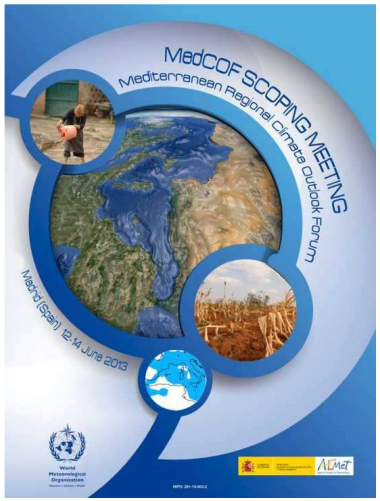


Overview and objectives

E. Rodriguez-Camino, AEMET

Outline

- Our framework!
- Our forerunners: SEECOF and PRESANORD
- Scoping meeting → general objectives
- What do we expect from this meeting?
- Working rules
- Next steps

Our framework:
Global Framework for Climate Services

- The GFCS aims to "enable better management of the risks of climate variability and change and adaptation to climate change, through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice on the global, regional and national scale." [WCC-3]

- To enable society to manage better the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate-related hazards. This will be done through developing and incorporating science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice [GFCS IP Vision].

- Climate services (CS) may be defined as scientifically based information and products that enhance users' knowledge and understanding about the impacts of climate on their decisions and actions. These services are made most effective through collaboration between providers and users [AMS stament, Aug 2012]

GFCS
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

Next steps: GFCS 2013

Get it all set:
Intergovernmental Board Meeting Geneva

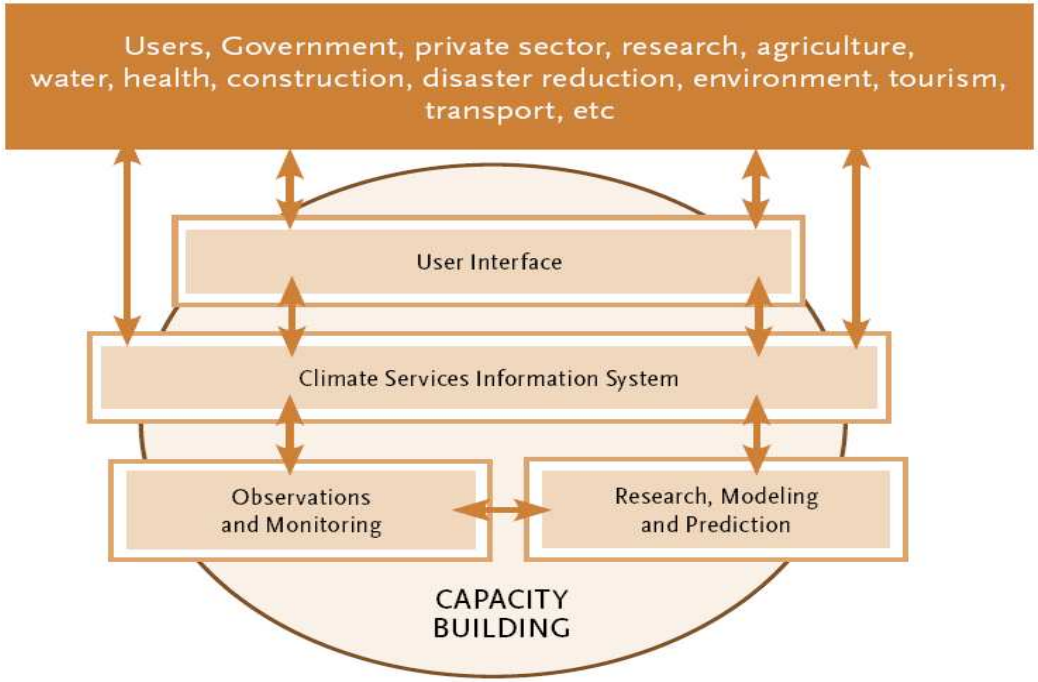
1-5 July 2013

Work with the users:
The Joint Project Offices

Act globally:
The GFCS Oversight Board

Act on the ground:
Pilot Projects & Regional Workshops

Improve the knowledge base:
Revision of fundamental documents



5 pillars:

