

The CORDEX.be project
COmbining Regional climate Downscaling EXpertise in Belgium



Climate adaptation conference 23 nov 2017

www.euro-cordex.be



A Belgian network



Piet Termonia^{a,*}, Bert Van Schaeybroeck^a, Lesley De Cruz^a, Rozemien De Troch^a, Steven Caluwaerts^a, Olivier Giot^a, François Duchêne^a, Rafiq Hamdi^a, Stéphane Vannitsem^a, **Patrick Willems**^b, Hossein Tabari^b, Els Van Uytven^b, Parisa Hosseinzadehtalaei^b, **Nicole Van Lipzig**^c, Hendrik Wouters^c, Sam Vanden Broucke^c, Matthias Demuzere^c, **Jean-Pascal van Ypersele**^d, Philippe Marbaix^d, Cecille Villanueva-Birriel^d, **Xavier Fettweis**^e, Coraline Wyard^e, Chloé Scholzen^e, Sébastien Doutreloup^e, **Koen De Ridder**^f, **Anne Gobin**^f, Dirk Lauwaet^f, **Trissevgeni Stavrakou**^g, Maite Bauwens^g, Jean-François Müller^g, **Patrick Luyten**^h, Stéphanie Ponsar^h, Dries Van den Eynde^h, **Eric Pottiaux**ⁱ



^aRMI



^{b,c}KU LEUVEN



^dUCL



^eUlg



^fVITO

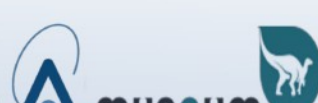


^gBISA

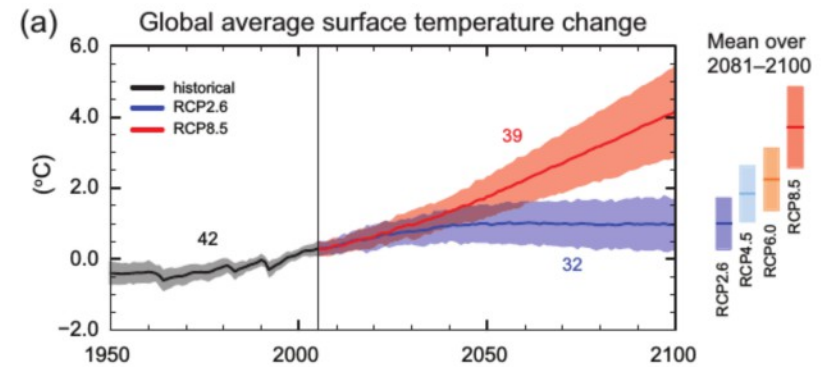
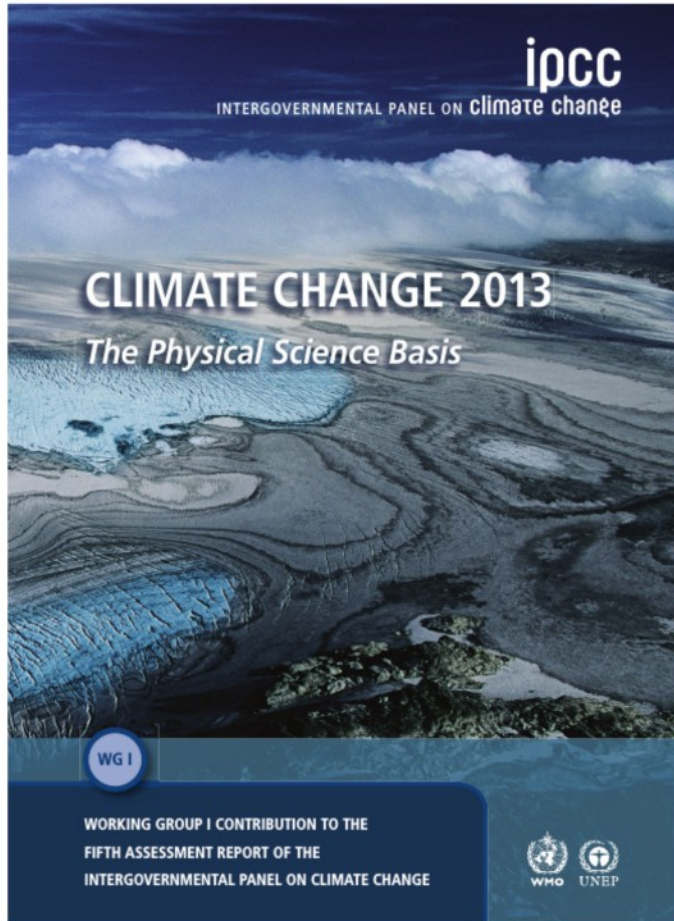
^hRBINS








