent et al. 2021

# User/demand-driven approaches

**User/demand-driven approaches allows to deliver a climate service that provides actionable knowledge**

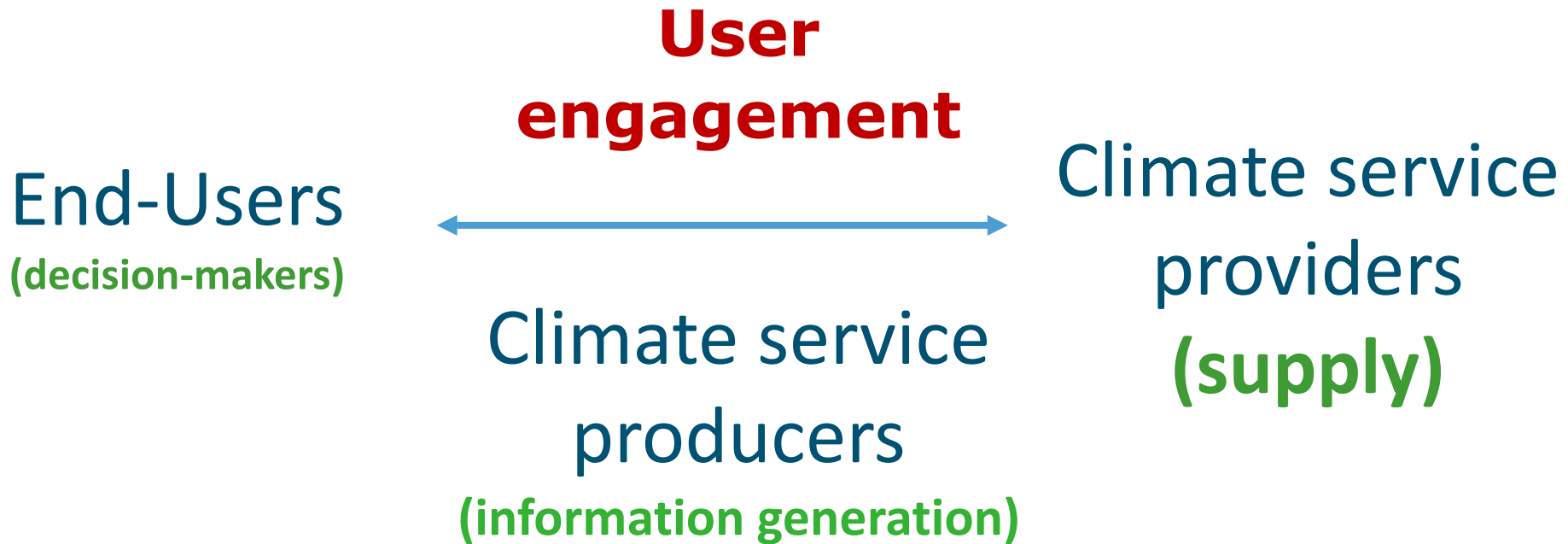
**Actionable knowledge** reflects the learning capability of individuals and organizations to connect heterogeneous elements (social, technical, economic , political, etc..)

Tailor-made services are:

