

The Climate Impacts LINK Project

Funded by the UK Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Contract Ref EPG 1/1/68

The Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia

The Climate Impacts LINK Project: Applying Results from the Hadley Centre's Climate Change Experiments for Climate Change Impacts Assessments

The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), formerly (DoE), is responsible for leading the development of United Kingdom Government policy in response to the threat of climate change. It is essential that such policy should be underpinned by sound science. The DETR therefore commissions policy-relevant research, drawing where possible on the wider national and international research base. The DETR also commissions research on climate prediction, most notably through the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, together with research on climate impacts and response strategies.

The Hadley Centre Programme is a key component of the approach taken for improving our understanding of climate change. It is well recognised, however, that our assessment of the potential effects of climate change is relatively undeveloped. The Climate Impacts LINK Project was conceived to encourage research on impacts and to ensure that the most recent results

from the Hadley Centre would be made available to a wider community in an effective and consistent manner. Since 1991 the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia has hosted the Climate Impacts LINK Project and has disseminated the results of the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments to hundreds of researchers throughout the UK and elsewhere.

The main aims of the Climate Impacts LINK Project are:

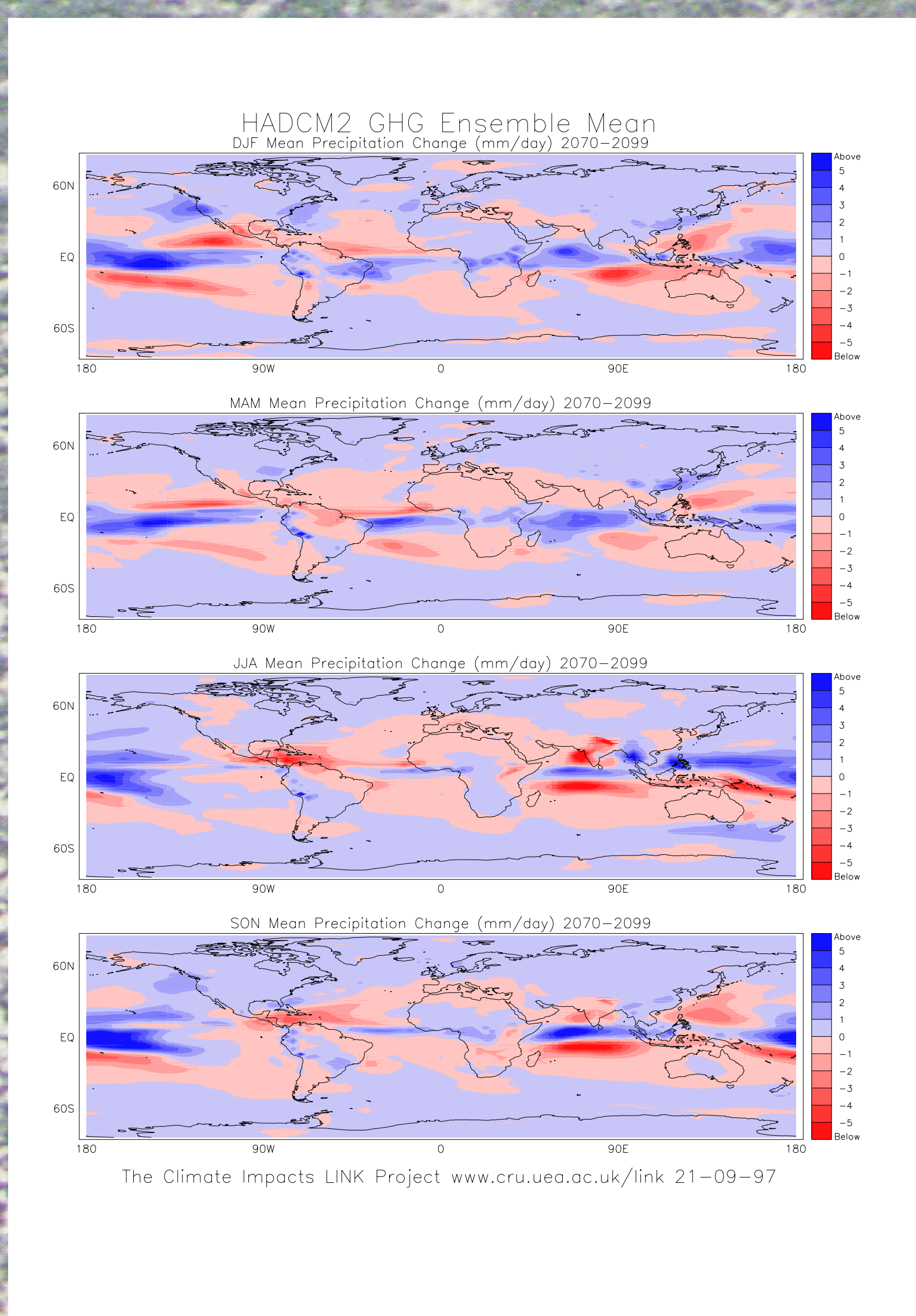
- to make results from the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments and a variety of observed climate datasets available to the international climate change research community in forms that are easy to use and interpret.
- to provide a supporting role to the climate change impacts community to help ensure that the climate change scenarios are employed in an appropriate and consistent manner.
- to provide information to the international climate change research community about the nature of the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments and other relevant modelling and scenario activities. Data flow within the climate change impacts research community