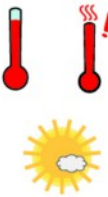









ⁱROB



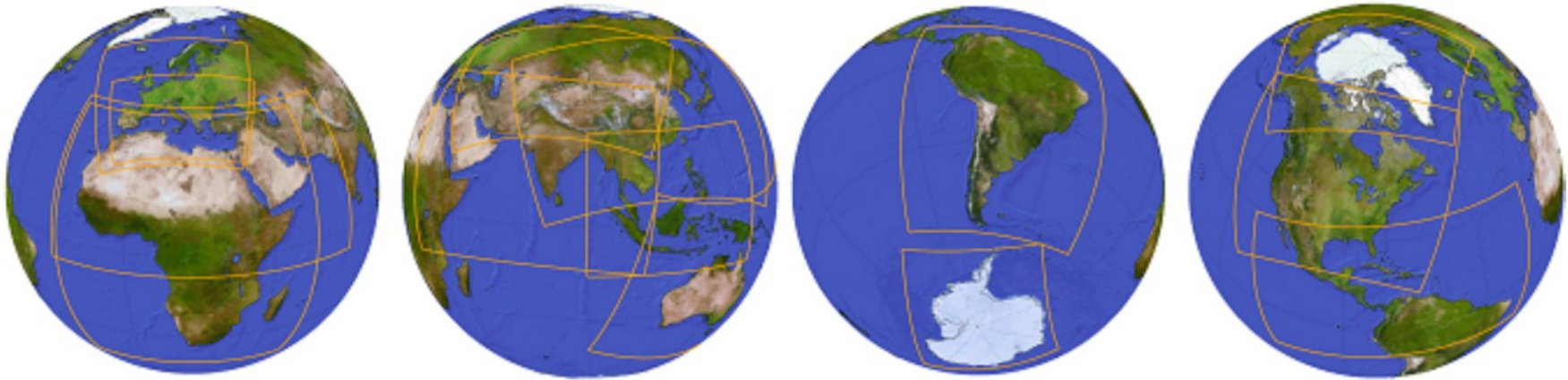
The scientific basis



IPCC AR5 key climate risks

Europe				
Key risk	Adaptation issues & prospects	Climatic drivers	Timeframe	Risk & potential for adaptation
<p>Increased economic losses and people affected by flooding in river basins and coasts, driven by increasing urbanization, increasing sea levels, coastal erosion, and peak river discharges (<i>high confidence</i>)</p> <p>[23.2-3, 23.7]</p>	<p>Adaptation can prevent most of the projected damages (<i>high confidence</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant experience in hard flood-protection technologies and increasing experience with restoring wetlands • High costs for increasing flood protection • Potential barriers to implementation: demand for land in Europe and environmental and landscape concerns 			Very low Medium Very high
			Present	
			Near term (2030–2040)	
			Long term (2080–2100)	2°C  4°C 
<p>Increased water restrictions. Significant reduction in water availability from river abstraction and from groundwater resources, combined with increased water demand (e.g., for irrigation, energy and industry, domestic use) and with reduced water drainage and runoff as a result of increased evaporative demand, particularly in southern Europe (<i>high confidence</i>)</p> <p>[23.4, 23.7]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven adaptation potential from adoption of more water-efficient technologies and of water-saving strategies (e.g., for irrigation, crop species, land cover, industries, domestic use) • Implementation of best practices and governance instruments in river basin management plans and integrated water management 			Very low Medium Very high
			Present	
			Near term (2030–2040)	
			Long term (2080–2100)	2°C  4°C 
<p>Increased economic losses and people affected by extreme heat events: impacts on health and well-being, labor productivity, crop production, air quality, and increasing risk of wildfires in southern Europe and in Russian boreal region (<i>medium confidence</i>)</p> <p>[23.3-7, Table 23-1]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of warning systems • Adaptation of dwellings and workplaces and of transport and energy infrastructure • Reductions in emissions to improve air quality • Improved wildfire management • Development of insurance products against weather-related yield variations 			Very low Medium Very high
			Present	
			Near term (2030–2040)	
			Long term (2080–2100)	2°C  4°C 

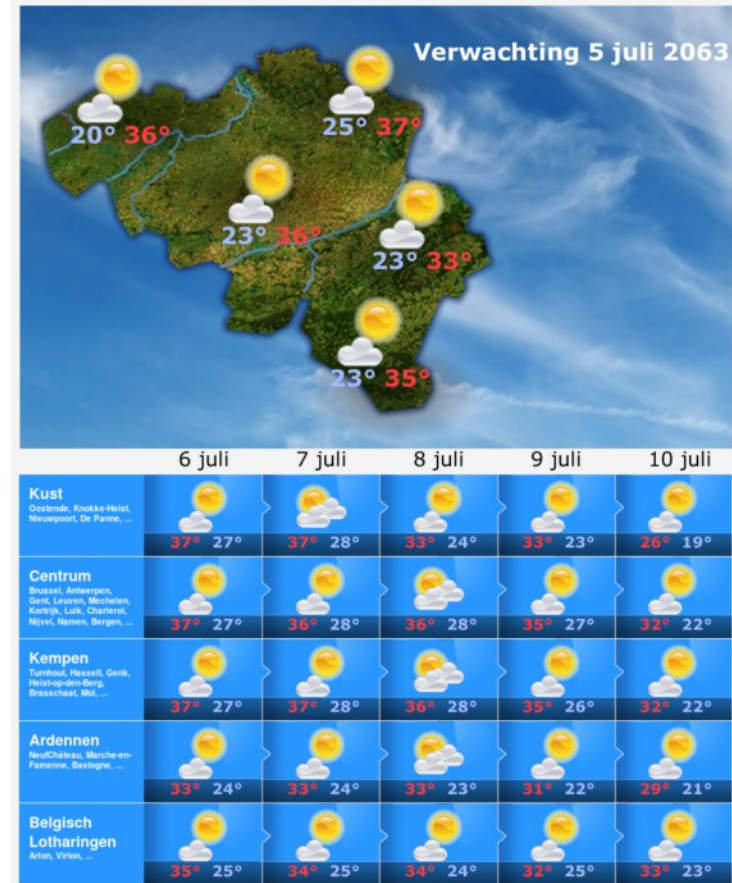
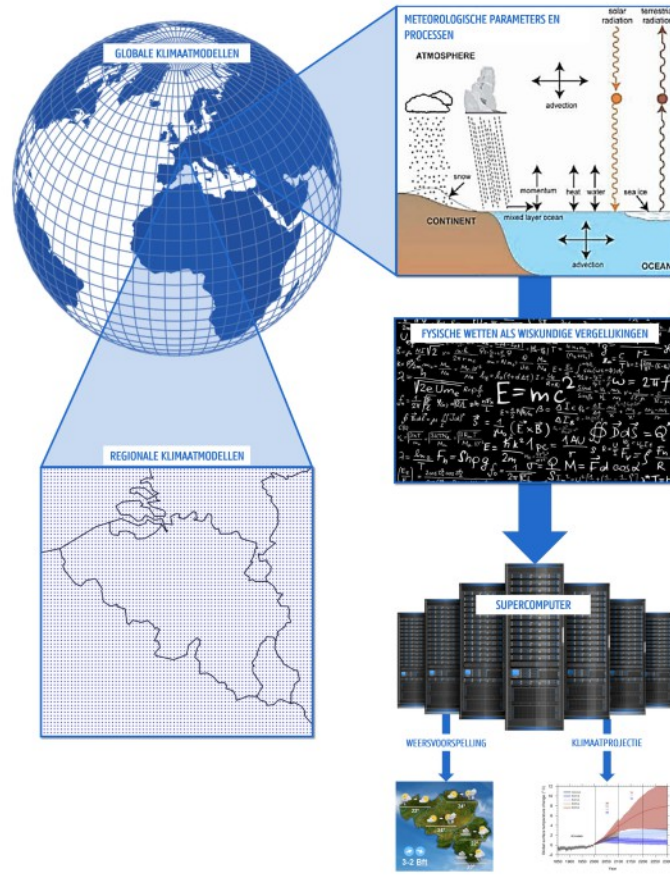
The CORDEX project



