

**PARALLEL SESSION A : BENEFITS OF DOWNSCALING
A3: FROM DATA TO INFORMATION - A DISTILLATION DILEMMA**

Who should adapt to climate change? A tale of multiple timescales.

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As climate change adaptation is increasingly discussed and becoming a mainstream concept, different kinds of users are asking themselves if and when they should develop an adaptation strategy, often not knowing where to begin. Climate experts, on the other hand, have access to an enormous amount of data that could be useful to users but often do not know how to translate it into something practical. Both users and experts can be connected through two timescales, the system lifespan and climate vulnerability. While the system lifespan relies exclusively on the user's estimation of planning timeframe (or infrastructure life expectancy), the climate vulnerability is estimated from climate model projections and observations. We propose a simple tool to relate user and climate expert knowledge by combining the two timescales. To be reliable, the interconnection implies a dialogue to identify sensitive climate variables that will impact the system and a measure of how it will impact it. Climate data can then be used to identify the section of a simple diagram where the system is located and help the users to position themselves about the urgency of adaptation. The concept has been successfully presented and applied to the tourism industry, which will be showcased in this presentation.

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