

# On the interactions with the ‘users’

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**EUPORIAS**





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# 1. Engaging with the users

## Why this concern about the users?

- Non-linearity between science production and use;
- Reconciling the supply of climate science with users' needs;
- Engaging users to increase usability of climate science and outputs (Lemos et al., 2012).

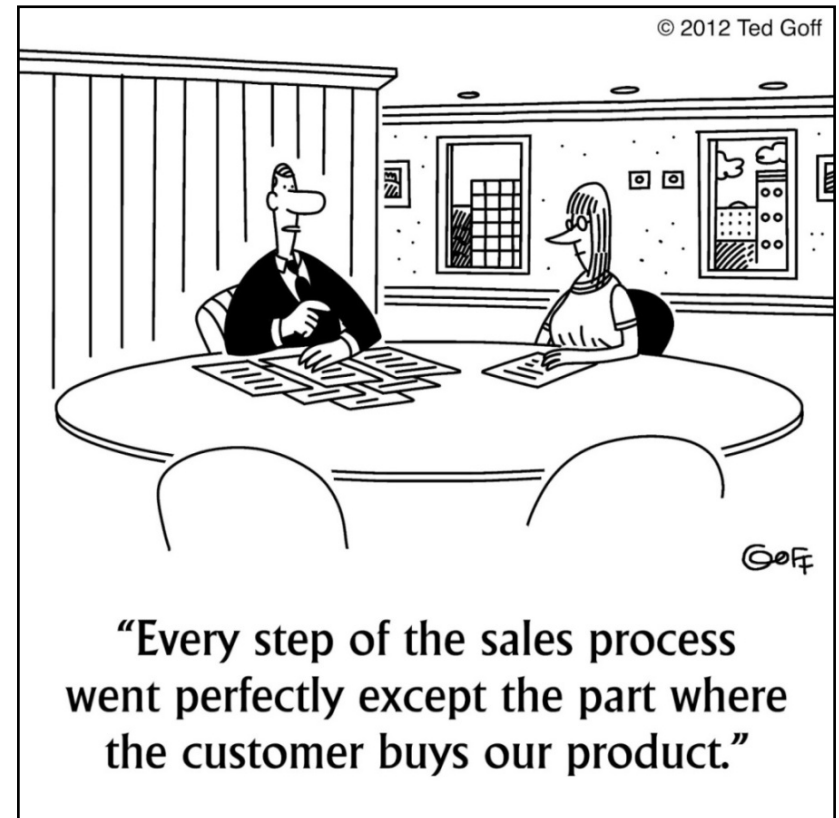


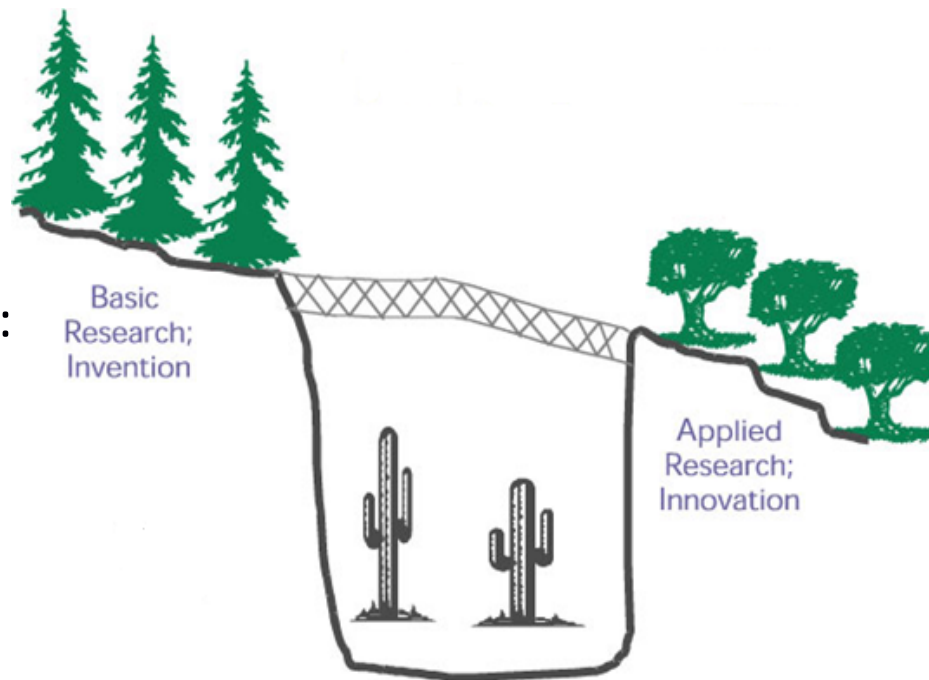
Image from: <http://funnysalescartoons.com>

