

The WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme

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Scientific Officer

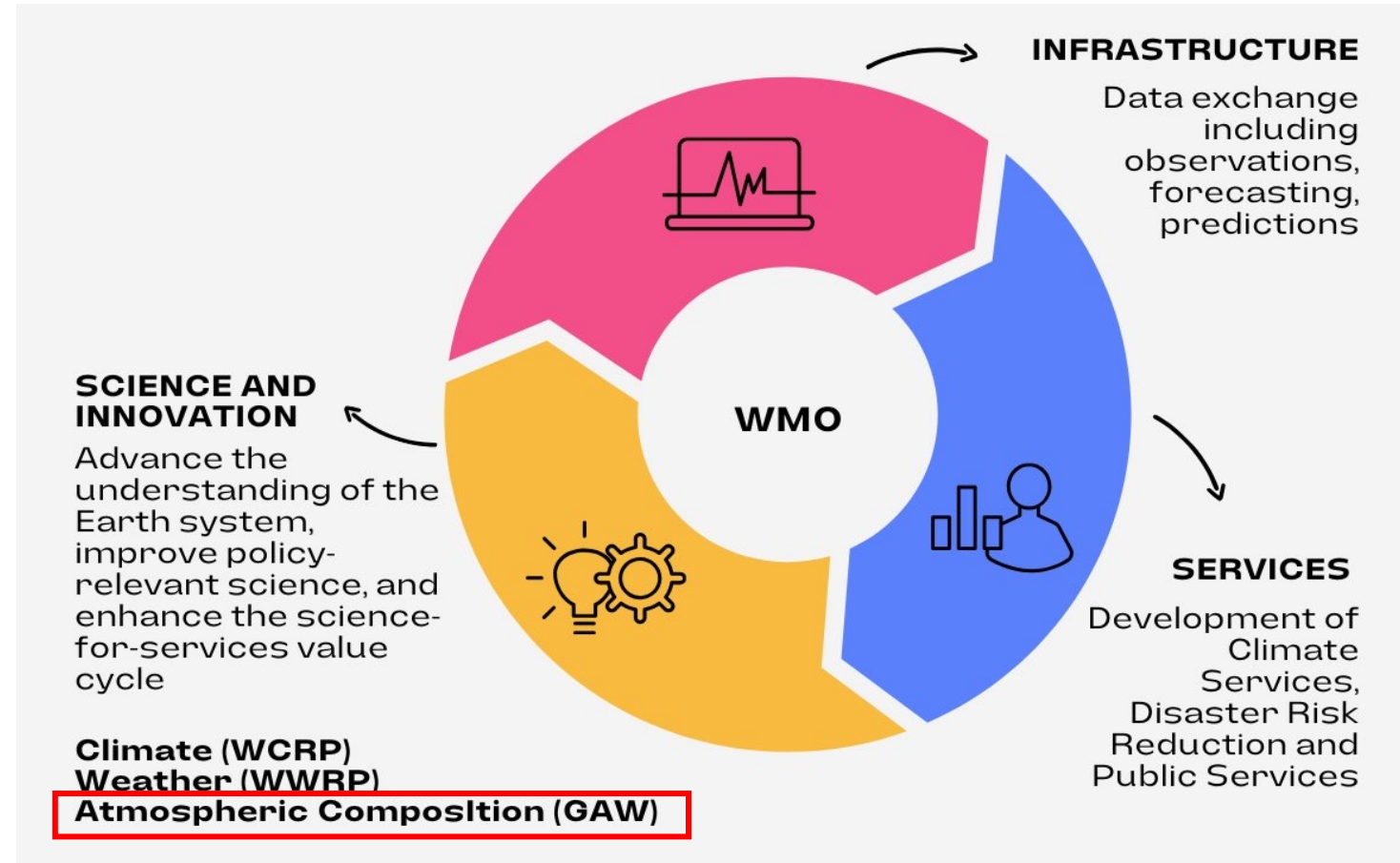
WMO Science and Innovation Department



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- UN specialized agency on weather, climate and water.
- It's supported by 193 Members and the headquarters is in Geneva (Switzerland).
- Coordinates work of > 300,000 national experts from meteorological and hydrological services, academia and private sector.
- Co-Founder and host agency of IPCC.