CORDEX Goals

- To better understand relevant regional/local climate phenomena, their variability and changes, through downscaling.
- To evaluate and improve regional climate downscaling models and techniques
- To produce coordinated sets of regional downscaled projections worldwide
- To foster communication and knowledge exchange with users of regional climate information

Computer models: same technology for weather forecasting and climate



.be-yond CORDEX

Objectives:

1. Contribution to the CORDEX project
2. Beyond CORDEX: high-resolution runs
3. Beyond CORDEX: local-impact models
4. Assessment of the climate uncertainties

EURO-CORDEX simulations at 12.5 km resolution

✓: done | o: ongoing

	Evaluation	Historical	RCP2.6	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
1950-1976	✓ (1958-1979)	✓	-	-	-
1976-2005	✓	✓	-	-	-
2005-2040	-	✓ (2005-2015)	✓	✓	✓
2040-2070	-	-	✓	✓	✓
2070-2100	-	-	✓	✓	✓

Belgian simulations at 4 km resolution

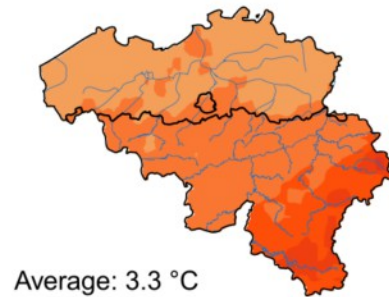
✓: done | o: ongoing

	Evaluation	Historical	RCP2.6	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
1950-1976	✓ (1958-1979)	✓	-	-	-
1979-2010	✓	-	-	-	-
1976-2005	-	✓	-	-	-
2006-2040	-	-	✓	✓	✓
2040-2070	-	-	✓	✓	✓
2070-2100	-	-	✓	✓	✓

“local” warming

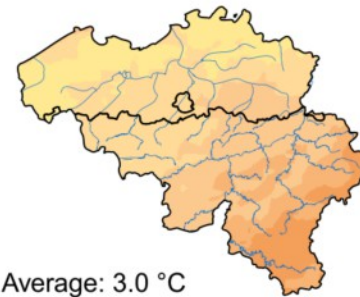
Average warming following RCP8.5 period 2070-2100

