

In whose service? Meteorological and climate research for Antarctic environmental predictions

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The WMO Polar Prediction Project's (PPP) Societal and Economic Research and Applications (SERA) task team concerns itself with the social-science aspects of the PPP. The team, which includes social scientists as well as experienced forecasters, was formed to provide advice on how to ensure that scientific advances in weather, water, ice and climate (WWIC) predictions yield benefits for society. One of PPP-SERA task team's major efforts during the Consolidation Phase of the PPP will be the organization of a series of regional weather and society workshops. These workshops aim at stimulating dialogue between environmental forecasters, researchers and end-users, understanding the role and relevance of WWIC services in decision-making of diverse end-user groups operating in the Polar Regions; and engaging users and providers regarding on how best to tailor and co-produce WWIC services.

I propose that a focus-group discussion session be held at the 14th Workshop on Antarctic Meteorology and Climate. After briefly introducing the work of the PPP-SERA task team to the workshop participants, this discussion session will employ a world-café approach to facilitate the exploration of the possibilities existing in the realm of service provision [formats, models, scope, spatial coverage, temporal cover, etc.] in a relatively short amount of time. The perspectives offered by the workshop participants will be duly recorded, collated, analyzed and shared with the participants. Furthermore, lessons learnt during this session will inform PPP-SERA's future weather and society workshops.