WMO Research-Operations Departments

The WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme



Advance and enhance science, services and infrastructure related to atmospheric composition, and support policies for society through applied research aimed at improving the understanding of the roles of aerosols, reactive gases, stratospheric ozone and greenhouse gases and their interactions in the Earth System

Drivers: Global societal needs



GAW builds on partnerships involving contributors from 100 countries (including research community)

Support to international conventions and SDGs

- The Convention on Long-range transboundary Air pollution (LRTAP)
- The Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention (*ozone*)
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
- The Convention on Biodiversity
- The Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP)
- UN Coalition for Combating Sand and Dust Storms



The GAW Programme: 4 pillars

- **Scientific assessments:** advancing scientific understanding through analysis of global data sets,
- **Monitoring Infrastructure:** provision of atmospheric composition data;
- **Capacity Building and education:** provide training opportunities for all GAW users from all regions
- **Science-for-Services Initiatives:** engage with user communities for supporting services and policies,

GAW Scientific Assessments

- Publish community assessment reports and high-level scientific papers on the state of the atmosphere and its evolution,
- Provide technical recommendations for monitoring atmospheric composition and modelling
- Contribute to international reports

<https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-21-87-2021>

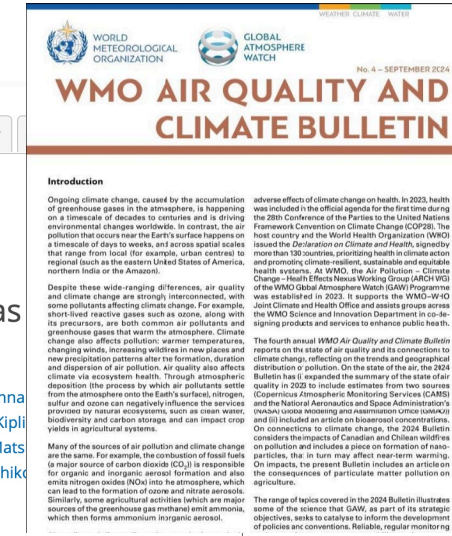
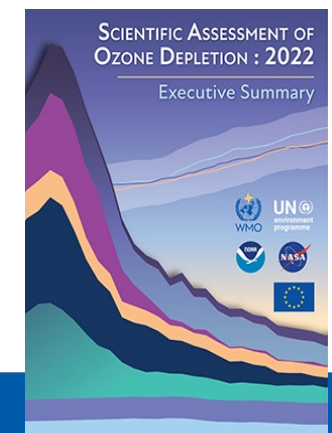
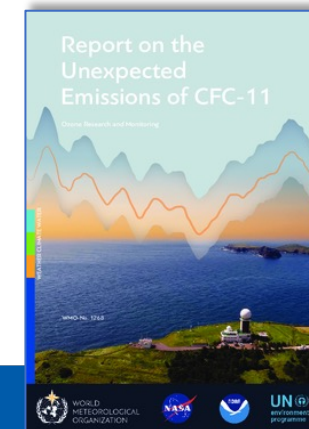
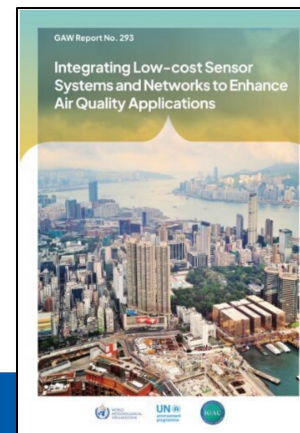
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Article Assets Peer review

Research article | 

AeroCom phase III multi-model evaluation of the aerosol life cycle and optical properties using ground- and space-based remote sensing as well as surface in situ observations