ALARO-0 model



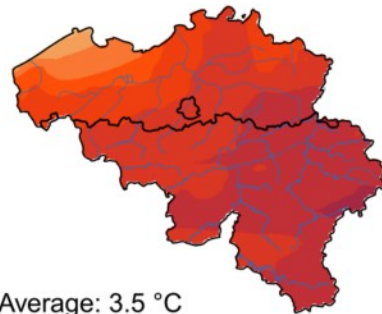
Average: 3.3 °C

COSMO-CLM KUL model

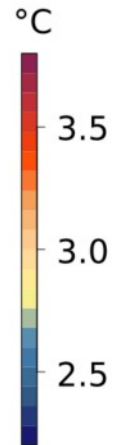


Average: 3.0 °C

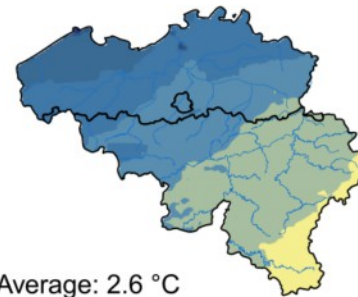
MAR model



Average: 3.5 °C



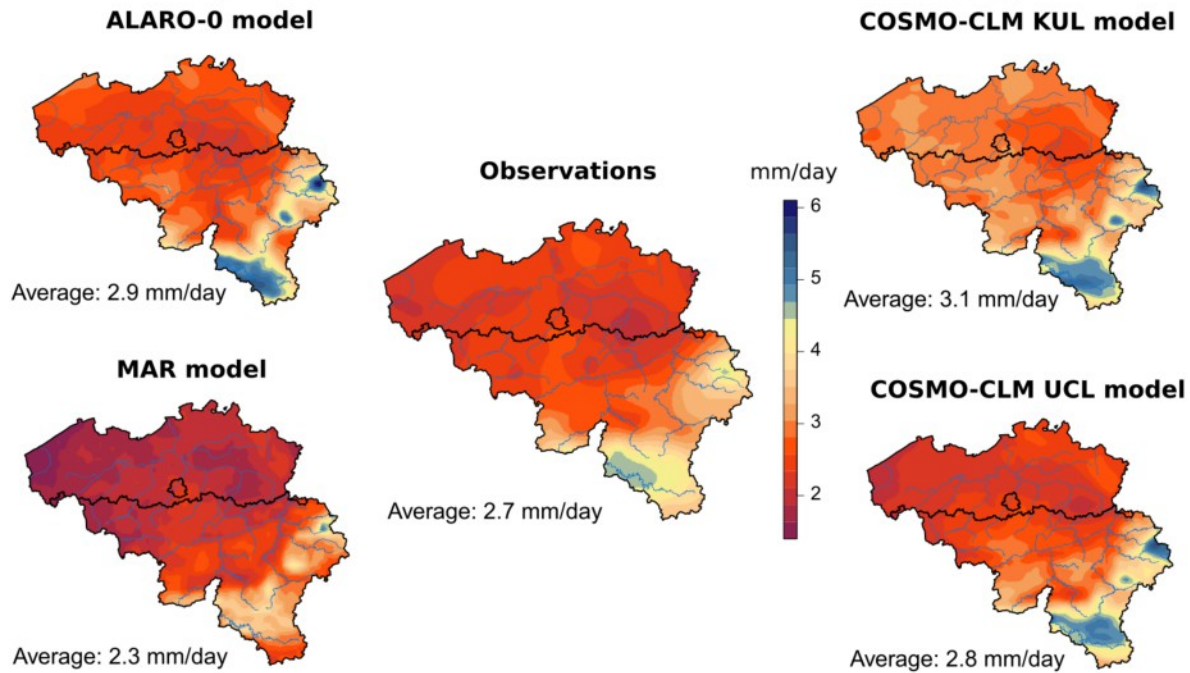
COSMO-CLM UCL model



Average: 2.6 °C

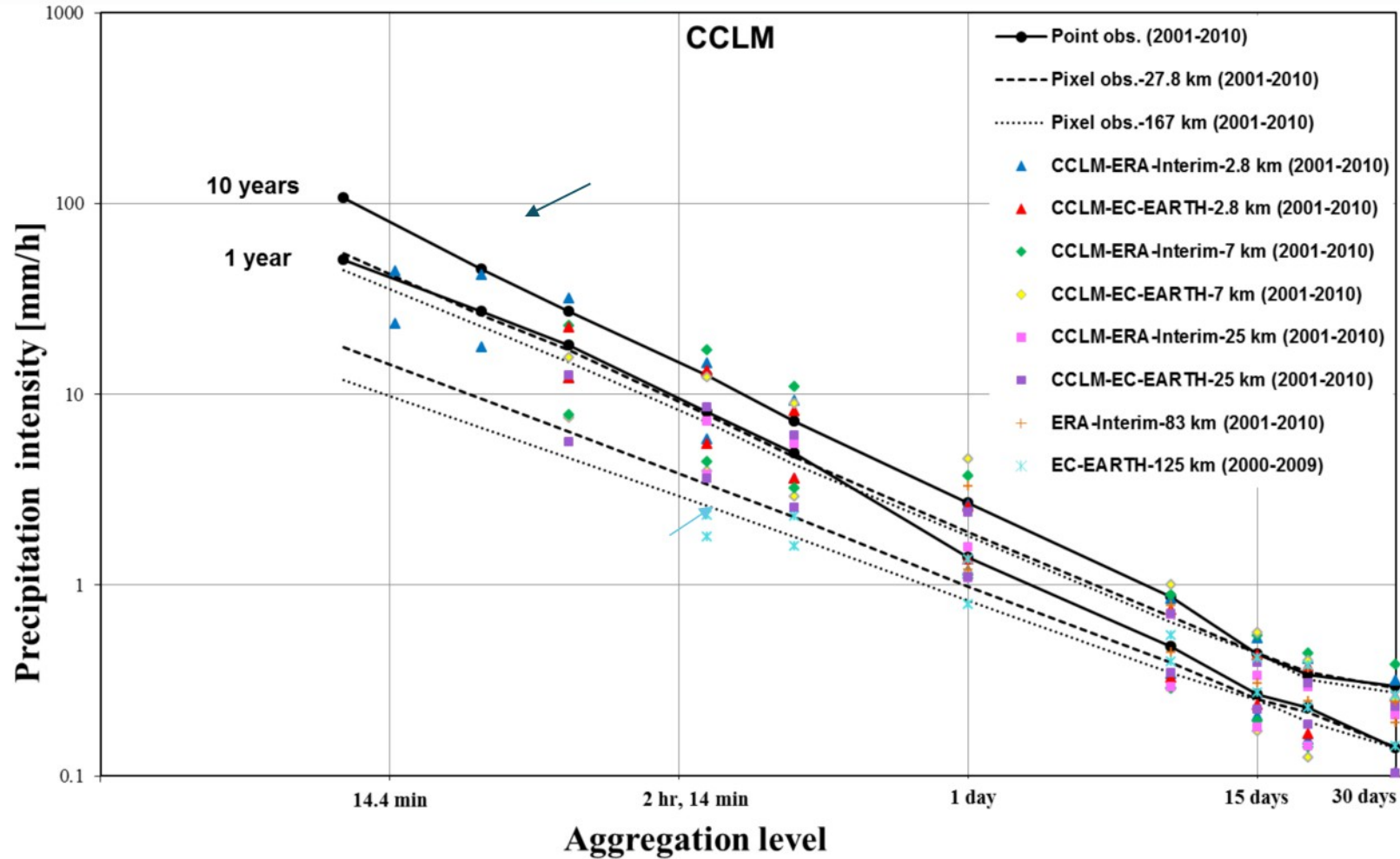
How well do we simulate precipitation?

