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NINTH MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM



WMO Global RCOF Review workshop (Guayaquil, 5-7 Sept 2017)

Ernesto Rodríguez-Camino, AEMET

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/workshop_rcofs.php

With contributions from
A. Hovsepyan, K. Kolli and
all participants in the workshop

Outline

- Introduction
- RCOF operations around the world
- Operational practices
- Towards improved and sustained RCOF process
- Conclusions and recommendations for the future generation RCOFs



Global Review of Climate Outlook Forums, 05-07 September 2017, Guayaquil, Ecuador



http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/workshop_rcofs.php

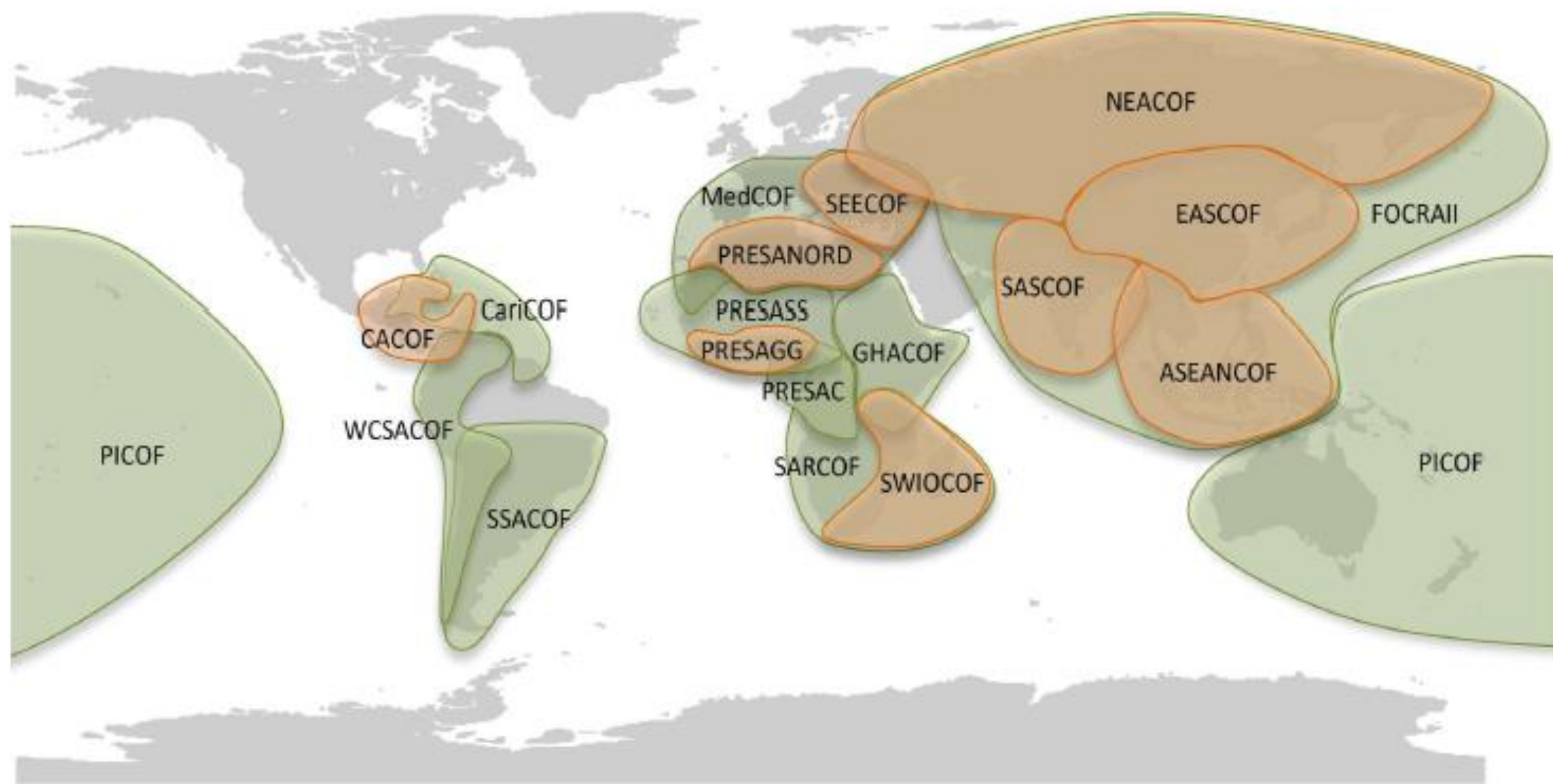
- A key component of WMO **Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS)** project activities.
- First established in **October 1996** at the Workshop on Reducing Climate-Related Vulnerability in Southern Africa (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe).
- Gained momentum as a regional response to the major **1997–1998 El Niño** event.
- RCOF Concept was **pioneered in Africa** and spread worldwide.
- WMO and a number of national, regional and international organizations and development agencies (e.g., NOAA, IRI, Meteo France, Met Office, IGAD, SADC, USAID, AusAID, etc.) have supported their growth, stability and expansion.



