Bridging the Gap: experiences of communicating climate information for decision-making

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The Gap

- Need to effectively communicate climate change information to end users to ensure climate resilient development

- **SADC Secretariat:**
  - Improved planning under climate change
  - Access to climate change information in a format that is appropriate to their decision-making

- **ACC2013 Statement:**
  - “Improved and more effective communication between climate science and policy”
“Equipping decision makers in southern Africa with up-to-date information, appropriate for country-level planning, on the impact and risk of climate change and variability”
In the context of managing uncertainty
Impact

• Helped support SADC level engagement:
  – SADC Climate Change Think Tank in early 2012
  – SADC Climate Change Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Response Framework (drafted 2011; currently in finalization)

• Information provided in training courses has begun to assist long-term planning in the region
Lessons Learnt

• Effective response to climate change requires:
  – Reliable, understandable, and timely climate-related information tailored to user needs
  – Good information systems and services

• Understanding that most decision makers will need to make choices in the context of other responsibilities, competing priorities, and resource constraints

• Workshop fatigue in SADC
  • Substantial challenges to overcome in order to successfully engage stakeholders
“How to” videos will be produced to guide readers through sections of interest.