# 1. Engaging with the users (2)

## Scientific standards versus usability of climate information

### Producers' needs:

- Research-driven
- Innovation
- Scientifically robust/standards
- Cost-effective



Valley of death:

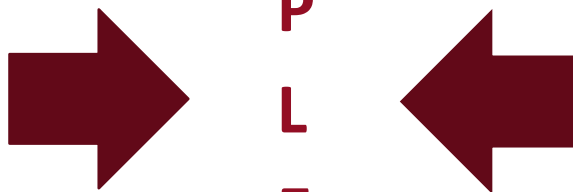
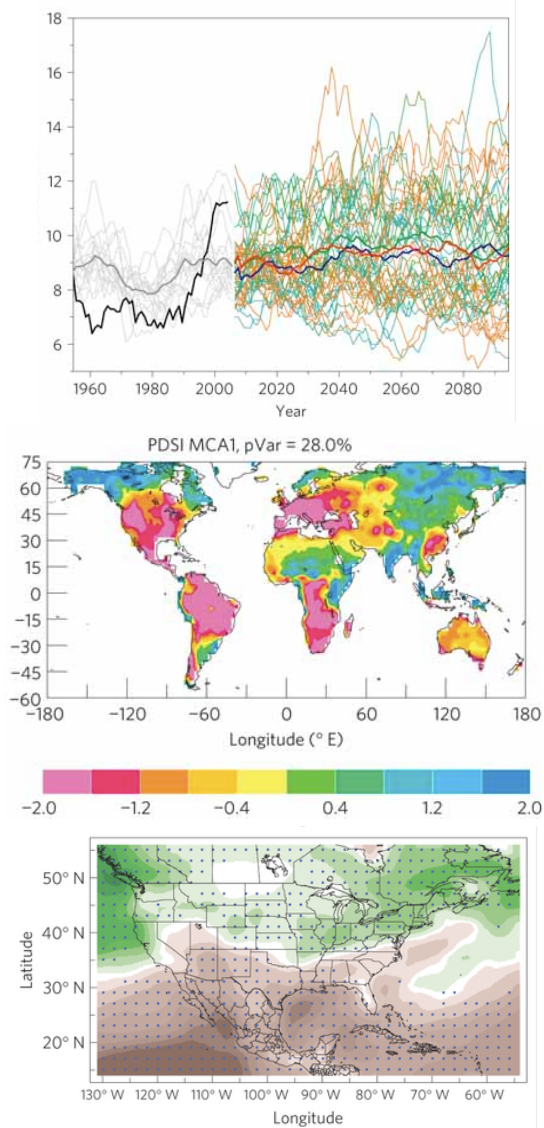
where good results and intentions often perish

### Users' needs:

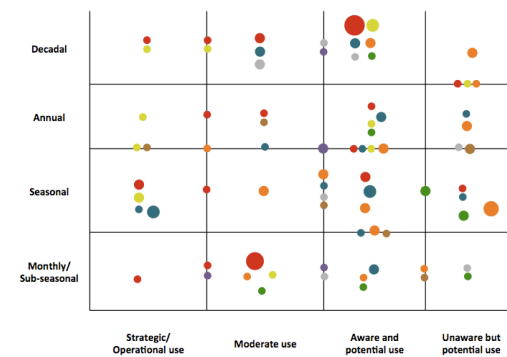
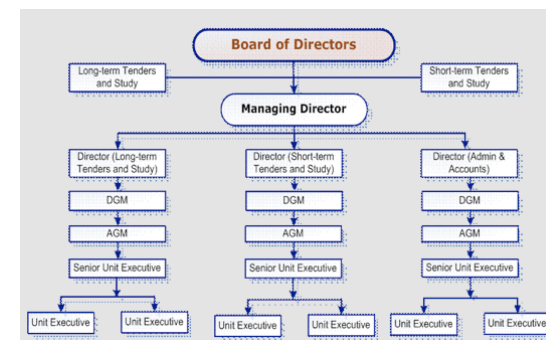
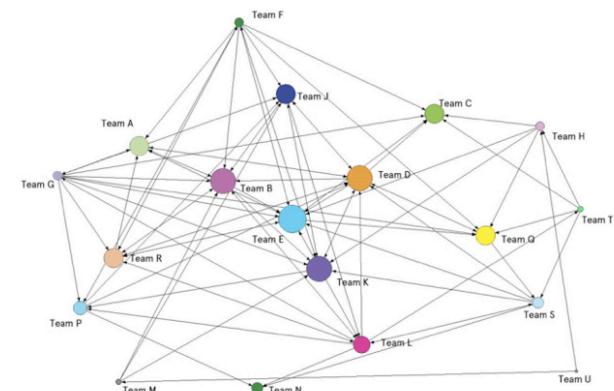
- Specific information needs (within and between  $\neq$  users)
- Applied use of information
- Assimilation of information