Introduction:

From Victory Falls, Zimbabwe, 1996

RCOFs Worldwide



To Guayaquil, Ecuador, 2017

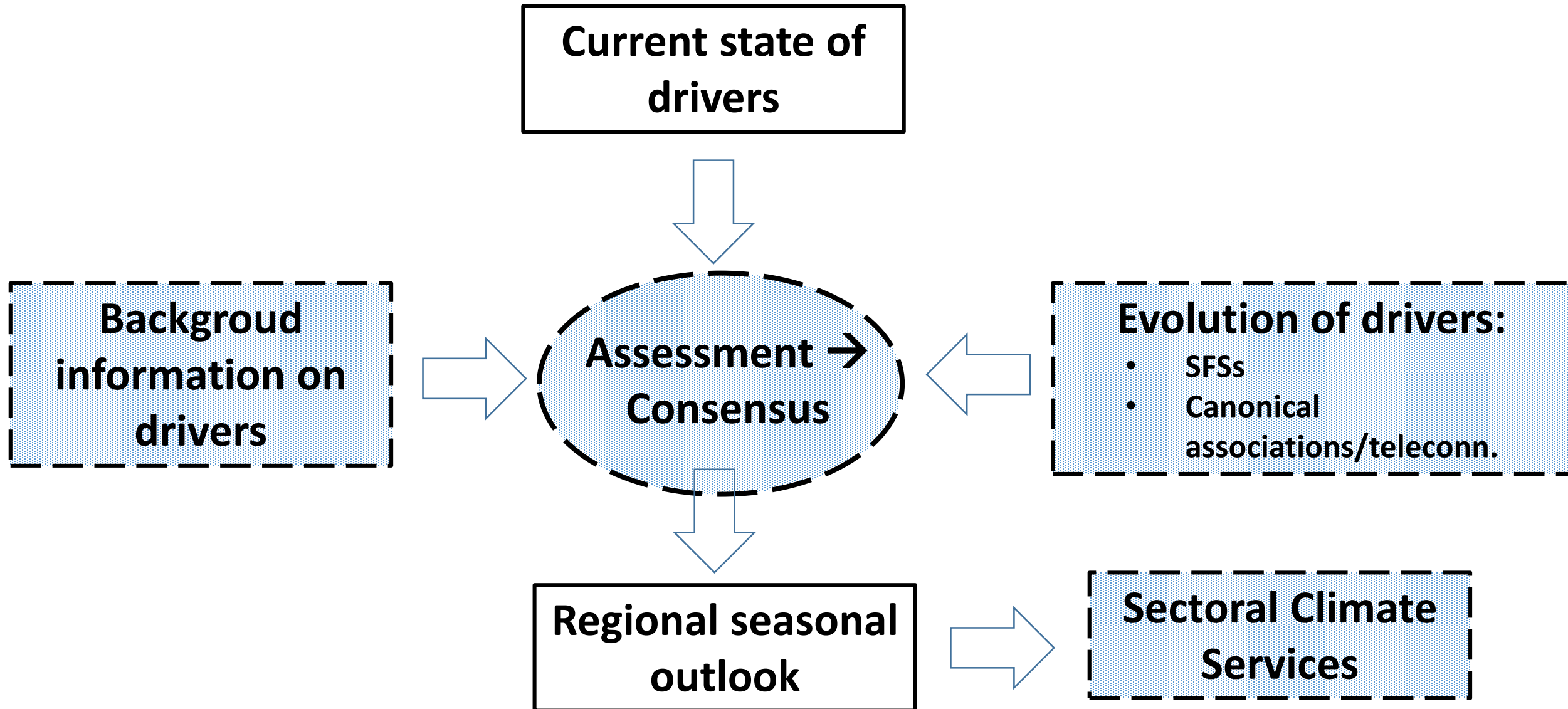


- After **two decades** of successful implementation, WMO undertook a comprehensive review of the RCOF process.
- Examine **all aspects of the interpretation, creation and dissemination** of regional climate outlooks.