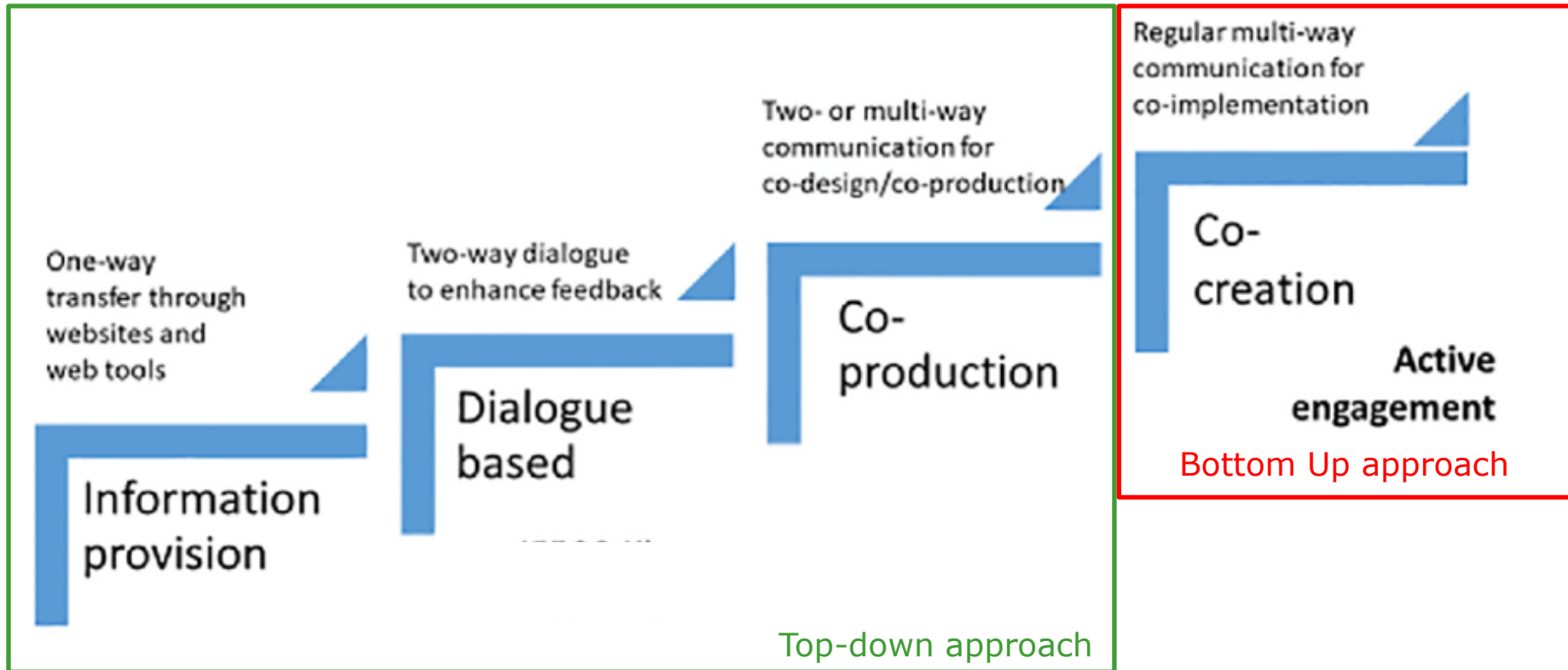
- Timely
- Accessible
- Understandable to the decision-maker -> Usable



# Stakeholders in climate services



# Levels of user engagement



Passive engagement

*[Vedeld, Methur and Bharti, 2019](#)*

# Data-driven approaches

- Current **weather and climate data** are used in many ways
- **Decision-makers** rely on easy-to-understand graphs and maps while planning for energy needs, water management, extreme weather events, etc.
- Local climate data are also used to determine specific local budgets
- Climate data are used by people across **many sectors of our economy**