Jonas Giliß, Augustin Mortier, Michael Schulz, Elisabeth Andrews, Yves Balkanski, Susanne E. Bauer, Anna Huisheng Bian, Ramiro Checa-García, Mian Chin, Paul Ginoux, Jan J. Griesfeller, Andreas Heckel, Zak Kipli Harri Kakkola, Paolo Laj, Philippe Le Sager, Marianne Tronstad Lund, Cathrine Lund Myhre, Hitoshi Mats David Neubauer, Twan van Noije, Peter North, Dirk J. L. Ollivé, Samuel Rémy, Larisa Sogacheva, Toshihiko Kostas Tsigaridis, and Svetlana G. Tsyro



GAW: Monitoring Research Infrastructure

Strengthen the atmospheric composition measurement and data infrastructure and contribute to understanding trends and variability and extremes.

- More than 200 parameters
- Intercomparisons
- Measurement guidelines
- World Data Centers

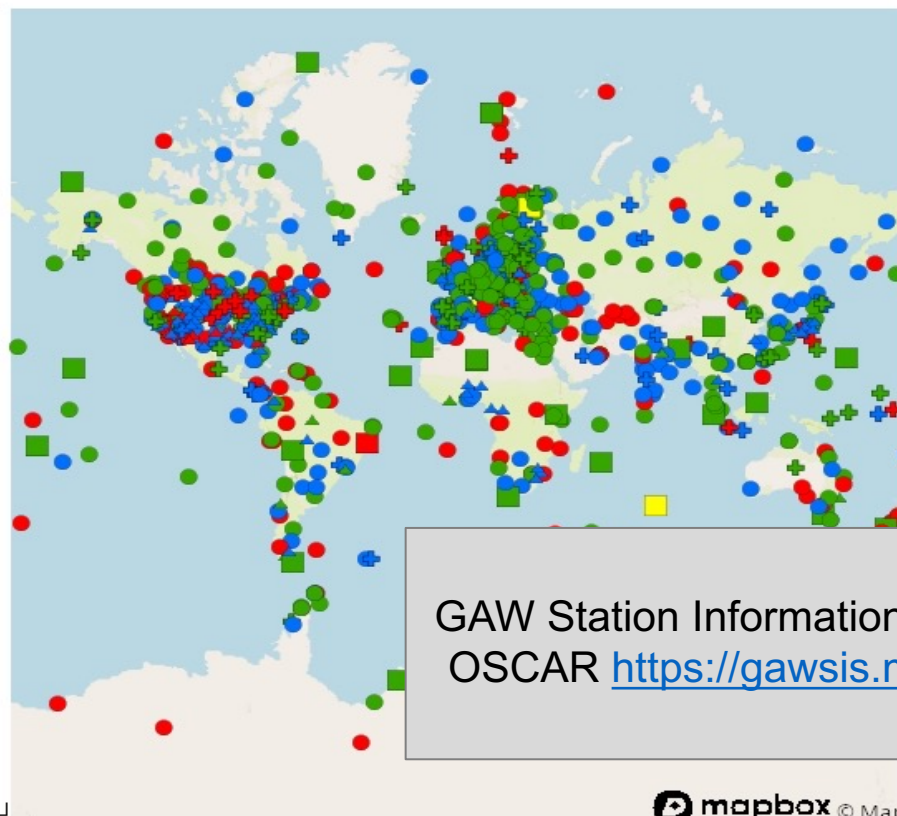
Open access with emphasis in QA and QC



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss



GAW Station Information System (**GAWSIS**) part of OSCAR <https://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch/GAWSIS/#/>

mapbox © Mapbox © WMO © OpenStreetMap

Global
Regional
Contributing networks
Local
Other networks

Operational
Partly operational
Non-reporting
Closed
Planned
Pre-operational
Stand-by



Filling gaps:
LCS and satellites,
but also National
AQ networks
Integration!

