Project no. GOCE-CT-2003-505539

Project acronym: ENSEMBLES

Project title: ENSEMBLE-based Predictions of Climate Changes and their Impacts

Instrument: Integrated Project

Thematic Priority: Global Change and Ecosystems

Deliverable Reference Number and Title
M2A.4.2: Final version of the public data server to disseminate seasonal-to-decadal hindcasts

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Start date of project: 1 September 2004   Duration: 60 Months

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: ECMWF

Revision [Final]

1. Introduction

This report announces the release of the public data server for dissemination of Stream 2 seasonal-to-decadal (s2d) ENSEMBLES simulations hosted at ECMWF. The service disseminates global hindcasts using a MARS-based web portal and a tool based on the OPeNDAP technology. Daily and monthly mean atmospheric data and monthly mean ocean fields are available. Fields from the DEMETER multi-model dataset are also available, as well as the monthly mean fields of different ocean analyses. The system has been conceived and developed to help ENSEMBLES users and external scientists to access the hindcasts. Users are expected to comply with the ENSEMBLES data policy.

2. The data server

The s2d ENSEMBLES global hindcasts are disseminated using a MARS-based tool and a server using the OPeNDAP technology. The servers and the documentation are available from
http://www.ecmwf.int/research/EU_projects/ENSEMBLES/data/data_dissemination.html
While the first tool offers a quick and easy way to interactively download the data, the second one offers the possibility of accessing the dataset via client applications. Detailed information about the technology is available in deliverable D2A.4.3.
The datasets are continuously improved, adding more variables. The data have been quality-controlled to the best of our ability, although there is no guarantee that some fields might still contain some corrupted data. If some data have to be reconstructed or blacklisted in the future, the changes to the datasets will be properly documented on the web site.
This service is fully documented on-line. A series of manuscripts are in preparation to scientifically document the datasets. The users are encouraged to check the progress of this task on the following link
http://www.ecmwf.int/research/EU_projects/ENSEMBLES/results/stream2_manuscripts.htm

3. Links

The service is currently linked to two web-based tools:
- The KNMI Climate Explorer (http://climexp.knmi.nl)
- The downscaling web portal from the Universidad de Cantabria
  (http://grupos.unican.es/ai/meteo/ensembles/index.html)

ENSEMBLES application partners are strongly encouraged to use these tools to deal with the Stream 2 s2d hindcasts. Although the hindcasts can also be downloaded through those addresses, it is recommended to download data by accessing the RT1 web site for users to be advised about eventual problems discovered in the datasets and to reduce the burden on those tools, which have not be designed for massive data retrieval.
Other client applications are invited to open a link to the OPeNDAP server.