# Domains of Climate Services

Real time  
decision making

Adaptive decision  
making

Longer-term (strategic  
adaptation) planning

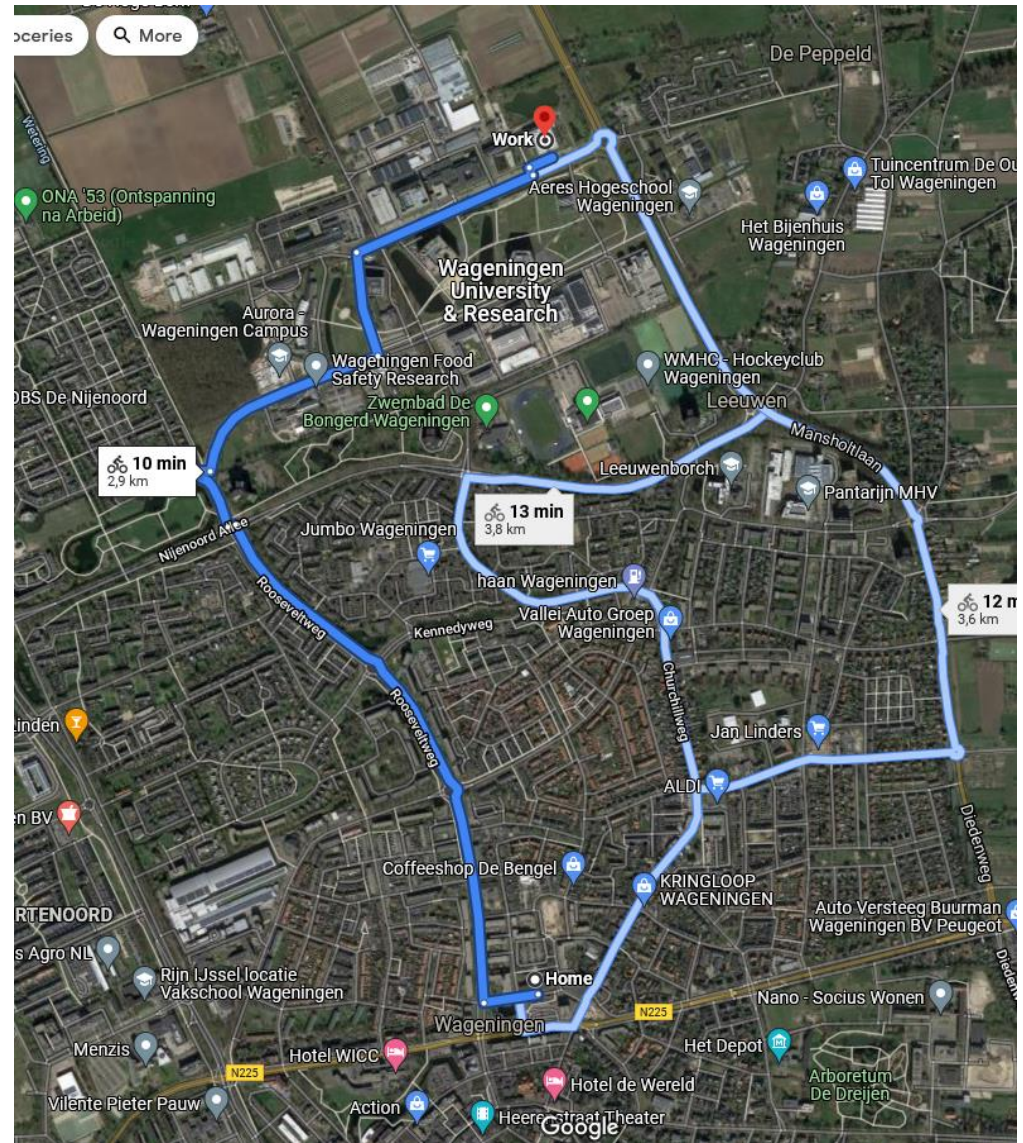
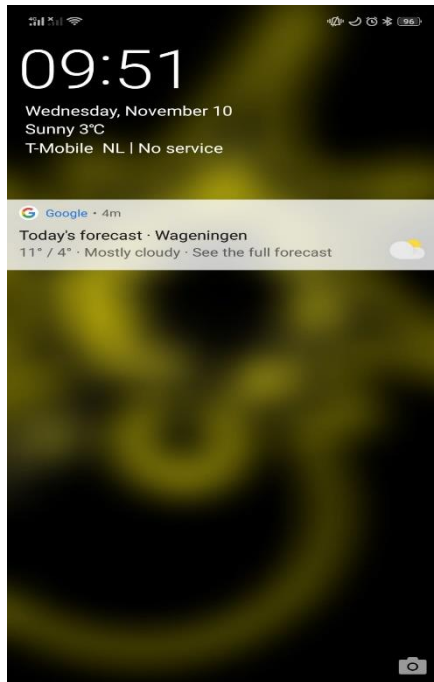
Awareness