GCOS – Global Climate Observing System

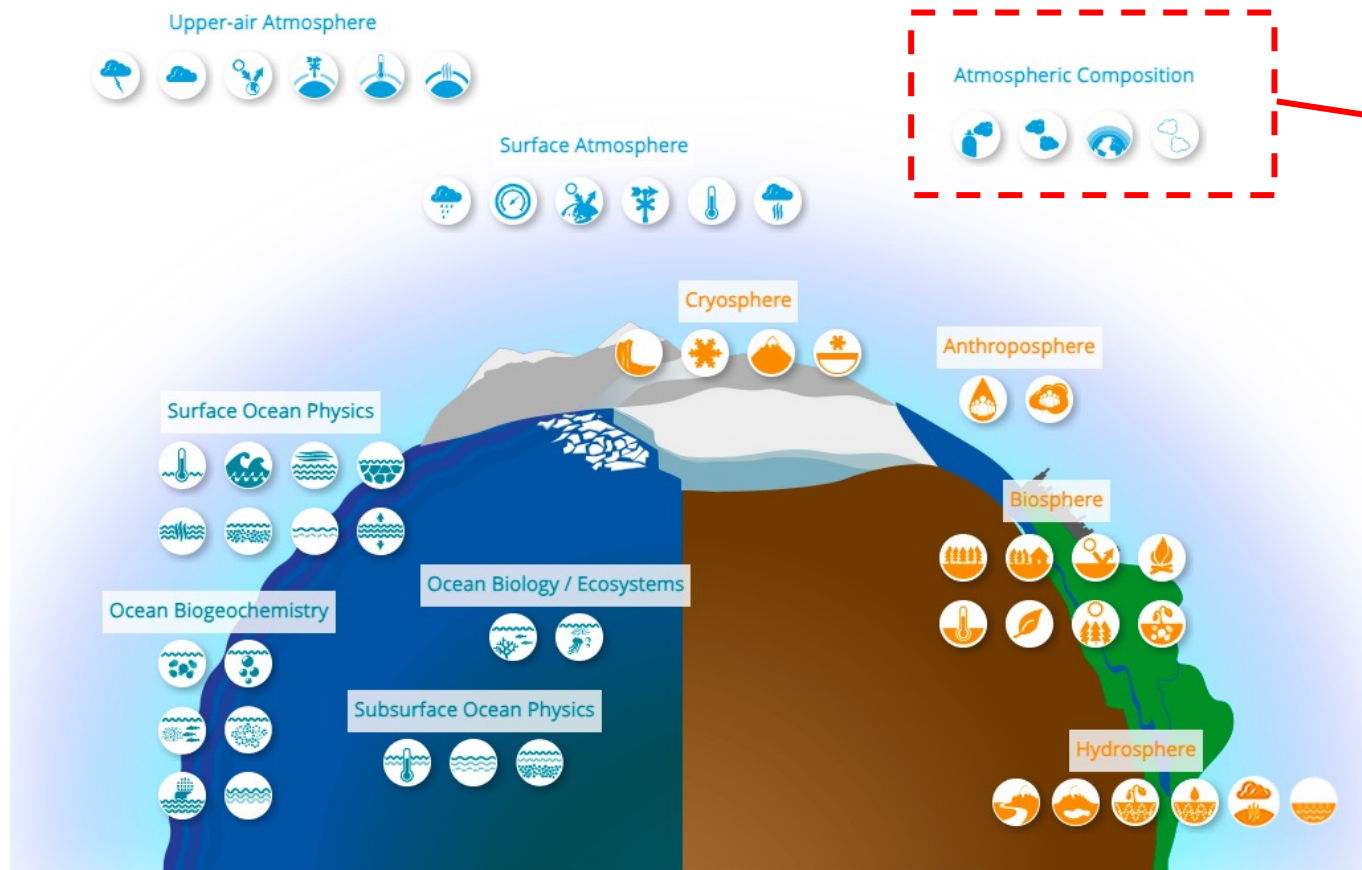
- GCOS regularly assesses the status of global climate observations and produces guidance for its improvement. GCOS works towards a world where climate observations are accurate and sustained, and access to climate data is free and open.
 - GCOS expert panels maintain definitions of **Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)**.
 - It is GCOS' task to make sure, that the totality of all climate observation networks **is more than the sum of the individual networks**, forming together the one Global Climate Observing System, providing the full picture of our climate.