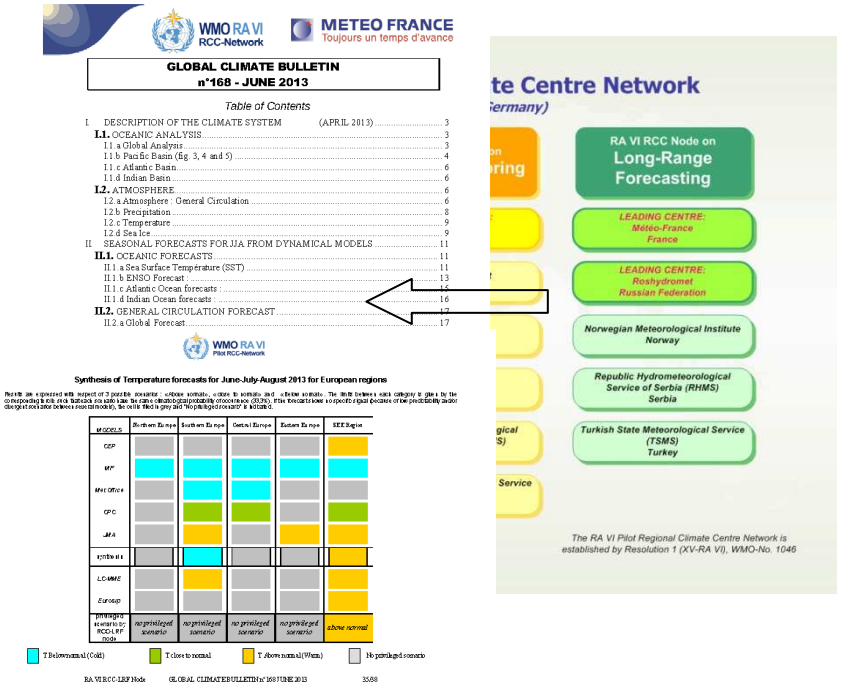
- User Interface Platform
- Climate Services Information
- Observations and Monitoring
- Research, Modelling
- Capacity building.

4 priority areas:

- agriculture and food security
- disaster risk reduction,
- health
- water

RCCs

- WMO RCCs are centres of excellence that create regional products including long-range forecasts that support regional and national climate activities and thereby strengthen capacity of WMO Members in a given region to deliver better climate services to national users.



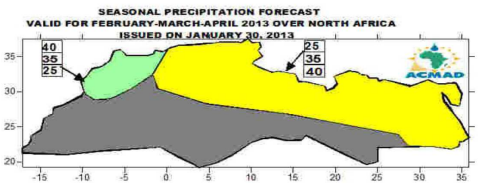
The North African countries Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia elaborated a project proposal for the **North African RCC-Network**, with a demonstration phase in progress. Morocco met office is responsible for LRF.

RCOFs

- RCOFs were originally conceived to focus on seasonal prediction, and have significantly contributed to adaptation to climate variability. The concept has the potential to be extended to develop our capacity to adapt to climate change.
- RCOFs can be effectively expanded to cater to the needs of developing and disseminating regional climate change information products. Regional assessments of observed and projected climate change, including the development of downscaled climate change scenario products for impact assessments, can be included in the RCOF product portfolio.
- Since RCOFs started their implementation in Africa in the late 1990s, they have spread considerably worldwide.

Our forerunners!