# 1. Engaging with the users (3)



COMPLEXITY



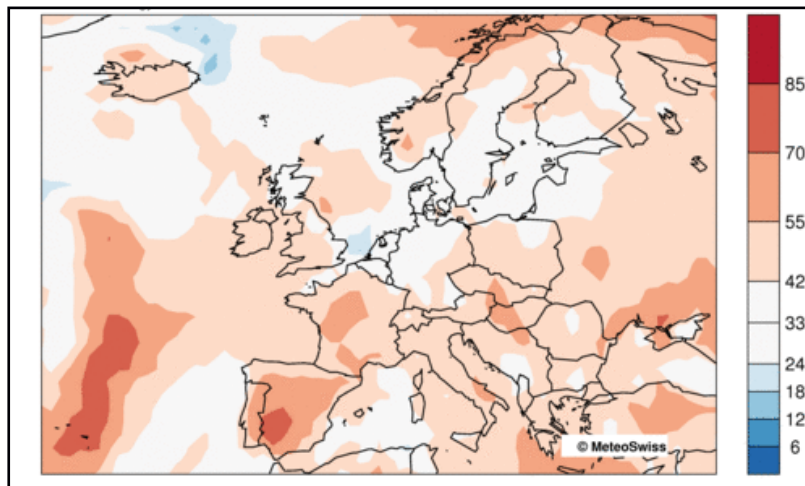


# 1. Engaging with the users (4)

- Why engage? Understand their needs; gather information; improve usability of information; forge collaborations; test & evaluate products/services; etc.
- **Different ways of engaging dependent on:**
  - Reasons for engaging and expected outcomes;
  - Who should be involved (e.g. end-users, scientists, communicators, etc);
  - Nature and type of climate information;
  - Resources (time, budget);
  - Capacity and expertise of (all of) those involved.

## 2. Lessons from EUPORIAS

- EUPORIAS: **EU**ropean **P**rovision **O**f **R**egional Impact **A**ssessment on a **S**easonal-to-decadal timescales led by the UK Met Office; 24 partners; 15 WP; 60 stakeholders.
- Prototypes of climate impact prediction services on seasonal to decadal (S2D) timescales;
- Co-production between producers and users.



Seasonal forecast: 3-monthly mean temperature to be above average conditions for temperatures from May to July 2012.

Source: MeteoSwiss





## 2. Lessons from EUPORIAS (2)

- A complex landscape of users and needs!
- Organisation's characteristics influence how (and if) they use the (climate) information:
  - Nature/aim of the organisation (e.g. private vs government org.);
  - Different regulatory/institutional contexts;
  - Role of individual in the organisation: ≠ understandings of needs;
  - In-house capacity and resources available;
  - Complex organisational structures & myriad decisions...