<https://gcos.wmo.int/en>

GCOS – Global Climate Observing System

Essential Climate Variables



Atmospheric composition Focal Areas

- **Aerosols (chemical and physical properties, AOD)**
- Carbon Dioxide, Methane & Other Greenhouse Gases
- Ozone and vertical ozone distribution
- Precursors for Aerosols and Ozone (CO, SO₂, NO₂)

GAW Research Infrastructure

<https://gcoss.wmo.int/en/essential-climate-variables>



<https://gcoss.wmo.int/en>

Capacity Development

- Provision of training to GAW station operators through the Global Atmosphere Watch Training & Education Centre (GAWTEC)
- GAW stations instrument intercomparison and calibration campaigns
- Training on data quality control, data use, modelling tools and quality assurance procedures

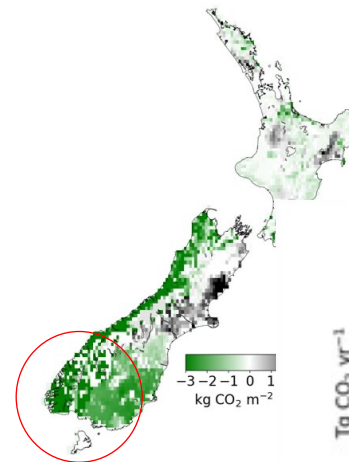
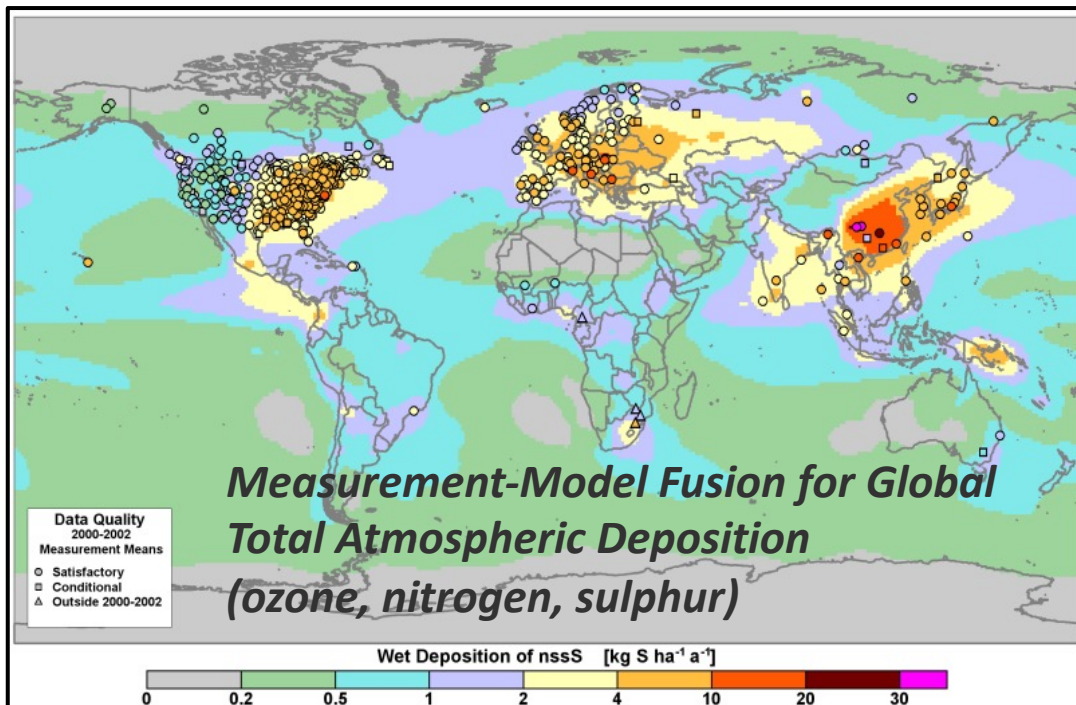