**Weather**

**Climate**



# Real time decision making



# Adaptive decision making



<http://www.waterapps.net/waterapp/>

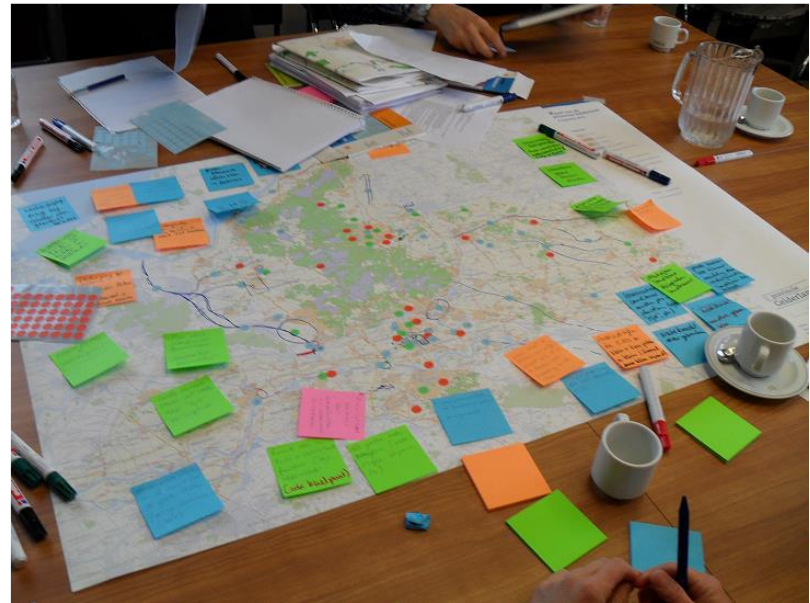


<http://www.waterapps.net/waterappscale/>



# Longer-term (strategic adaptation) planning

## *Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100*



# Awareness

## Climate Action Tracker

<https://climateactiontracker.org>

## Europe CC, Impact & vulnerability

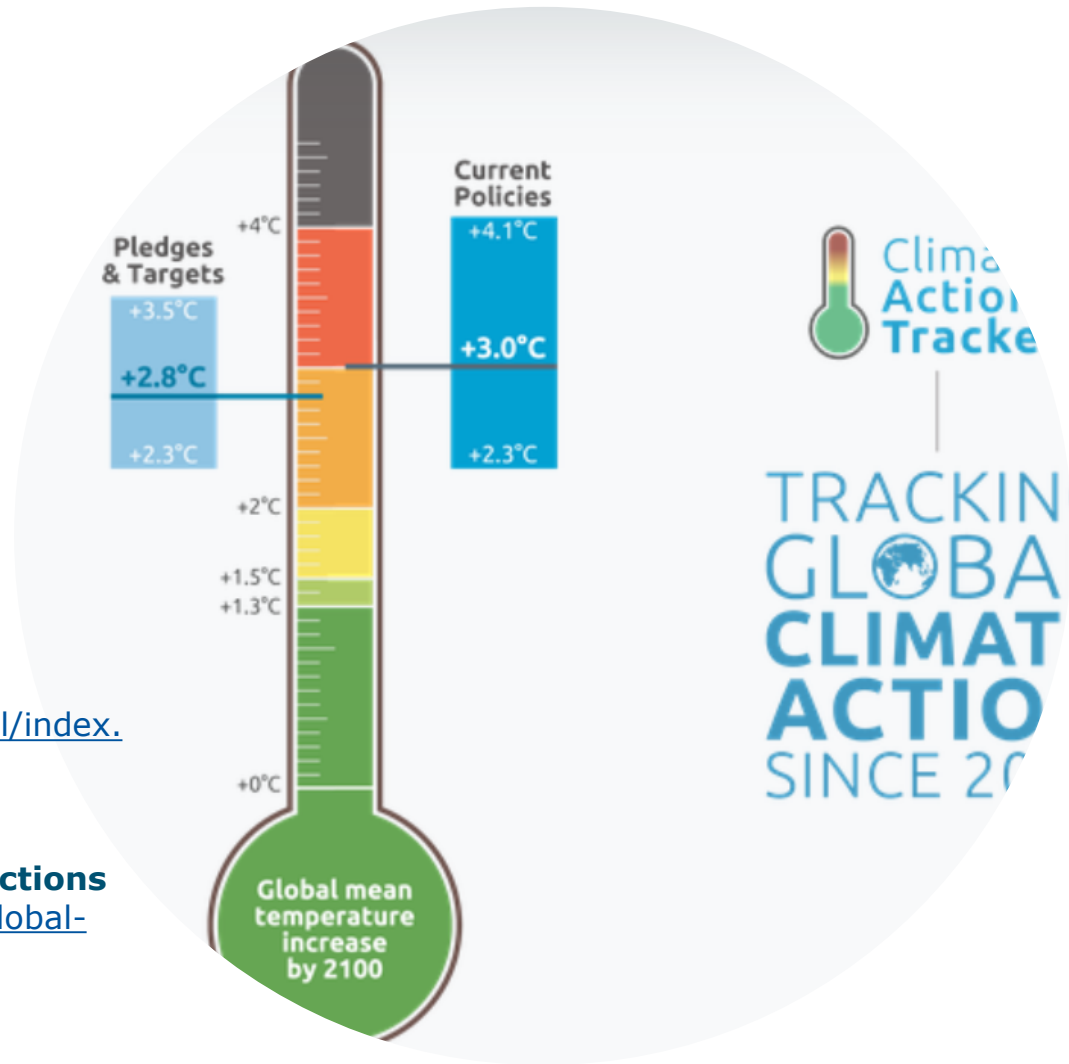
<http://www.climsave.eu/climsave/index.html>