PRESANOR



SEECOF

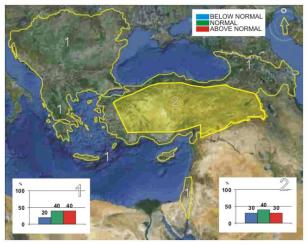
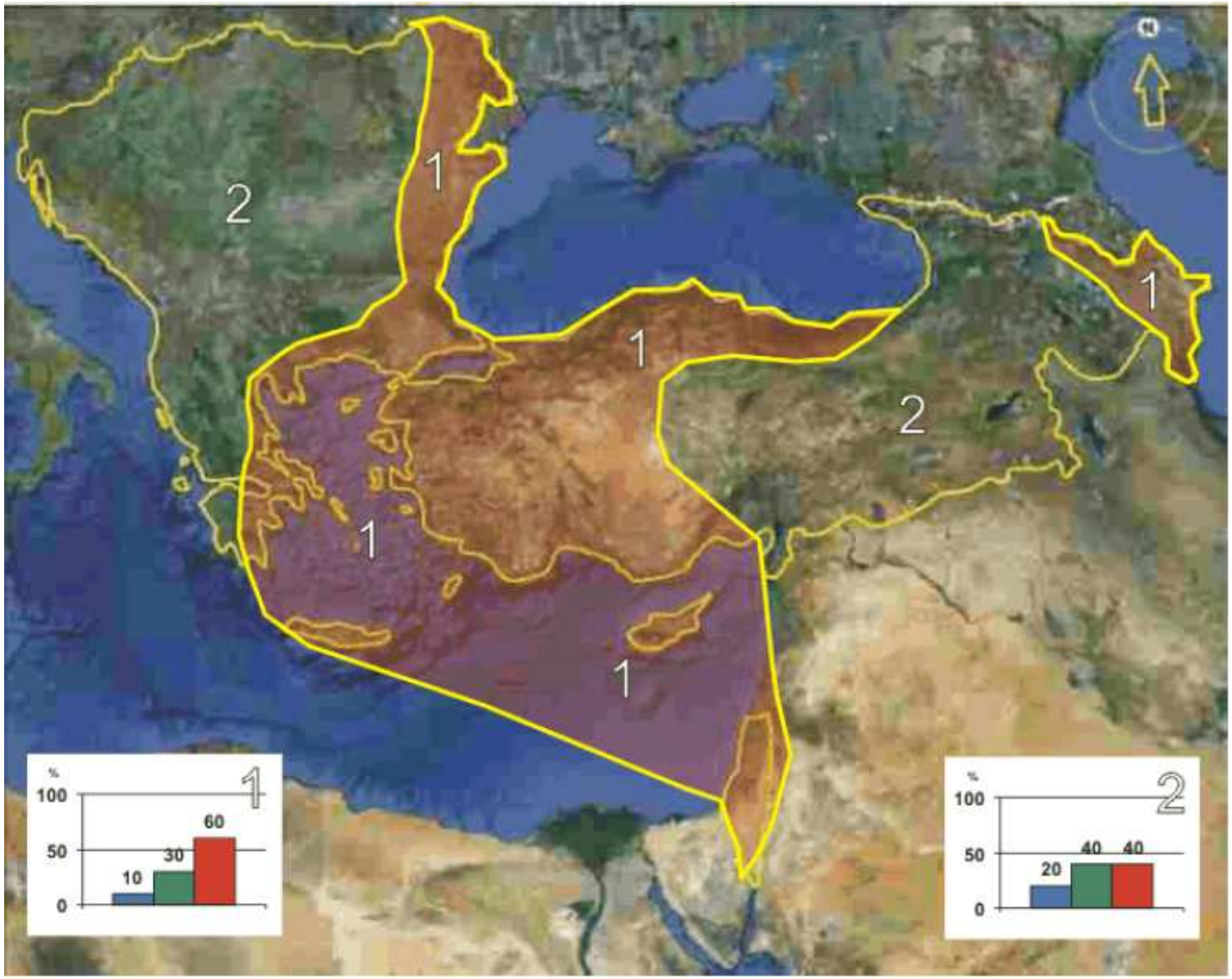
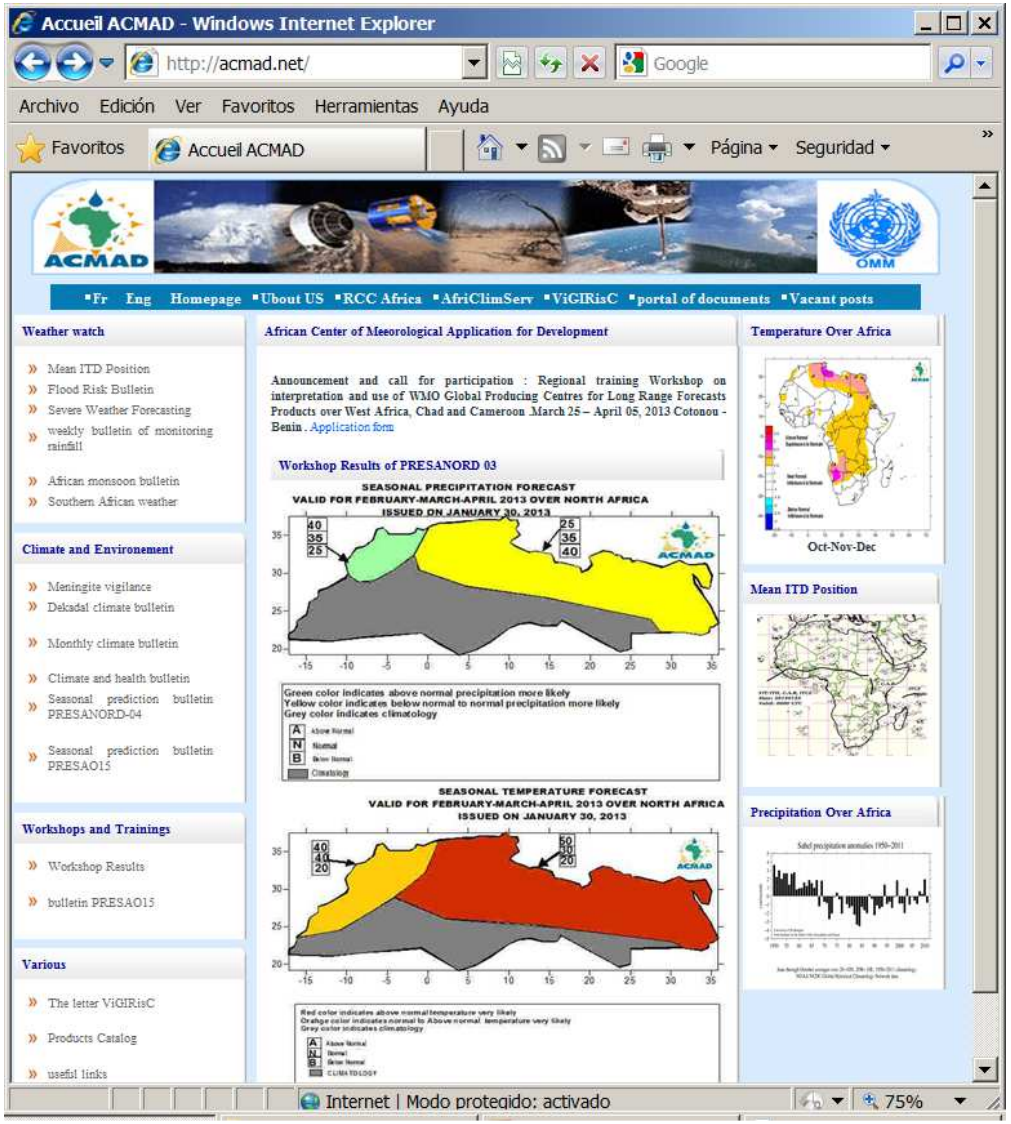