- Expectations and requirements of stakeholders for **more actionable climate information** tailored to their needs.
- Agree on the **way forward** towards the improved and sustained RCOF processes.
- The RCOF Review was guided by the **CCI TT-RCOF** in close collaboration with the Subject Matter Experts (SME) from international institutions involved in RCOF process.

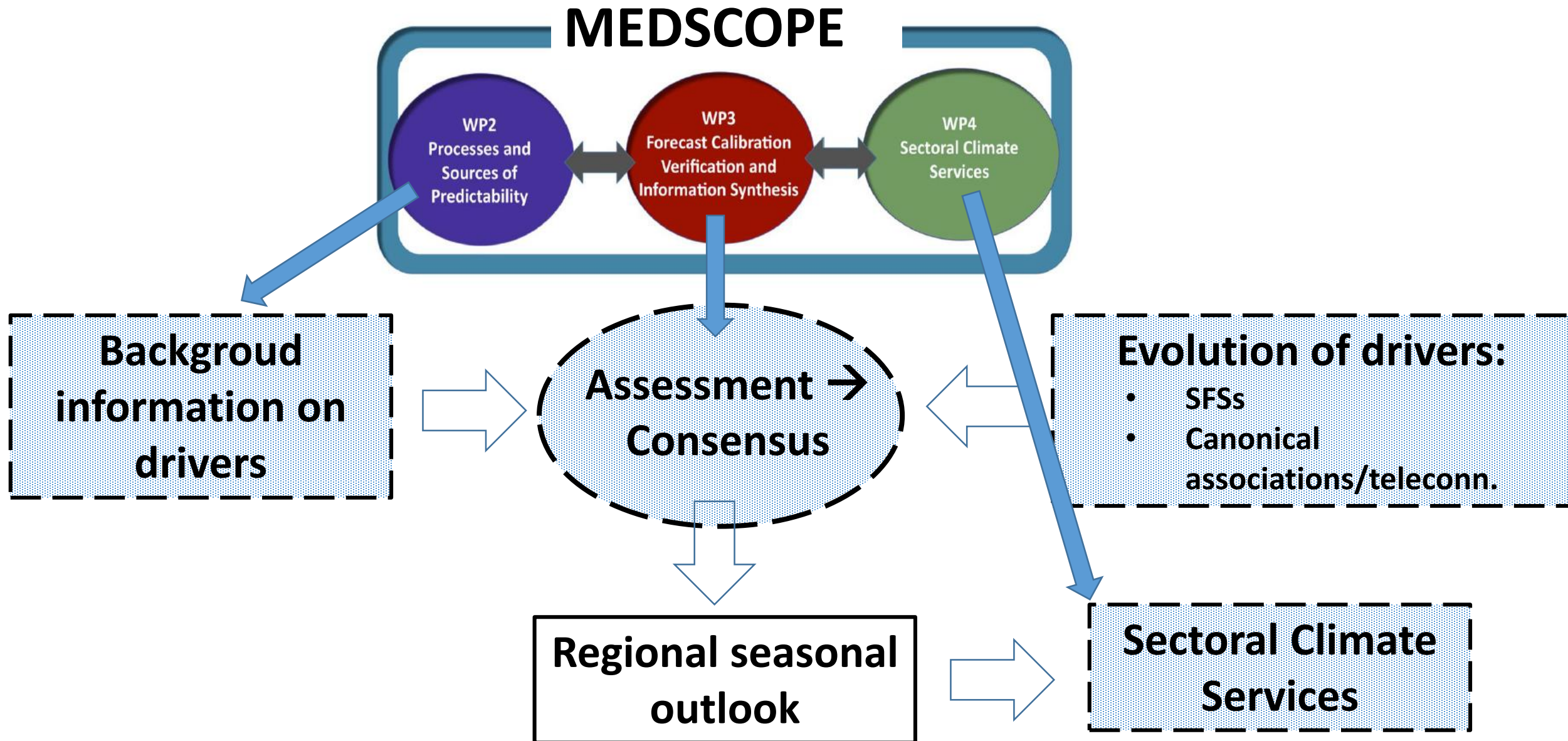
Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) (2)