## Exploring Climate Model Data

<https://climate4impact.eu/impactportal/general/index.jsp>

## Atlas of Global and Regional Climate Projections

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/atlas-of-global-and-regional-climate-projections/>



# Combined-domain climate services

## *Copernicus Services*

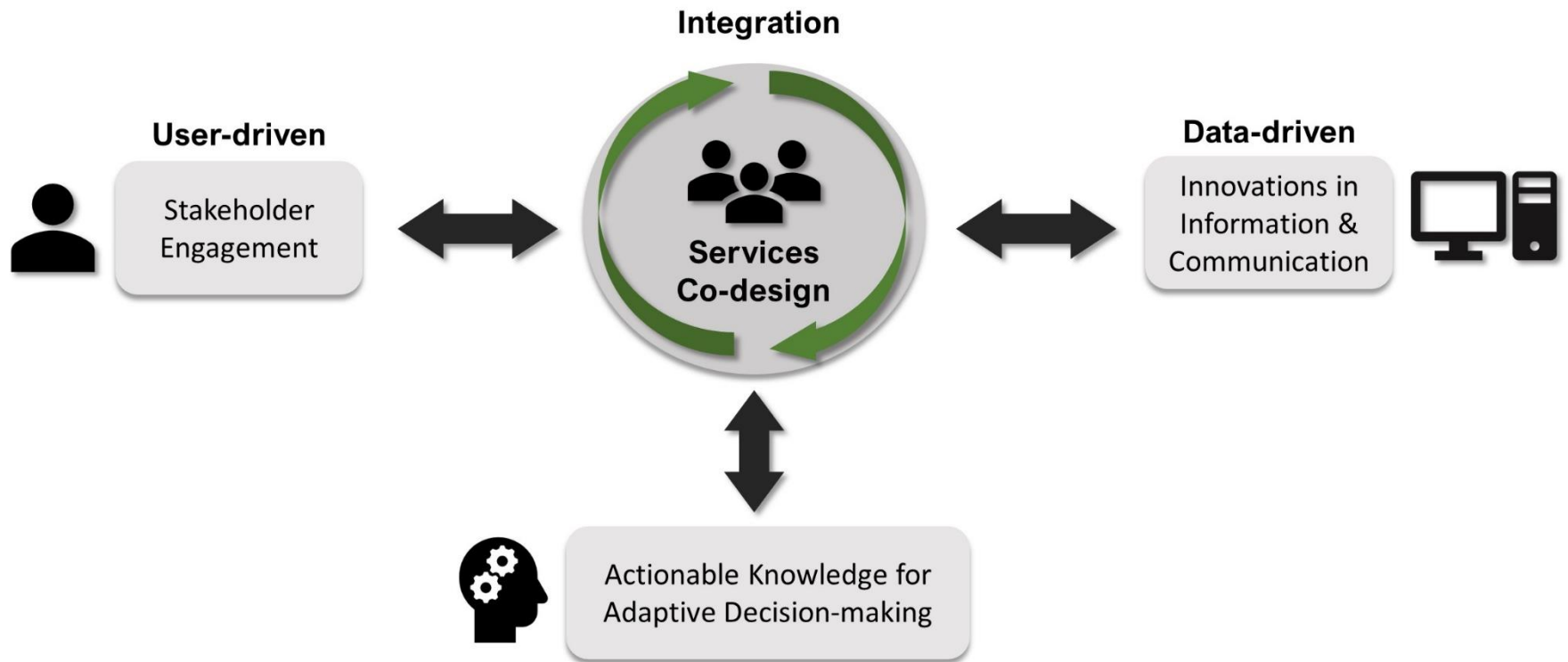


# (Some of the many) remaining issues...

- Integration of local and scientific knowledge
- Role of co-production within the design and delivery of services
- Role of capacity building
- Mechanisms that provide actionable knowledge to support adaptive decision-making
- Services uptake, upscale & sustainability

# Take home message

Tailor-made services to the needs of end-users → Integration is key!