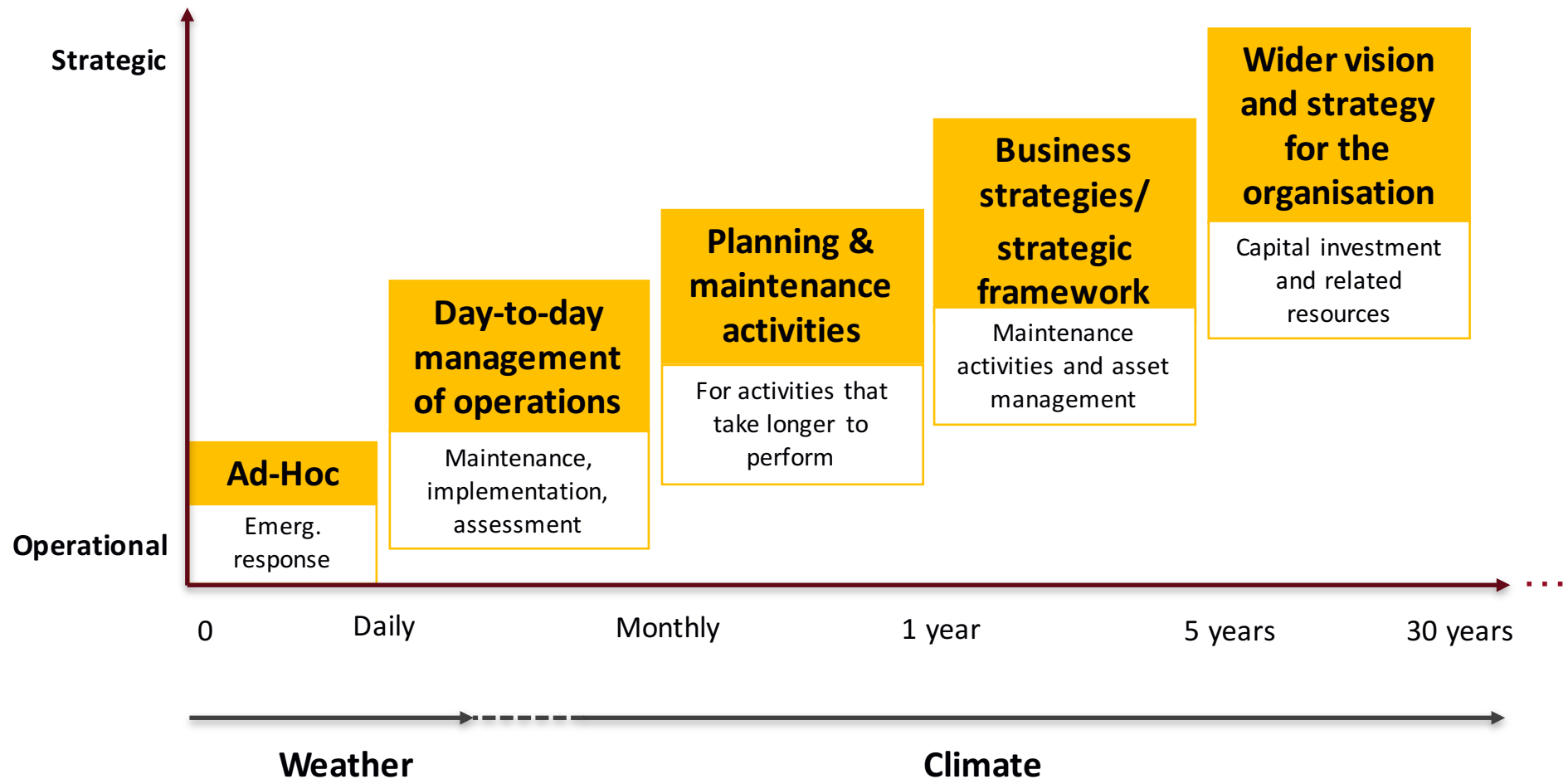
**Different climate information needs**

**Different capacity to assimilate, use, and act upon the information**



## 2. Lessons from EUPORIAS (3)

- Organisations involved (80 interviews; ~450 survey responses)



Source: Dessai, S and Bruno Soares, M. (2015). Report summarising users' needs for S2D predictions. *EUPORIAS project*. University of Leeds. Available at [www.euporias.eu/system/files/D12.3\\_Final.pdf](http://www.euporias.eu/system/files/D12.3_Final.pdf)