- RCOFs provide **platforms for Climate experts and climate information users** to:
 - Discuss **current climate status**
 - **Exchange views on scientific developments** in climate prediction
 - **Develop consensus-based regional climate outlooks** that can feed into national climate outlooks produced by NMHSs
 - Engage in **user-provider dialogue**
- An important aspect of RCOFs is the facility to bring together experts in various fields, operational climate providers and end users of forecasts in an **environment that encourages interaction and learning.**

Current practice in MedCOF for consensus seasonal outlook



Matching between MEDSCOPE and MedCOF



Specific recommendations for improved RCOF operations (I)

- Promote **WMO LC -LRFMME** data to enable RCCs to produce objective forecast
- **RCCs to continue guiding/coordinating** the RCOF process,
- Build **feedback mechanisms** at RCOF sessions to propose improving RCC activities
- **Expand RCOF product portfolio** to include:
 - Climate **Monitoring**
 - **Verification**
 - **Remote climate anomalies**
 - **Sub seasonal** products
 - Introduce **Climate Change component**, in terms of observed trends, attribution of extreme events, etc.
 - Replace the pre-COF training sessions with "**centralized**" **training workshops**

Specific recommendations for improved RCOF operations (II)

- Promote **stronger linkages** of RCCs, RCOFs with **research community**
- Establish/Implement regular **NCOFs** (and other similar mechanisms) at national (and sub-national) levels
- National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS) linked to high-level cross-cutting objectives, will provide **mechanisms for sustainability to the national climate forums**
- Ensure **joint provider-user ownership of RCOF process**, demonstrating the value of forecast and advocating with the governments the usability/value of the RCOF/NCOF products

Way forward towards the new generation of RCOFs (RCOF v2.0)

- Mainstreaming of **objective seasonal** climate forecasting underpinning RCOF products,
- New approaches including **expanded product portfolio**, based on standardized operational practices identified during the workshop,
- Follow-up integration of seasonal outlooks in **decision-making process** at country level
- Improved **Partnership and User Engagement** in RCOF process
- Organization of **“centralized” training workshops** to better target capacity development efforts associated with RCOFs

Objective seasonal climate forecasting

- New methods for **bias correction and forecast calibration**
- **Combining and synthesizing** all sources of climate forecasting information into a single source of information.
- **Selection of sub-ensembles** for applications
- Make **use of portals** such as LC-LRFMME, C3S, NMME, etc

Expand product portfolio

- Climate Monitoring
- Verification
- Remote climate anomalies
- **Sub seasonal products**
- Introduce Climate Change component, in terms of **observed trends, attribution of extreme events**, etc.
- Replace the pre-COF training sessions with "**centralized training workshops**"

Integration of seasonal outlooks in decision-making process

- In addition to sectoral information from C3S, **MEDSCOPE will provide specific sectoral seasonal predictions** for the Mediterranean region. In particular it will demonstrate the feasibility of climate services and generate prototypes for three sectors:
 - **renewable** energy
 - **hydrology** (including water resources and flood risk assessment)
 - **agriculture and forestry**.

Improved Partnership and User Engagement in RCOF process

- Expand and **improve the current practice of one day** specifically devoted to interaction with users.
- **Coordinate with C3S** to reinforce user engagement
- Deepen links with sectors explored in MEDSCOPE project

Organization of “centralized” training workshops

- **Coordinate with WMO** and RCCs for the organization of “centralized” workshop also making use of **web based tools**, e.g. , webinars, Moodle platforms, etc.
- Open MedCOF training workshops to participants from other RCOFs at least via web.
- Prepare and make available to all RCOFs **specific E-training material for RCOFs**, e.g., tutorials, presentations, videos, tutorized practical sessions, etc

Future

- Closer **collaboration between MedCOF and MEDSCOPE**. Some MedCOF participants are also MEDSCOPE partners.
- Identification of **predictability drivers** is a core element of MedCOF activity.
- Development of **objective tools for combining and synthesizing** information.
- **Tailored CS** to enhance users interest and participation
- **Demonstration of added value** of tailored products
- Common MedCOF and MEDSCOPE **training activities**