**Thank you!**  
**Dank U!**



Wageningen University,  
The Netherlands



# APPENDIX

# WATERAPPS project

2016-2021



## Aim

Provide **tailor-made** water and climate information services **with and for farmers** for sustainable food production in peri-urban delta areas in Ghana and Bangladesh.

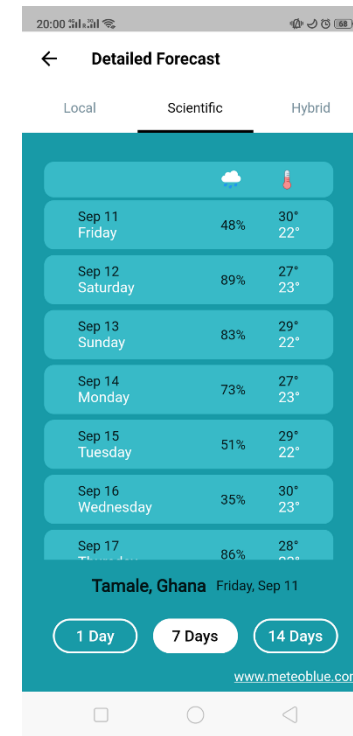
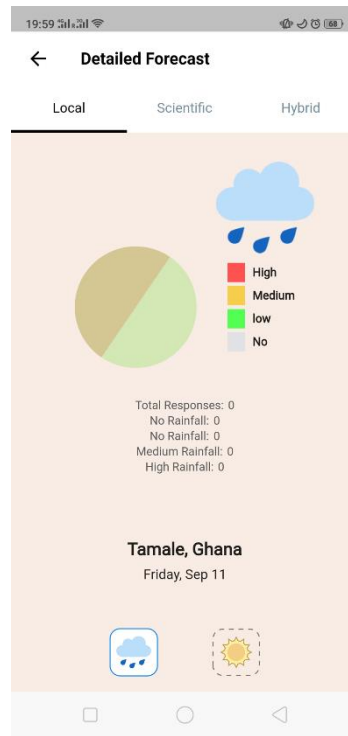
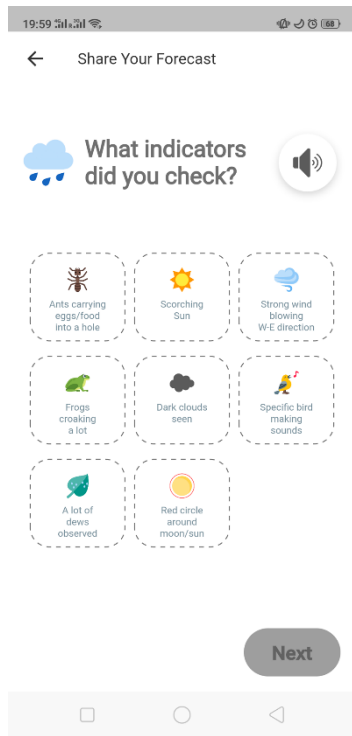
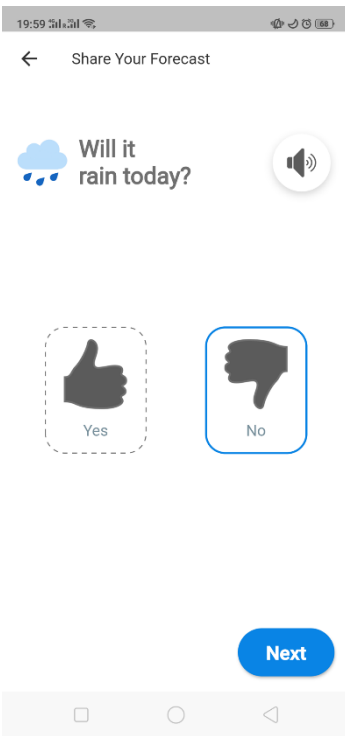