Average winter precipitation (1980 - 2010)

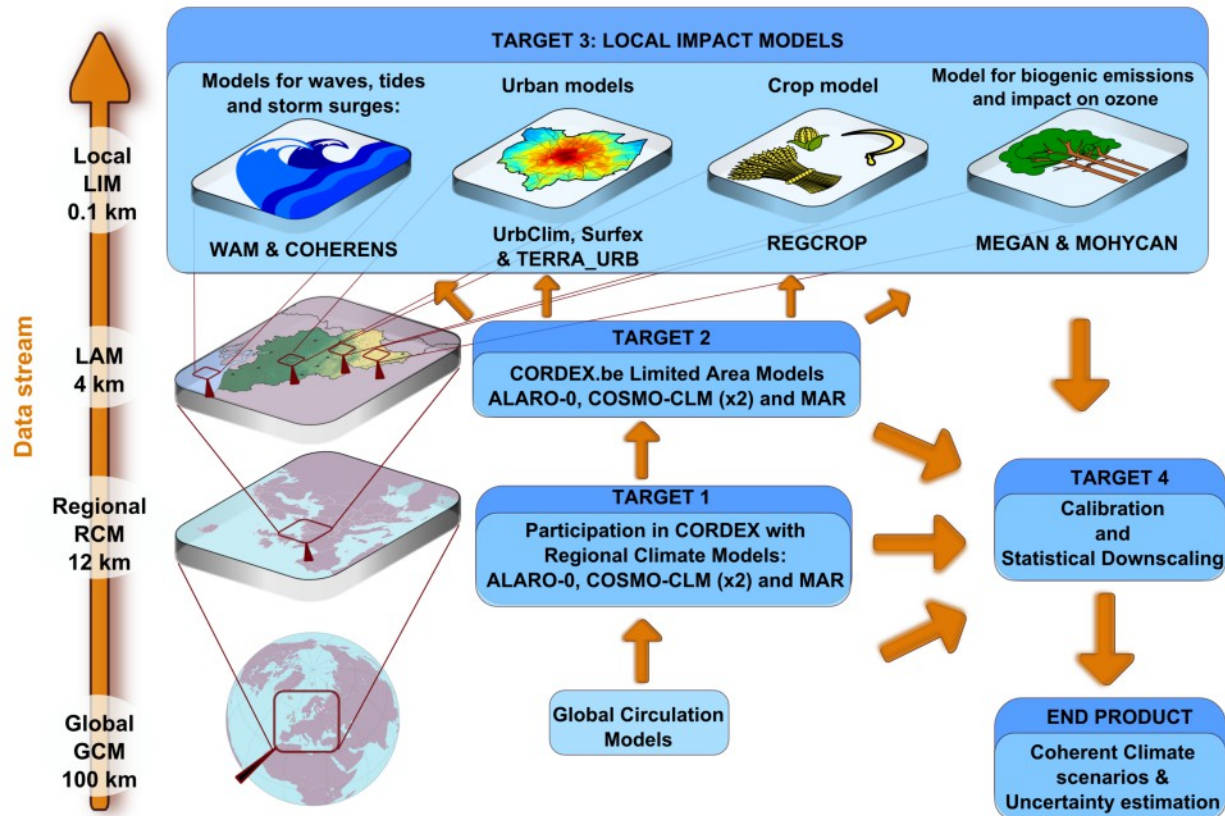


CORDEX.be downscaling

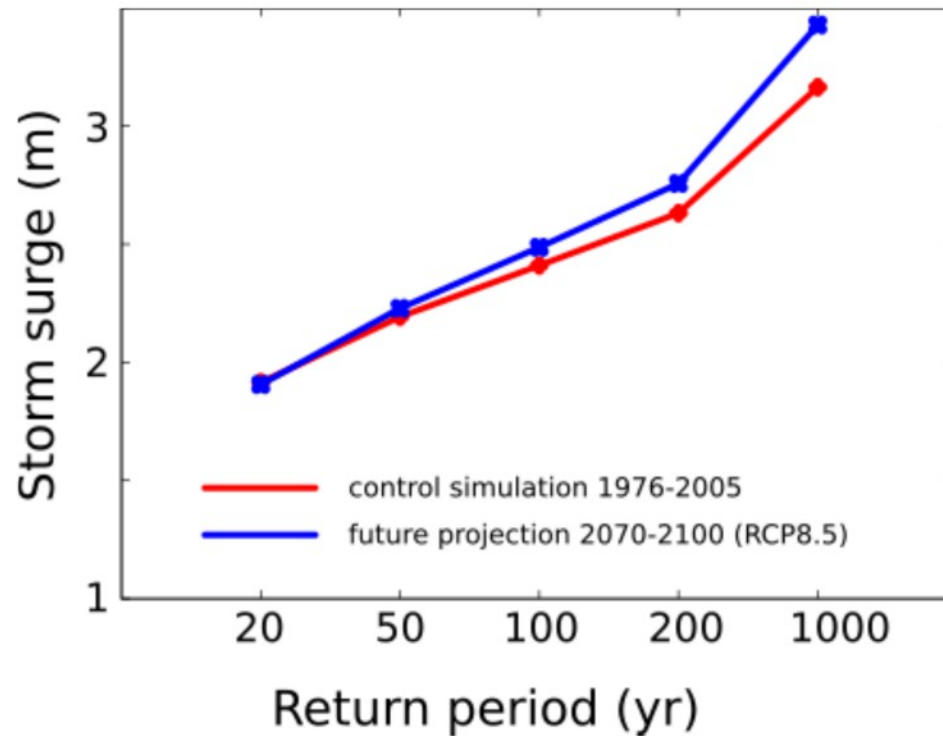
lower bias for precipitation extremes



