

**Output from CLIMECO Training Workshop feedbacks
April 2008, Brest, France**

This assessment is based on 16 answers out of 32 participants.

1. General Comments

Q1- Please provide your general comments on the training as a whole (lectures + exercises).

On the whole, the participants really enjoyed this training workshop and found it extremely useful and interesting. They found it beneficial for their own research and for their career. They found the CLIMECO training instructive and a fabulous way to network and communicate with researchers in interdisciplinary topics. For most students it was stimulating and challenging.

"It was a truly interdisciplinary and intercultural experience that I will never forget."

One aspect they miss was the lack of lectures focusing on linkages between climate change and marine ecosystem changes.

Q2 - Was the balance lectures/hands on right?

Yes 87.5%

No 12.5% (maybe a bit too much hands-on, difficulty to follow, lot of information, days were maybe a bit too long)

"It would have been helpful to have an introduction to the use of the software before the hands on sessions."

Q3 - How was the overall level of the lectures in relation to your a priori knowledge and level of understanding of the subject?

much too simple: I did know most concepts & details before → 7%

adequate → 57%

high, but manageable → 36%

much too high: I had difficulties to follow → 0%

How was the overall level of the exercises in relation to your a priori knowledge and level of understanding of the subject?

much too simple: I did know most concepts & details before → 0%

adequate → 47%

high, but manageable → 33%

much too high: I had difficulties to follow → 20%

In general, they found the hands on sessions quite challenging but highly interesting.

Q4 - Would you like to see trainings:

longer → 43%

shorter → 57%

equal → 0%

Q5 - Any particular aspects you missed during the training?

Three major comments brought up from the assessment files.

1- Participants expected to see more lectures and exercises regarding interactions between climate and ecosystems. They would have appreciated more sessions on biology/ecology/biogeochemistry rather than physics.

2- Participants would have liked to have more discussion periods at some points during the workshop (for example, additional time to interpret and discuss the outputs from the analysis, to discuss about controversial results etc...).

3- They would have appreciated a special session dedicated to instructions on how to use the software. Step-by-step instructions would have been useful to be able to follow the hands-on quickly. Some of them spent a lot of time trying to learn how to use a program rather than being able to follow the exercises.

Q6 - Please provide any comments / suggestions you have concerning the organization of the training
(communication with organizers, logistics, accommodation, web site).

The participants found the organization excellent. The communication and logistic (before and during the training) were very good.

"...definitely one of the best organized workshops I have attended."

"The web site is one of the best in workshops I have attended."

Ideas for future training workshops:

- The groups could have been rotated during the hands on sessions, so that students can learn more from each other.
- All participants (students and instructors) could have been welcomed at the same hotel in order to foster interactions.
- The level and background of students were sometimes too different from each other making practical sessions quite difficult.
- More time could be dedicated to poster sessions.

2. Specific comments related to individual lectures and hands-ons.

In the following you may add any specific comments you have concerning the individual presentations and hands on sessions. (ex: Was the intensity of tuition suitable to assimilate the information?)

Lecture by Wilco Hazeleger

Good introduction on what to expect from the course, nice overview on climatic system.
Some of participants would have liked to see a similar lecture at the end of the course, sort of summary.

Lecture by Gustavo Goni

Great lecture, clear and manageable. "One of the most useful lecture". A good overview of the sources of oceanographic data that feeds into ocean assimilation efforts. "Gustavo's online tool was fantastic".
Participants appreciated his willingness to disseminate data, and foster cooperative research.
"Could have more relating to how the OOS will be involved in future climate change studies, how to use OOS for our own research."

Hands-on by Gustavo Goni

Lots of students found the hands on too challenging but highly interesting.
Step-by-step instructions would have been useful before starting the exercises.
Gustavo was very keen on helping and explaining interesting features of the datasets to the students.

Lecture by Benjamin Giese

Very good and extremely interesting.
Participants learnt a great deal about reanalysis products and its applications to understand the climatic system.
"Ben showed a great willingness to share data, to assist us with our own research".
"It would have been good to talk a bit more about the pros and cons of SODA in comparison to other data assimilation efforts that apply different methods, like ECCO."

Hands on by Benjamin Giese

Well organised, participants appreciated his step by step approach.
"Very useful, he made us understand the power of the reanalysis products."
"This was a much more successful lab since there were some example scripts to work from."

Lecture by Anne-Marie Treguier

Very interesting, clear and thorough. Well organised.

"She made the modelling easier to understand."

"We particularly liked the contrast between the IPCC type projection models and the short term forecast models."

"Some slides with many acronyms and jargon were not easy to follow."

"It would have been good to have a list of ongoing modelling efforts/products that are available on a regional basis."

Hands on by Anne-Marie Treguier

Quite challenging but manageable

Really useful.

"I liked the idea of producing some output figures and then discuss the results"

"I liked the 30 mn breakout session after the hands on to discuss both exercises. Might be good to do this at the end of every practical."

"Maybe too intense, sometimes difficult to follow".

Lecture by Geert Jan van Oldenborgh

Very interesting, clear and easy to follow.

"His lecture was very dynamical, covering the diverse forcings occurring in nature. I learnt very much."

"It was just fantastic. The only things I would add are some examples of interpreting outputs from the analysis tool before the lab."

Hands on by Geert Jan van Oldenborgh

Very useful. Most of the participants found the Climate Explorer web site great and useful.

"The climate explorer web-site he constructed is excellent, and having the opportunity to learn from him the tools was very exciting. I will try to use his site to teach students back home."

"This hands on was less challenging than the others. It might be better to make it a bit more difficult in the future.

Lecture by Raghu Murtugudde

Very good but sometimes too much information to assimilate.

"His capacity to cover diverse themes is amazing, he has everything very clear and that helped on my understanding of ecosystems."

"I didn't know most concepts before, it was fascinating."

"A bit too much information."

"I think it is a difficult subject thus perhaps splitting all the material into 2 lectures could be a possible future option."

Hands on by Raghu Murtugudde

Very interesting.

"My favourite hands on! I really enjoyed finding an ocean triad."

"A short presentation before the workshop and then handing out the presentation on paper would have been very useful."

Lecture by Mat Collins

Good lecture of a difficult subject. Well organised, generally easy to follow.

"The review of the IPCC reports, even for those of us who have read them, is really important, especially from "the source".

"I found his lecture very interesting because it gave me an idea of what climate models are capable of and what are their limitations. Also he made it clear for us on how to evaluate the different model outputs of the IPCC, and understand the complexity of the models."

"A good overview of the IPCC models and process. I would have liked more discussion on the appropriate uses and misuses of the IPCC model runs in further analysis."

Hands on by Mat Collins

Good, interesting but too many exercises with the time allocated.

"I learnt very much on how climate is being modified due to humans, and how to force models to obtain these two distinct scenarios. It was really good."

"I particularly appreciated this practical (well prepared) even if I have only done half of the work with the time allocated."

Lecture by Geir Huse

Well organised and easy to follow although more limited in scope than the previous talks.

"It was really interesting to learn how to use and analyze biological data."

"I found it very useful the way he linked physics (temperature changes) with different fisheries and other species abundance such as seals. Great lecture!"

"I would have liked to learn more about modelling of fishes."

Hands on by Geir Huse

Interesting, well organised.

"The software was easy to run and the instructions were clear."

"His simulation model for studying fish responses to climate change was excellent. He made us understand that biological and physical processes can be coupled in the same model if you have the right tools and data."

"This hands on was quite interesting because it really allowed for changes with time to be easily visualized."