Ada, Ghana



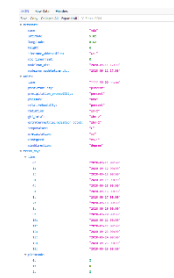
Khulna, Bangladesh

# ...into an actual information service



**Farmers insert data**

**meteoblue provides data**



UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH CENTER

Source: *FarmerSupport app - WATERAPPS*

# Way forward: WATERAPPscale

2021-2023



## Aim

Upscale the WATERAPPS activities by transferring and **implementing the knowledge from WATERAPPS** in other regions on Bangladesh in accordance with the BDP-2100.

### 1. Proof of concept:

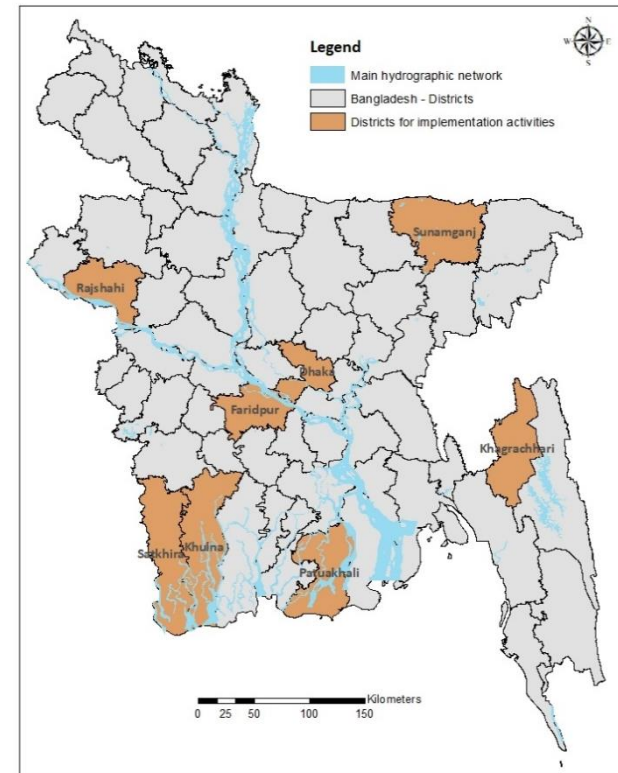
Implementation and testing at multiple locations

### 2. Services design:

Further develop and implement design principles.  
Bridge top-down & bottom-up activities