Science for Services

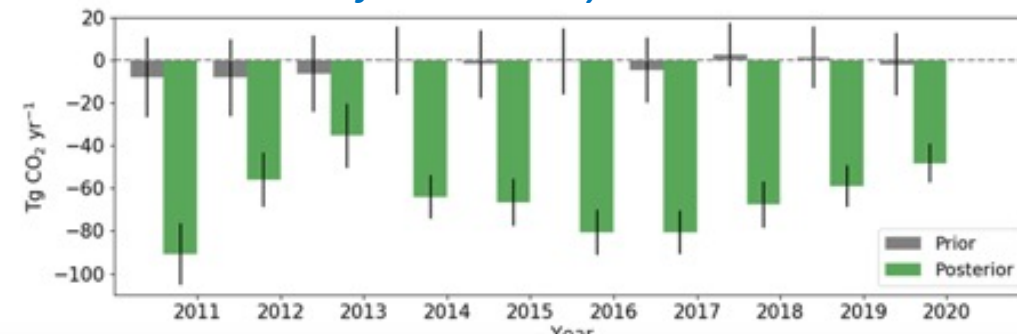


*Advance the application of atmospheric composition information in support of policies and conventions, and expand **societal services** related to air quality, human and ecosystem health, **climate change** and food production.*

Deposition to ecosystems and crops + climate action



Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System



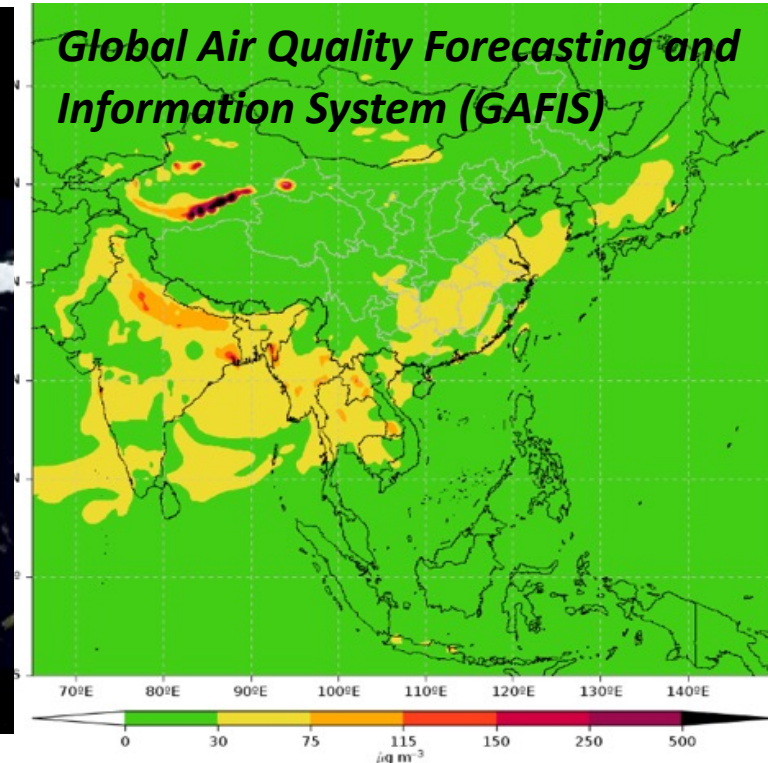
Aotearoa New Zealand's terrestrial carbon uptake

*Advance the application of atmospheric composition information in support of policies and conventions, and expand **societal services** related to air quality, human and ecosystem health, climate change and food production.*