Figure 1. Graphical presentation of 2012/13 winter temperature outlook

SEECOF



PRESANORD



- Presanord 2 → Jan 2012
- Presanord 3 → Sept 2012
- Presanord 4 → Jan 2013

The long way to MedCOF

- In WMO RA VI the RCOF process was launched in 2008 and up to now two RCOFs are fully operational in the European region: the South-East European Climate Outlook Forum (SEECOF) and the North EurAsian COF (NEACOF).
- The further development and implementation of additional RCOFs was discussed and recommended by the RA VI Task Team on Regional Climate Outlook Fora (TT RCOF) and by the RA VI Working Group on Climate and Hydrology (WG CH).
- Both groups recommended as potential target region for further RCOF deployment South Western Europe/Mediterranean basin.
- The issue was also discussed in January 2012 in Algiers during the Scoping Workshop on Seasonal Climate Prediction for North Africa (PRESANORD 02). Most of the participants expressed – and it is so reflected in the conclusions of the meeting- the potential benefits and their agreement to a possible extension of the existing RA I PRESANORD Outlook Forum to the Mediterranean Region involving RA I and RA VI.
- PRESANORD 3 and 4 meetings clearly showed the determination of the involved countries to cooperate for the promotion of coordinated seasonal forecasting activities in the region.

What do we expect from the SM?(I)

- To discuss and reach consensus on distinctive features for a future RCOF for the Mediterranean region
- To pave the road for a closer collaboration between regions I and VI
- To contribute at the RCOF level to the deploy of GFCS
- To produce as final product an outcome document with agreed responses to some basic questions about the future RCOF

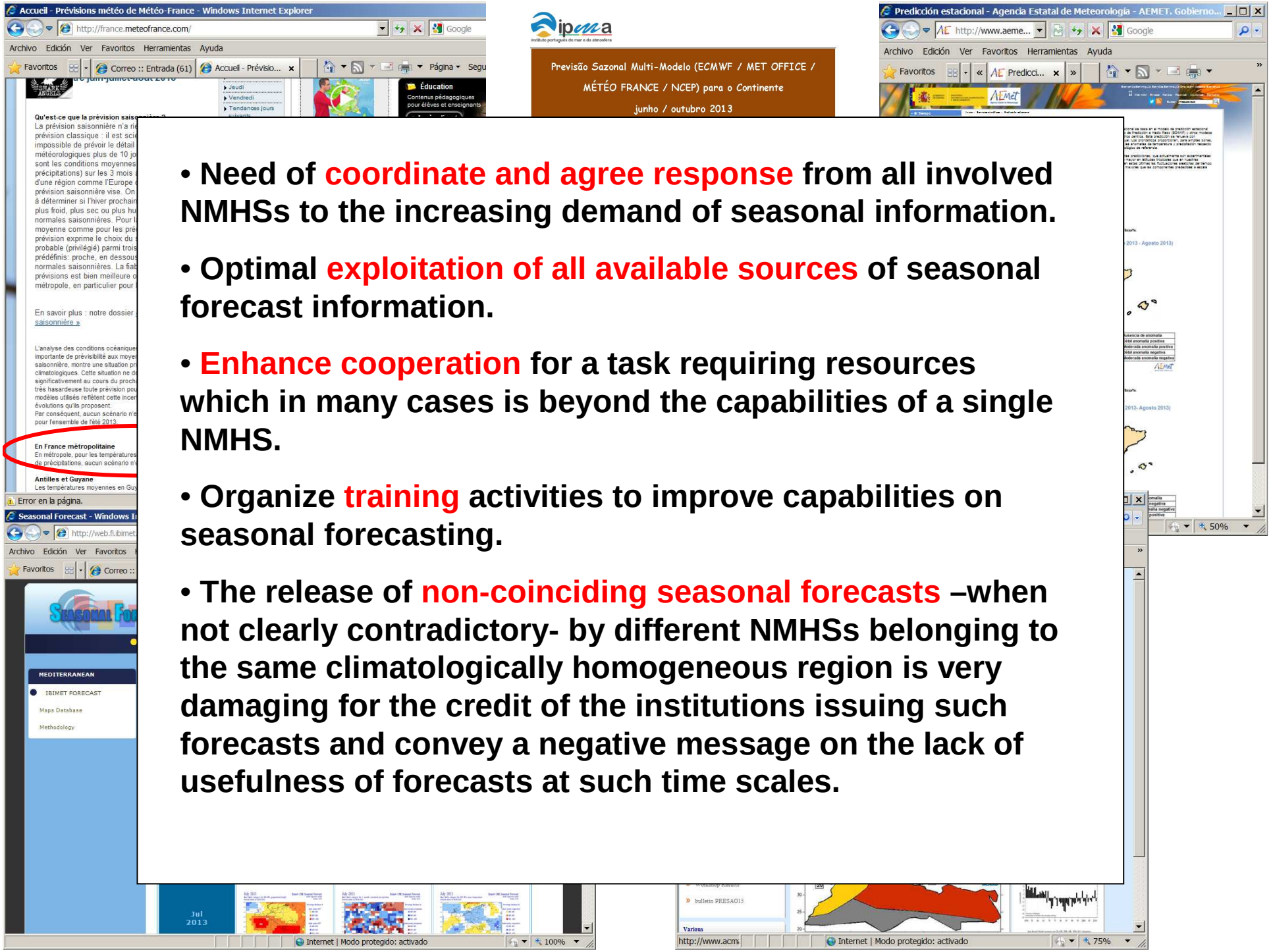
What do we expect from the RCOF?