This poster provides an introduction to the Climate Impacts LINK Project

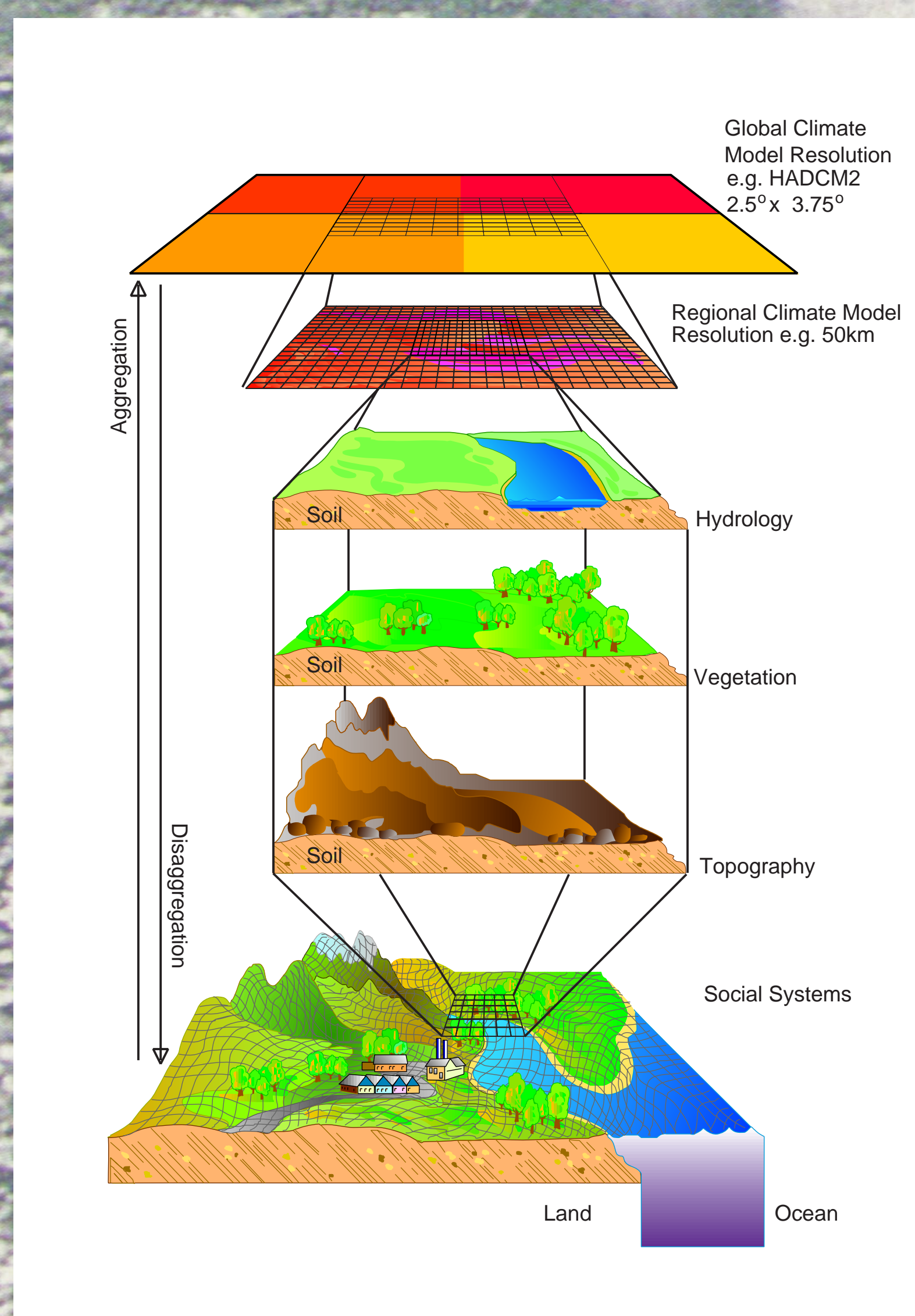
In 1991 the DoE established the Climate Impacts LINK Project to act as the interface between the climate modelling activities of the Hadley Centre and the wider UK climate change impacts research community. Such a Project was needed to ensure that