*Vegetation Fire and Smoke
Pollution VFSP-WAS*

January
2017

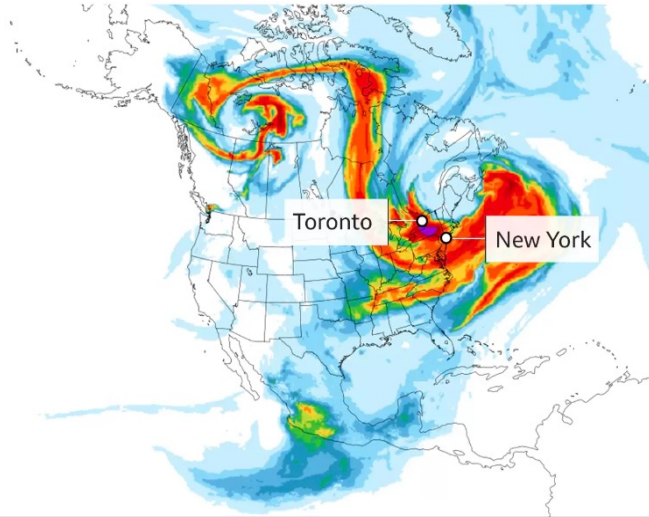
purple: low emissions
yellow: high emissions
big circle: large fire events



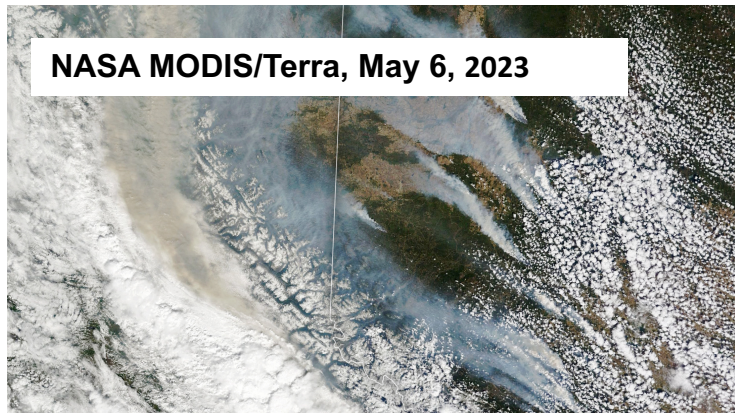
WMO-GAW Warning Advisory and Assessment Systems (SDS-WAS and VFSP-WAS)



The World Meteorological Organization spearheads a Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System.



