The ESA Climate Change Initiative - Climate Modellers User Group

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The new ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI) approved in 2009 is in the process of being set up. The overall objective of the CCI, as laid out in the Programme declaration approved by ESA member states is:

"To realize the full potential of the long-term global "Earth Observation" archives that ESA together with its Member states have established over the last thirty years, as a significant and timely contribution to the ECV databases required by UNFCCC".

In particular, the CCI programme aims to deliver a set of "Global Satellite Data Products" as a contribution to the establishment of a long-term Climate Data Record meeting the needs of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Within the first phase, the CCI will focus on the following sub-set of eleven "Essential Climate Variable" (ECVs) defined by GCOS. For the oceans the ECVs identified are Sea-Ice, Sea-Level, Sea-Surface Temperature and Ocean Colour. For the land surface Glaciers & Ice caps, Land Cover and Fire Disturbance were selected. Finally for the atmospheric domain Cloud Properties, Ozone, Aerosols and Greenhouse Gases were selected.

In addition to the individual projects addressing each ECV a Climate Modelling Users Group (CMUG) is being set up. The role of the CMUG is to bring a climate modellers perspective to the programme and to enable the satellite data community and the "Climate Modelling Community" to work closely together. Another important task is to provide the role of integration across the 11 diverse ECV projects. This presentation will describe the ESA CCI and the role of the CMUG and invite the climate modellers to provide their requirements to the CMUG.