more effective use could be made of results from the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments. Consequently, the Climate Impacts LINK Project co-ordinates a two-way channel of data and information flow between the Hadley Centre and the national impacts research community and disseminates appropriate climate data and accompanying scientific and technical advice. Over time, the focus of the Climate Impacts LINK Project has moved from supporting national UK impacts research to supporting international impacts research. This has occurred partly as a result of the high profile the Hadley Centre climate change experiments have received and partly due to the success of the Climate Impacts LINK Project in making results available and providing a user support service. An ever-increasing number of research projects, institutes and individuals rely upon the easy availability of the Hadley Centre's results for use in research projects. To date over 100 research projects and programmes have used data provided by the Climate Impacts LINK Project. These include among many others: the IPCC; the US Country Studies Programme; component projects of the European Commission's Climate and Environment Programme; the UK Terrestrial Initiative on Global Environmental Research (TIGER) Programme; and SILMU (Finnish Research Programme on Climate Change).

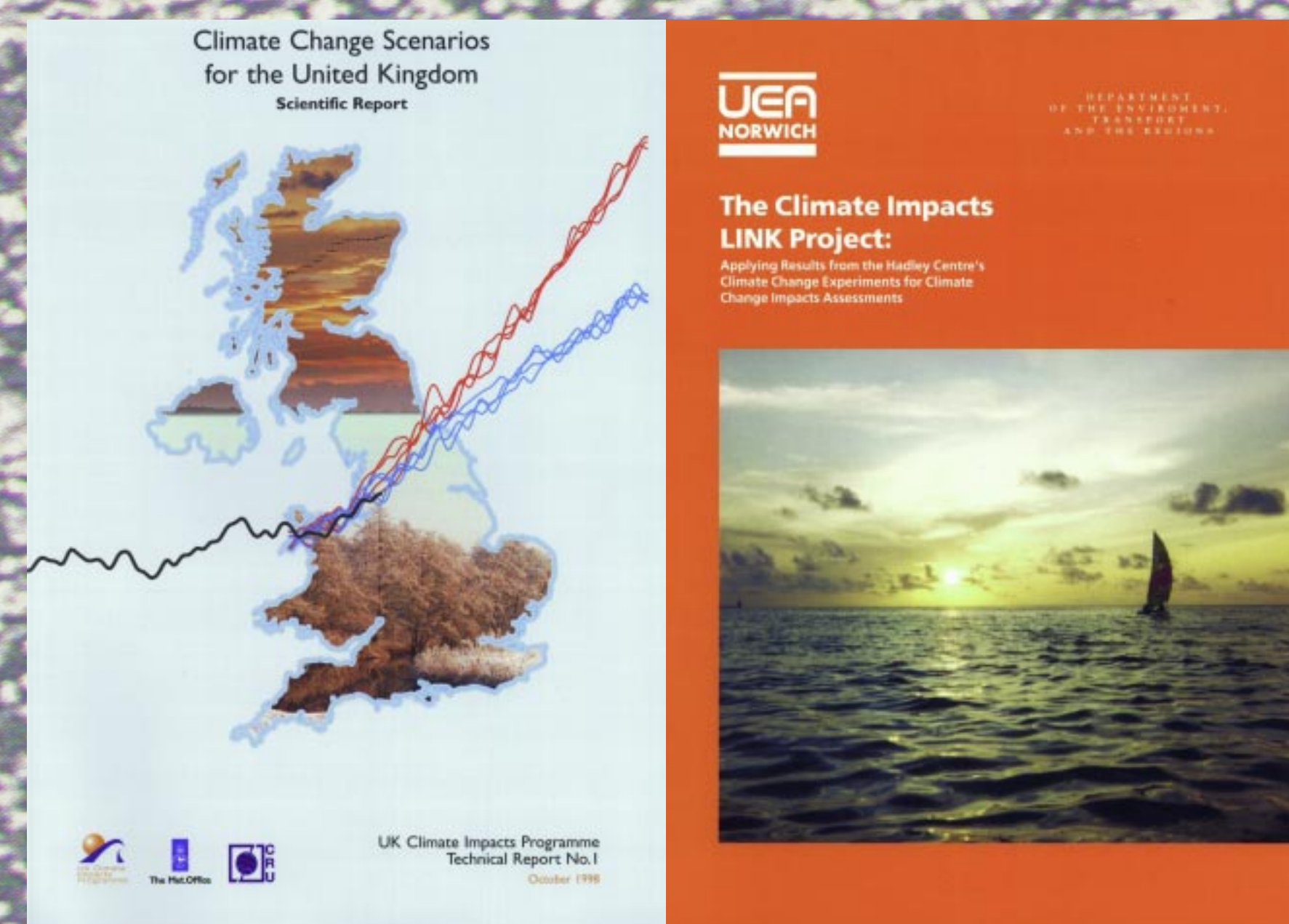
The Climate Impacts LINK Project continues to evolve to provide the results of the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments in the most appropriate way to meet the requirements of the impacts community. For example, when the Project was first established in the early 1990s the largest climate model datasets consisted of two integrations of only ten years in length. Advances in supercomputing technology have now resulted in numerous multi-century climate change integrations from which to archive data sets. The Climate Impacts LINK Project is now established as a major international focal point for the provision of observed and model-generated climate datasets. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Data Distribution Centre is operated in conjunction with DKRZ, Hamburg under the auspices of the Climate Impacts LINK Project. The IPCC DDC can be found at <http://ipcc-ddc.cru.uea.ac.uk>.