.beyond projections as input for local-impact models

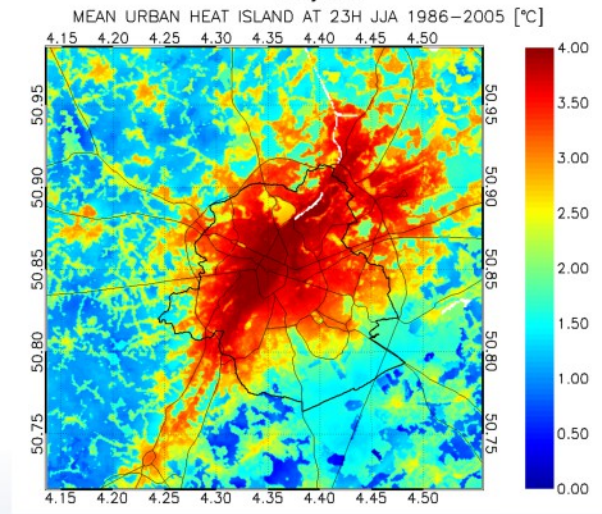
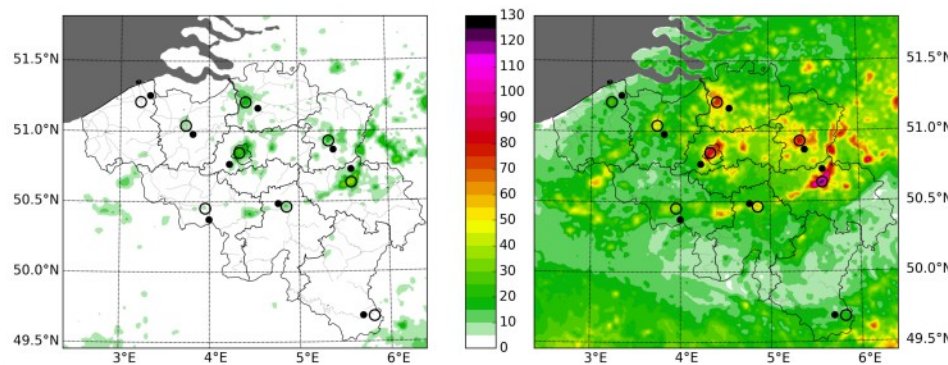
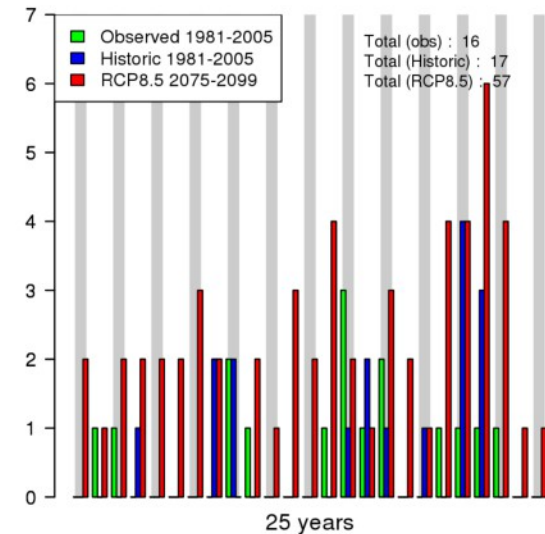
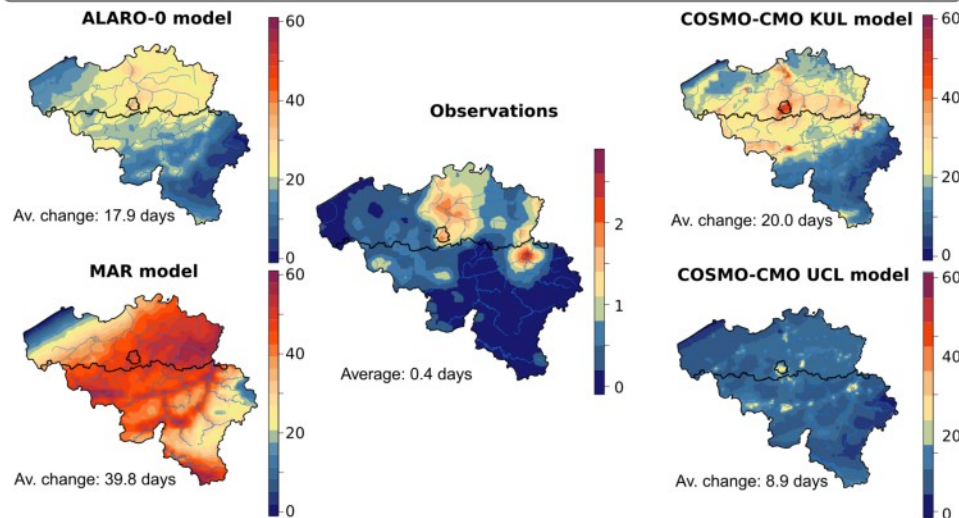