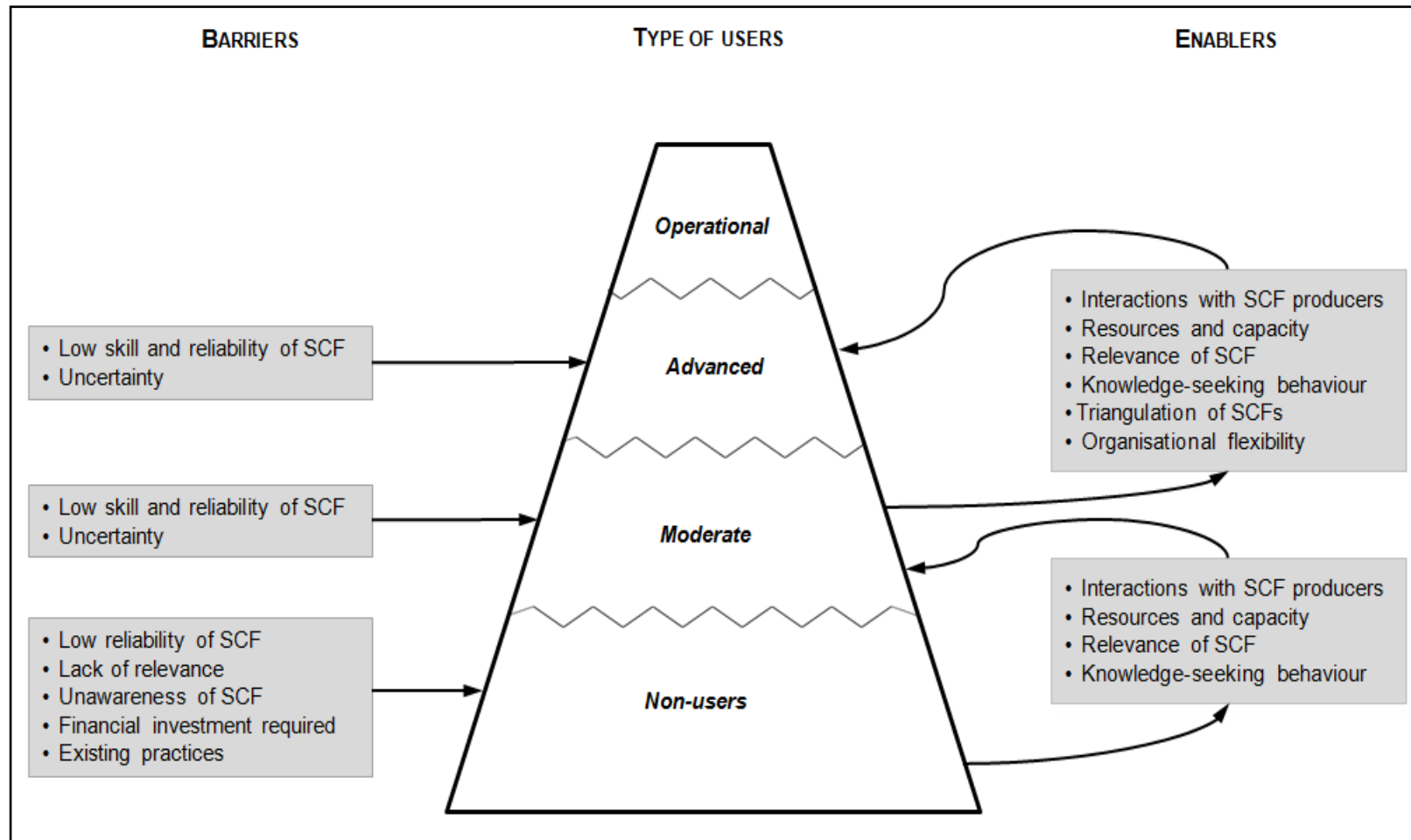


## 2. Lessons from EUPORIAS (4)

- Use of *climate change projections/scenarios*:
  - to help them plan ahead in terms of climate change impacts (e.g. on health); and/or
  - to help them decide on future capital investment and develop wider strategies.
- Use of *seasonal climate forecasts*:
  - to help plan activities (e.g. maintenance work, external contracts, emergency planning); and/or
  - to inform a more general opinion on how future conditions may affect their organisation's (or their clients) operations;
- Final report on users' needs (more details) available at:  
**[www.euporias.eu/system/files/D12.3\\_Final.pdf](http://www.euporias.eu/system/files/D12.3_Final.pdf)**

## 2. Lessons from EUPORIAS (3)

- Barriers and enablers to the use of SCF:



Source: Bruno Soares, M. and Dessai, S. (submitted) Climatic Change.  
Check updates on this paper at: <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/people/m.soares>



### 3. PRIMavera project – challenges ahead?

- User engagement activities & dissemination: WP8/10/11
- Different typologies of users: ≠ contexts; expectations(!), reasons for engaging, capacity and expertise...
- Who to involve? Which organisations and who within it?
- Analysis of users' operational and planning activities may require (more time) involving different people in organisation;
- Potential difficulty in pinpointing exactly how PRIMavera outputs can be used in organisation (i.e. qualitative use);





### 3. PRIMAVERA project – challenges ahead?

- Difficulty in assessing the value of PRIMAVERA outputs to the users due to qualitative use of longer-term information;
- Higher resolution – increase usability of information?
- Communication, coordination and sharing of information within and across WPs..
- Linkages to climate services development across Europe?



## 4. To keep in mind

- Use of climate information: non-linear and complex;
- Different information needs across and within users' organisations (e.g. format, resolution, uncertainty);
- Need to understand organisational context and factors underpinning the use of climate information;
- What's the aim of engaging the different users in PRIMAVERA? Clear aims and methods/resources to fit those;
- Potential pitfalls when engaging users (expectations, terminology, assumptions, ...)
- BUT also potential pitfalls within PRIMAVERA.



**Thank you**

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**Questions?**

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