Seasonal mean changes in precipitation as represented by the HadCM2GHG Ensemble mean



A conceptual diagram showing the range of scales involved in climate change scenario construction



The Climate Impacts LINK project produces scientific and technical reports to accompany the results of the Hadley Centre's climate change experiments

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UKCIP: Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom

Recent Publications

The Buxton Climate Change Impacts Laboratory

The IPCC Data Distribution Centre: An Update

The UK Climate Impacts Programme: Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom

The Buxton Climate Change Impacts Laboratory

Relevant research papers and reports

The IPCC Data Distribution Centre: An Update

Foreword

This is the Sixteenth Issue of this Newsletter and marks the start of the fourth phase of the Climate Impacts LINK Project which is now set to run until September 2000. I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to Elaine Barrow who has worked on the LINK project for the past few years. She is being replaced by Ruth Doherty, who returns to CRU having previously worked as a postdoc at ITE, Edinburgh, Wisconsin and NCAR.

In this issue we detail two new reports that have been produced by the Climate Impacts LINK Project for the UK Climate Impacts Programme. These reports describe how the climate of the United Kingdom may evolve over the next century.

We continue our regular feature on relevant research papers and reports. We also include for the first time details of relevant and interesting web sites. If you have published any relevant papers and reports, or wish to have your web-site announced in future issues of this newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me.

An announcement is also made of the Buxton Climate Change Impacts Laboratory which has recently been established by the University of Sheffield.

Finally as a removable annex there is an update as to the status of the IPCC Data Distribution Centre.

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