

# Actions and Pathways for Improving Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU)

## How potentially useful is the information ?

- It is potentially useful as it could be seen as a one stop-shop to see how GPC perceive the global phenomena and therefore reduces the requirements on RCC and NMHS and RCOF To create output products.
- GSCU will definitely act as guidance for interpreting the global anomalies by RCCs and NMHS and help them in the preparation of the regional and national outlooks for the respective areas of responsibility.
- Will help in standardizing the outlooks prepared by various RCCs/ RCOFs/ NMHS
- *It is considered useful, although most participants see room for improvement. The Bulletin prepared by RCC-LRF (Météo-France) is seeing as a model to follow, with more diagnostics and monitoring information.*

# What is the risk of conflicting information being disseminated at the regional and/or national levels?

- There can be some confusion among the users if conflicting information comes from various levels (global, regional and national levels). So it is essential that various stakeholders work together to reduce such occasions by providing appropriate feed back to the team that prepare this information.
- The risk is minimized if GSCU dissemination is restricted to RCCs and NMHSs (The GSCU should not be directly given to the public).
- One way to reduce conflicting information from various sources is to follow a strict dissemination cycle by all the stake holders involved in the dissemination of such information with GSCU provide the information first followed by regional and national stakeholders. This will help regional and national level stakeholders to refer the information disseminated by GSCU before preparing information for the respective areas of responsibility and reduce conflicting information as much as possible or to provide appropriate scientific justification whenever information that conflicts with GSCU is to be presented.

# What is the recommended schedule (e.g., DJF, MAM, JJA, SON) for the release of the GSCU for an efficient use by the relevant stakeholders?

- Though initially the information can be generated for the standard seasons of DJF, MAM, JJA & SON, it will be more useful if the information is generated for the moving 3-month seasons like DJF, JFM etc.
- 4 times/year (main seasons) at least during the testing phase
- It will always be late for Central American (growing season) but can be used for monitoring. Fits well with other areas such as Caribbean. Recommended that it be running seasonal means to facilitate every region with their different requirements. Could generate figures for running seasons but include texts for 4 seasons depending on the human resource availability. The date of delivery is not ok for some but workable. **The 15<sup>th</sup> would be a good scheduled date.**
- *Some participants suggested splitting the report into two parts: the monitoring and the prediction while this could strategically improve on the timing of the release of the report, some have argued that standalone monitoring information in itself is not much use.*

# What is the optimal lead-time for the seasonal prediction products included in the GSCU, both from the scientific and operational perspectives ?

- 0-1 month lead time is OK for parameters like precipitation and land surface air Temperatures. But seasonal SST forecast information should be made available with lead time 0-6 months will be better.
- Lead time 2 weeks into the month (15<sup>th</sup>)
- *1 month lead time, provided it is delivered timely for its operational use (around day 20-25 of each month). If not, 2 month lead time could be additionally contemplated.*

## Is it sufficient to provide linkage to RCC for information on regional monitoring highlights (e.g., extremes), or do you find it essential that the GSCU contains this information?

- It is OK with provision for linkage to RCC.
- But if a centralized provision with user interactive facility can be made available to generate information on extremes in the form of maps of required region that will be more useful for stake holders in the regional and national levels. Currently such information is available for the GPC products through WMO LC MME. Similar facility is needed for the observed climate products.
- Make mention of extreme events with link for detailed information.

## **Is the current version of executive summary informative enough? Is something important missing in this summary ?**

- The summary is OK and informative.
- However, there is a small suggestion. If you notice in the summary, while describing the observed climate anomalies in MJJ period and forecast anomalies for SON, there is no mention about the middle month (May).
- This may be able to avoid if summary is prepared during a tight period of first 10-15days of a month (say in the month of August) using observed climate information of previous three months (say MJJ) and forecast information of ASN based on Jul ICs. It may look somewhat tricky to present information on a season 10-15 days after the start of the season. But can be considered as an option.
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## What scientifically critical information is missing, or inadequately/inappropriately represented in the GSCU ?

- Every piece of information could be of use but concern about resolution
- Provide information on modes other than ENSO in summary
- the information is sufficient for intended use
- if only meant for RCC and NMHS the language is fine...if it is meant for none climate technical audiences may need modification
- Information on other climate drivers such as IOD, NAO etc. in addition to ENSO conditions may be included

## **Are the vocabulary and communication issues appropriately covered in the GSCU ?**

- Avoid inconsistent use of vocabularies for expressing probabilities (tilt of the odds, lean towards, favoured, strongly enhanced probability etc.).
- Otherwise Looks OK

## **Are there any other suggestions to make the GSCU more useful and more effective ?**

- Add contact information for any inquiries
- A additional question from group - Is this something we will be looking forward to use next month?