

**Sub-task Number:** CB-09-02b

**Sub-task Title:** Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health

**Overarching Task:** Building Individual Capacity in Earth Observations

**Area:** CAPACITY BUILDING

**Relevant Committee:** CBC

**Related Targets:** (to be included in 2009)

**Sub-task Definition** (as given in the 2009-2011 Work Plan):

Develop a sustainable “Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health” building on the efforts of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and the Mailman School of Public Health. The Summer Institute will offer public health decision-makers and their partners the opportunity to learn practical methods for integrating climate knowledge and information into health decision-making processes through expert lectures, special seminars, focused discussions and practical exercises.

**Leads** (GEO Member or PO, Entity carrying out the work, Contact: e-mail):

USA (IRI), Point of Contact: Madeleine C. Thomson, Chair Africa Regional Programme,  
mthomson@iri.columbia.edu - Web: <http://iri.columbia.edu> - The IRI is a PAHO-WHO  
Collaborating Centre for Climate Sensitive Diseases

USA (CIESIN), Marc Levy, Marc.levy@ciesin.columbia.edu

USA (Columbia), Patrick Kinney, Mailman School of Public Health, Plk3@columbia.edu

### **Motivation/Background**

The Summer Institute ‘Climate Information for Public Health’ aims to start to fill a gap identified in the capacity of health practitioners and their partners in the operational research community (from both health and climate environment disciplines) to improve the management of climate related risks associated with adverse health outcomes.

**Outputs** (e.g. products and services which result from the activities of the Task/sub-task; outlined in the form of deliverables with timelines)

**Planned:** An expected 12 ‘trainer of trainers’ will participate in the 2009 Summer Institute. The expected learning outcomes of the Summer Institute are as follow:

- Understand the role climate plays in driving the infectious disease burden and public health outcomes.
- Understand management and data integration as an opportunity to improve the decision making process in Public Health
- Understand the timescales, the benefits and limitations of different climate and environmental data sources including remotely sensed data, meteorological data and climate predictions
- Use new tools for accessing climate and epidemiological data, for analyzing and mapping through the IRI Data Library and WHO Open Health
- Understand how climate information is relevant to the public health decision making process

**A new proposed activity is to create a specific malaria – climate training platform that is accessible over the web and to use this platform in training workshops for malaria control professionals and their climate-environment partners in disease endemic countries – especially in Africa.**

**Produced** (current status):

*Activities (operations or work processes through which resources are mobilized to produce specific outputs; outlined in the form of milestones including timelines)*

Planned:

Finalise curricula  
 Identify participants  
 Identify resources  
 Implement course 2-12 June 2009-01-12

Progress (current status): ...

Building on what was achieved for 2008 training material is currently being created

The 2009 course is open to applicants

<http://portal.iri.columbia.edu/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=964&PageID=0&cached=true&mode=2&userID=2>

Fundraising is underway to cover the cost of scholarships. 5 scholarships have been resourced to date.

*[Note: Updates on outputs and activities will be formally provided twice a year, according to the GEO schedule for 2009]*

**Resources** (*indication of resources – e.g. financial, human – contributed by GEO Members or Participating Organizations to produce outputs*)

The course has been developed and continues to be developed by IRI with contributions from CIESIN and Mailman School of Public Health. In 2008 it was estimated that the total human resource effort was 2 FTE for the development of training material, associated developments in the IRI Data Library and course teaching and evaluation.

Course cost is \$7250 per person which includes all US based expenses including the cost of staff contributing to the course.

This year it is estimate that the human resources support will be of the order of .5 FTE

**Architecture and Data Component**

1) Please briefly describe any task-related Earth observation resources (data set, system, website/portal) and any related Web Service interfaces that are contributed to GEOSS. State whether these items are or will be registered with the GEOSS Component and Service Registry for access via the GEO Web Portals, and whether any associated standards or other interoperability arrangements will be registered in the Standards and Interoperability Registry.

2) Please also describe what data and information your activity/system needs that you would request to be accessible through the GEOSS Common Infrastructure.

**Capacity Building Component**

(*capacity building is defined to include the development of capacity related to: (i) Infrastructure and technology transfer (Hardware, Software and other technology required to develop, access and use EO); (ii) Individuals (education and training of individuals to be aware of, access, use and develop EO) and (iii) Institutions – building policies, programs & organizational structures to enhance the value of EO data and products).*)

1) In accordance with the above definition does this Task have a capacity-building component? If so, please provide a short description of this component including a description of end users.

This initiative is entirely about capacity building as the objective of the work is to build capacity in the course participants to understand and use climate information in public health decision-making. This course targets professionals who play a research role in the operational decision making or public health-care planning, evaluation, surveillance or control of climate sensitive diseases.

2) *Have any additional CB needs for this Task been identified? Please provide a short description.*

Not that I know of.

### ***User Engagement Component***

*(please briefly describe to what extent end users are engaged in this Task and influence the nature of the outputs produced)*

The alumni of the 2008 Summer Institute have been engaged in the creation of national climate and health working groups in Ethiopia, Kenya and Madagascar as well as contributing to strengthening climate and health activities in Niger and Colombia. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has recently included a section on climate information in its training of students on a Masters programme in Humanitarian studies and Colombia University students are also increasing exposed to this work.

We have had requests for participation in this course from

1. Ministry of Health staff (e.g. Ethiopia, Colombia, Kenya, Madagascar etc)
2. International organisations WHO, IFRC
3. Meteorological services
4. Researchers from US, African and Europe.

### ***Science and Technology (S&T) Component***

1) *Please briefly describe the elements of scientific research or technological development contained in this Task.*

2) *In relation to the S&T component(s) of this task, please describe gaps, priorities, continuity needs, barriers, scientific expertise and additional resource needs (this information will be used for developing a gaps and needs assessment in Task ST-09-01)*

### ***Members and POs' Contributions to Outputs and Activities above:***

*(Input is optional. This section gives the chance to Members and POs to provide more details (3-5 lines) on their individual activities, making a clear connection with the Outputs and Activities outlined above).*

#### **Portugal**

*Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto (FLUP): Asthma crisis, air pollution and urban heat islands at Porto.*

#### **USA**

*NOAA: Develop a sustainable "Summer Institute on Climate Information for Public Health" building on the efforts of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and the Mailman School of Public Health.*

***Participation (Table to be filled in 2009):***

Type	Member or PO	Representing	Contact Name	EmailAddress
Lead(PoC)	USA	International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)	Madeleine Thomson	mthomson@iri.columbia.edu
Lead	USA	Mailman School of Public Health	Patrick Kinney	Plk3@columbia.edu
Lead	USA	CIESIN	Marc Levy	Marc.levy@ciesin.columbia.edu
Contributor	Portugal	Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto (FLUP)	Ana Monteiro	anamonteirosousa@gmail.com
Contributor	USA	NOAA	Peter Robinson	peter.robinson@noaa.gov