Models for waves, tides and storm surges for the North Sea (KBIN)

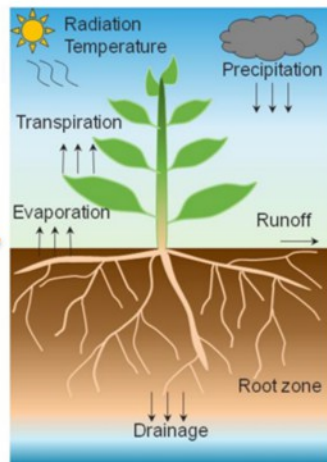
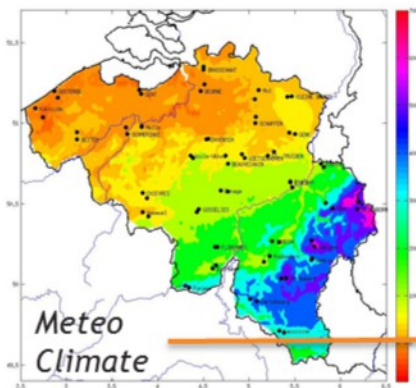
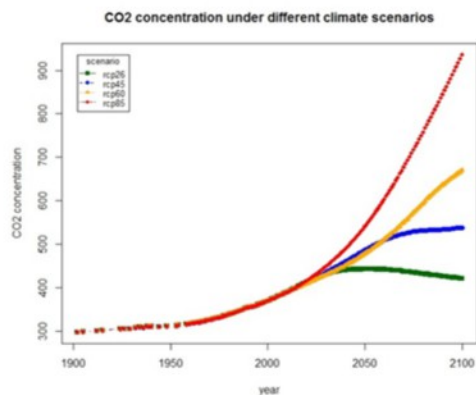


Heat waves and urban effects (VITO, KULeuven, RMI)

Average heat wave days per year - observed (center) and projected change

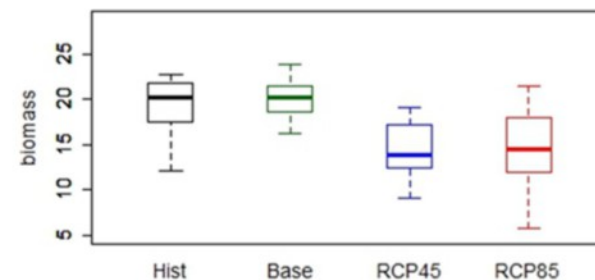
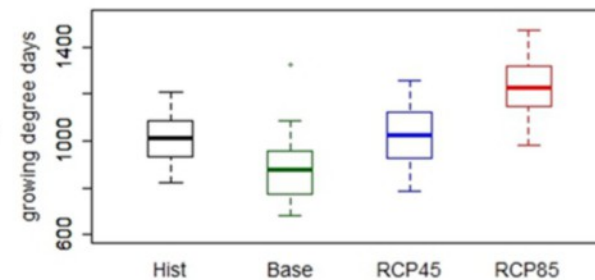
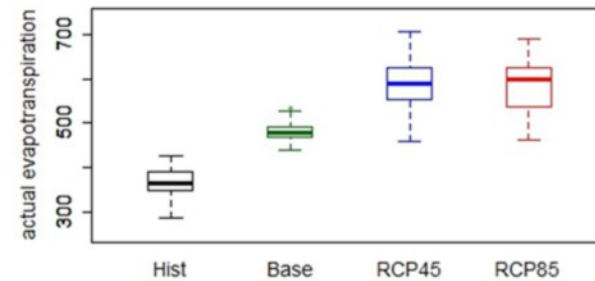


Impact on agriculture (VITO)