### 3. Adaptive delta management:

Enable adaptive decision-making

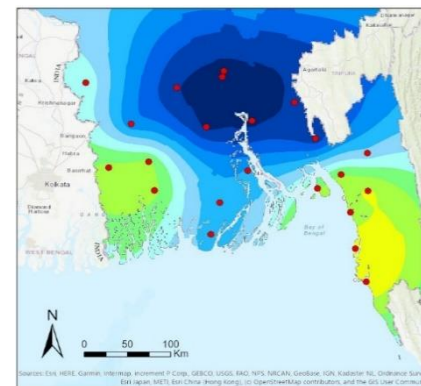


100years  
1910 — 2018

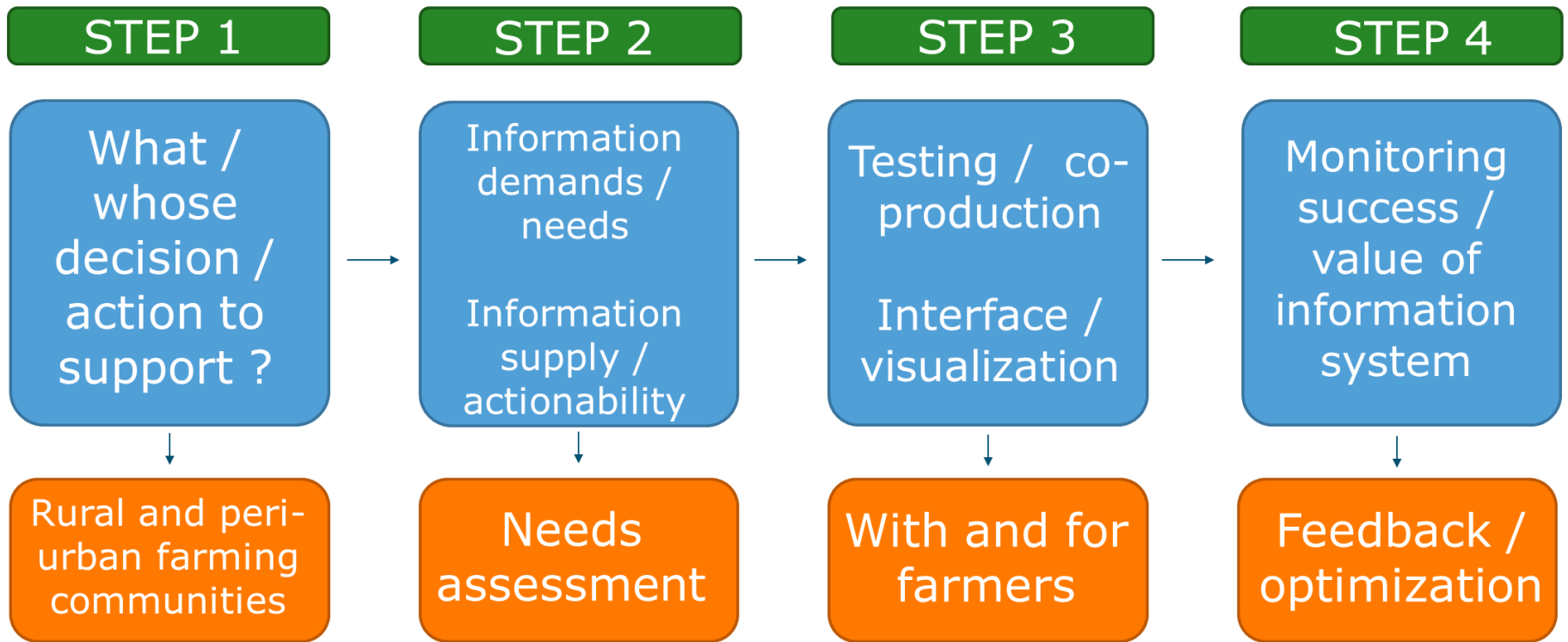
# What can be a climate service?

Let's use the WATERAPPS example. A service can be:

- An ICT-Tool 
- A website ([www.waterapps.net](http://www.waterapps.net))
- A map, figure, animation, ...
- A document (report, policy briefs)
- A social media group
- A capacity building training ([WATERAPPS Weather club](#))
- An announcement ([Amphan cyclone warning!](#))
- ...



# Conceptual framework WCIS



# Data for decisions: water resources

- Use **short-duration rainfall** values to reduce stormwater-borne pollutants
- Using the **amount**, **location**, and **duration** of rainfall from a **heavy precipitation event** to define the magnitude of a storm
- Using **drought information** to regulate water levels
- Using **temperature** and **snowpack** trends to determine changes in runoff



# Data for decisions: civil infrastructure

- Climate data to design **buildings** to withstand hurricane-force winds
- Use historic precipitation data to build **roads** above potential flood levels
- Use maximum precipitation data for designing and constructing **dams**
- Use hourly and daily temperatures to determine averages and frequency distributions to design heating, cooling and **refrigeration systems**
- Use ice thickness (due to freezing rain) for **structural design** consideration





# Data for decisions: construction

- Use precipitation data to design resistant natural gas **pipeline trenches**
- Use temperature data to determine the **optimal building insulation**
- Use past data to construct **residential** and **commercial buildings**
- **Operational**: Use historical rainfall data to plan ahead for “rain days”—days in which no outdoor work can be conducted due to precipitation events
- Use rainfall data to determine optimal **locations** for building **outdoor venues**



# Data for decisions: coastal hazards

- Use climate data related to frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events to assess potential **mitigation and adaptation strategies**
- Use data to develop coastal erosion information for **construction works**
- Use local climatology data to assist in the design and construction of homes and **infrastructure** that can **withstand extreme coastal weather events**
- Use tide gauge data to evaluate local sea-level rise and the **potential impacts** on infrastructure, and transportation in **low-lying coastal regions**