- To identify windows of opportunity with increased forecast skill could be the basis for enhanced, actionable forecasts
- To explore all the potential sources of predictability not yet incorporated to models
- To promote the uptake of improved forecast skill and understanding on seasonal timescale by operational centres
- Careful calibration and judicious combination of ensembles of forecasts from different models into a larger ensemble can give higher skill than that from any single model
- To promote use of seasonal forecasts and their uncertainty estimates by the applications community.
- To create and issue properly prepared forecast statements

Product interpretation

- Most seasonal forecast systems are based on numerical models. The products, at least for now, are simply a statement of how the numerical calculations behave. Such numerical products contain information on what is to be expected on seasonal timescales, but they also contain errors.
- Unthinking use of the raw numerical forecast products is not recommended. Actual forecasts for users should be carefully prepared, perhaps combining data from several empirical and/or numerical sources.
- The creation and issuing of properly prepared forecast statements is not a task undertaken by ECMWF, but is left to others, such as National Meteorological Services or appropriate international organizations. The probability maps on the web pages are **uncalibrated** - that is, they directly represent model output, and no adjustments to the probabilities have been made to account for model errors.

(ECMWF web page)



- **Need of coordinate and agree response from all involved NMHSs to the increasing demand of seasonal information.**
- **Optimal exploitation of all available sources of seasonal forecast information.**
- **Enhance cooperation for a task requiring resources which in many cases is beyond the capabilities of a single NMHS.**
- **Organize training activities to improve capabilities on seasonal forecasting.**
- **The release of non-coinciding seasonal forecasts –when not clearly contradictory- by different NMHSs belonging to the same climatologically homogeneous region is very damaging for the credit of the institutions issuing such forecasts and convey a negative message on the lack of usefulness of forecasts at such time scales.**

Next steps

- Report to President of WMO RA I and RA VI, RA I and RA VI WG on Climate matters, the PR’s of the potentially interested NMHS and the corresponding RCCs.
- Joint decision of RA I and RA VI
- Kickoff RCOF → Fall/Winter 2013

Working rules

- Each session has a designated chair and rapporteur.
- The chair will introduce the session (1 slide) and will propose items for discussion appropriate to the session title. He will try to arrive to consensuated responses to the proposed questions
- The rapporter (jointly with the chair) will prepare a short summary of agreed items corresponding to his/her session
- The final document will be mainly based on rapporteurs inputs. The outcomes collected in the final document will de summarised in the final sessión. The final form of the document will be ready shortly after the meeting after rotation for final comments/refining among participants