Supporting Private Sector Decision-Making with NOAA's Interim Climate Data Records (ICDRs)

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10 January 2013



# The Academy View

• The National Research Council (NRC, 2004) defines a CDR as a time series of measurements of sufficient length, consistency, and continuity <u>to determine</u> <u>climate variability and change</u>.



A CDR Provides Consistency & Continuity Homogenization reduces artifacts imparted by observing systems,

facilitating meaningful comparisons in space and time



Vegetation Greenness Index

## **CDRs Can Support Decision Makers** Hypothetical problems for climate data and information

- Climate Information Responding to User Needs (CIRUN) Roundtable Q&A\*
  - Can we get consistent data series on average and extreme events (e.g., that disrupt business operations) so that current trends in climate can be established? [Want] to inter-comparison locations (state, city) and changes ... through time.
- Energy Utilities
  - What is the closest historical analog (duration, extent, severity) to the this year's hot spell?
- Local Governments and Planners
  - Are city and county water sources (wells, reservoirs) stable given climate change?
- International Shipping
  - Can transport companies get a competitive advantage by investing now in ships for routes through the Northwest Passage?
- Agribusiness
  - How could a company adjust its portfolio of producers, transporters and foreign investment due to climate?
    - Not hypothetical received from constituent. See: http://www.climateneeds.umd.edu



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# The Academy and the Private Sector

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Either/Or ? Both? Same?

 The CDR Program provides proven satellite-derived climate data and information records – including data sets, source codes and documentation – to allow decision-makers, policy-makers and scientists throughout society to make informed decisions and analyses involving future weather and climate.



## Different User Needs Require Different Processing Time Lags

Research Support

(Epoch reprocessing of complete period of record, Complete, State-of-the-art)

Decades

**Operational Weather** 

(Quick, Robust, Data asavailable, Algorithm asis, Sensor-unique)

Days

Minutes

7

Time past observation (logarithmic scale)

Years

Weeks

# Quality (accuracy, completeness, etc.)

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**Decision Support** 

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# Sustained Climate Information Flow Emerging International Architecture



## **CDRs Supporting Farming and Agribusiness**

## **Example: historical context**

- 5 km resolution, "wall-to-wall" (globally)
- Historical record from 1981- to current
- Collatoral products
  - Surface Reflectance
  - Leaf Area Index (LAI)
  - **FPAR** (photosynthetically active radiation)

Primary U.S. corn and soybean region

11





Jun

Aug

Sep

Oct

Dec

Nov

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jan

## **Temporal Scale of Agricultural Stakeholder Interests**



## CDRs Supporting Insurance/Reinsurance Example: Hurricane Trends

## Government provision of data

## Transition from government to industry

### Decision support information









Hurricane intensity trends (Kossin et al. 2007)

# **CDR Access for Decision Makers**

**Traditional Large Volume Data Access** 



Current method of data access and delivery

**User Model Of Data Access** 



Preferred method of same

Going from "drinking from the fire hose" to "sipping a cup of tea"

Reduce the data volume, filter what remains, and mix with relevant ecological data to produce a desired product.



# Access to CDRs for Decision Makers: IMPACT

## Integrated Marine Protected Area Climate Tools

- Provide climate information to marine resource managers
  - Easy access to proven, relevant CDRs
  - Allows importation of user data
  - Supports climate ecosystem studies
- Include user perspective in design
- Reduces data complexity and size
- Ease of CDR access, uptake
- Customizable to other sectors
  - Water Resource managers
  - Tourism
  - Coastal Inundation (e.g. Sandy)
  - Transportation
  - Education
  - Many more ....



Climate-related applications often require multiple variables at scales/resolutions smaller/finer than what is contained in most climate data sets.

# Summary

## CDR Program supports private sector applications

- Interim Climate Data Records offer many advantages over operational weather products
  - More complete in time and space
  - Consistency over multi-satellite period of record
    - Enables searches for historical analogs
  - "Climate quality" algorithms
  - Better ancillary inputs
  - Better sensor functioning knowledge
- ICDRs ultimately refreshed with reprocessed CDRs
  - Research grade (typically), but may lag real time by years
- New tools for easy CDR access, manipulation, downloading