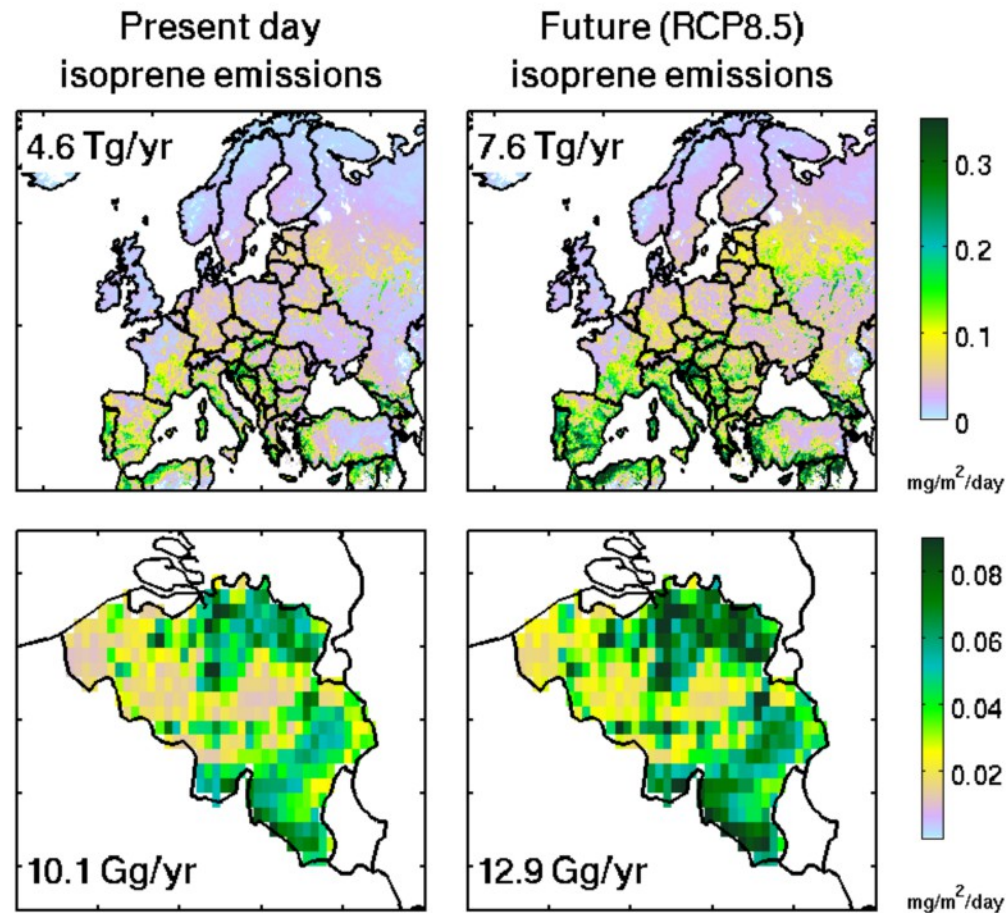


(Gobin, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2017)

Agroclimatological Algorithms



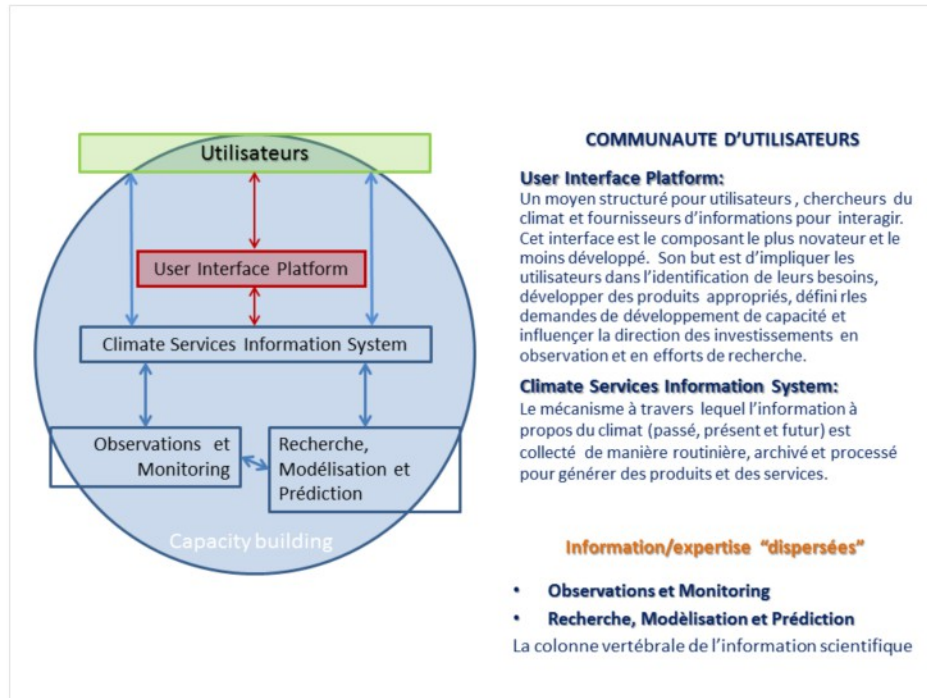
Isoprene emissions (BISA)



CORDEX.be: A few general outcomes

- An increase in extreme precipitation.
- An intensification of extreme storm surges near the Belgian coast by the end of the century.
- For the Brussels urban environment:
 - An increase of factor 3 to 4 in the number of heat waves.
 - Significant increase of heat stress for people living in the city of Brussels, up to twice as large as in the surrounding rural areas.
- An increased variability for biomass production and yields. Average yields for fodder maize and late potatoes will also decline.
- An increase of 51% of biogenic emissions from isoprene.

CORDEX.be as a brick to a Global Frame for Climate Services (WMO)



CORDEX.be made contributions to the lowest three pillars of the GFCS:

- 1) Mostly through research, modelling and prediction
- 2) Use of reanalysis and observation data
- 3) And concluded with
 - A stakeholders meeting;
 - A website www.euro-cordex.be for disseminating the results;
 - Flyers for outreach;
 - A final report.

Conclusions

- The CORDEX.be consortium contributed to the CORDEX project.
- We went beyond (.be) the CORDEX goals both in resolutions (details computed) and in more downstream impact modeling.
- The data exists, first impacts have been computed, future ones are planned. The data contains a wealth of information, ready to be uncovered. e.g. in future projects.
- Detailed climate model data has the potential to make climate information tangible, understandable in human language. This may help to bridge communication gap with the stakeholders, provided it is interpreted in a correct way.

Thank you for your attention!