Data from NOAA on Wednesday 7 June 2023



NASA MODIS/Terra, May 6, 2023

International coordination of research for weather and climate

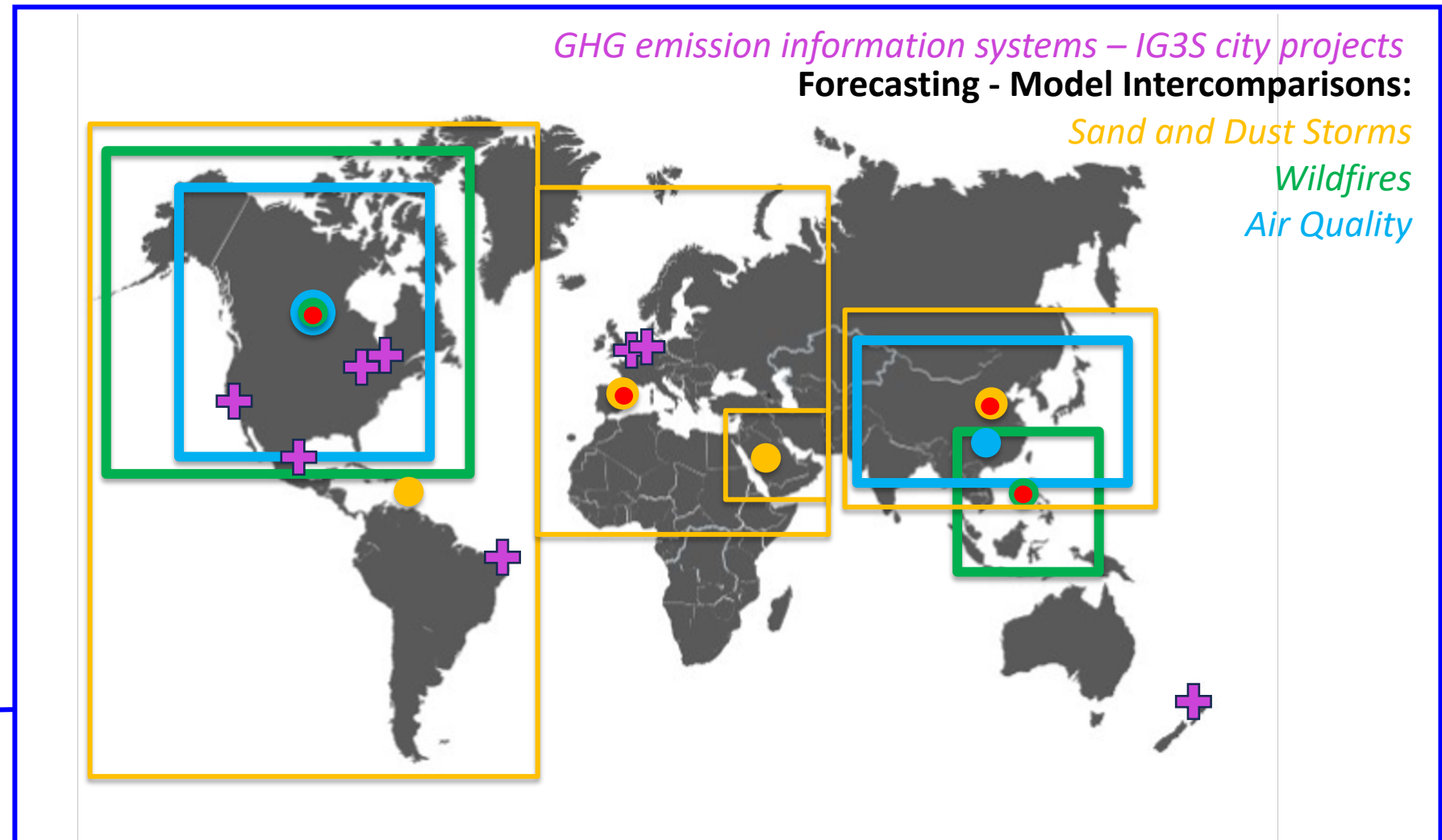
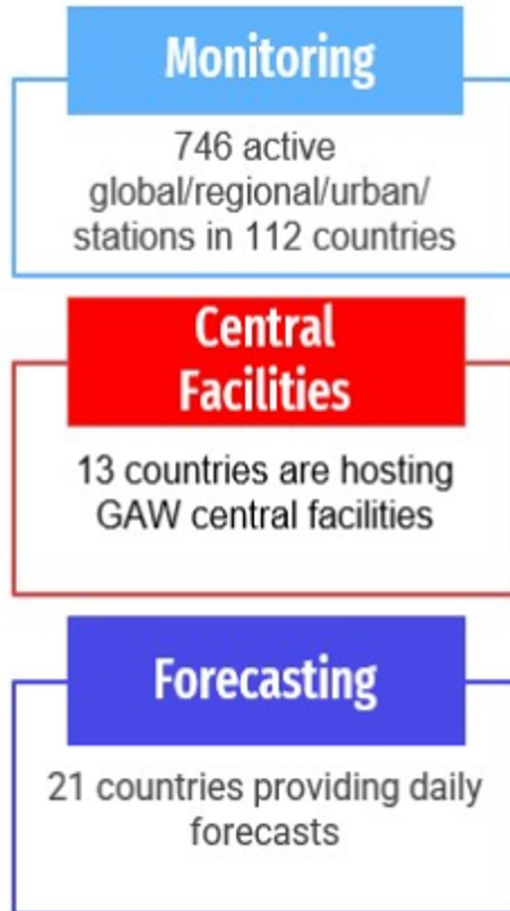
Identification and assessment of SDS and VFSP impacts

Promoting the use of current available products (observations and monitoring)

Building capacity and facilitate access to the available services

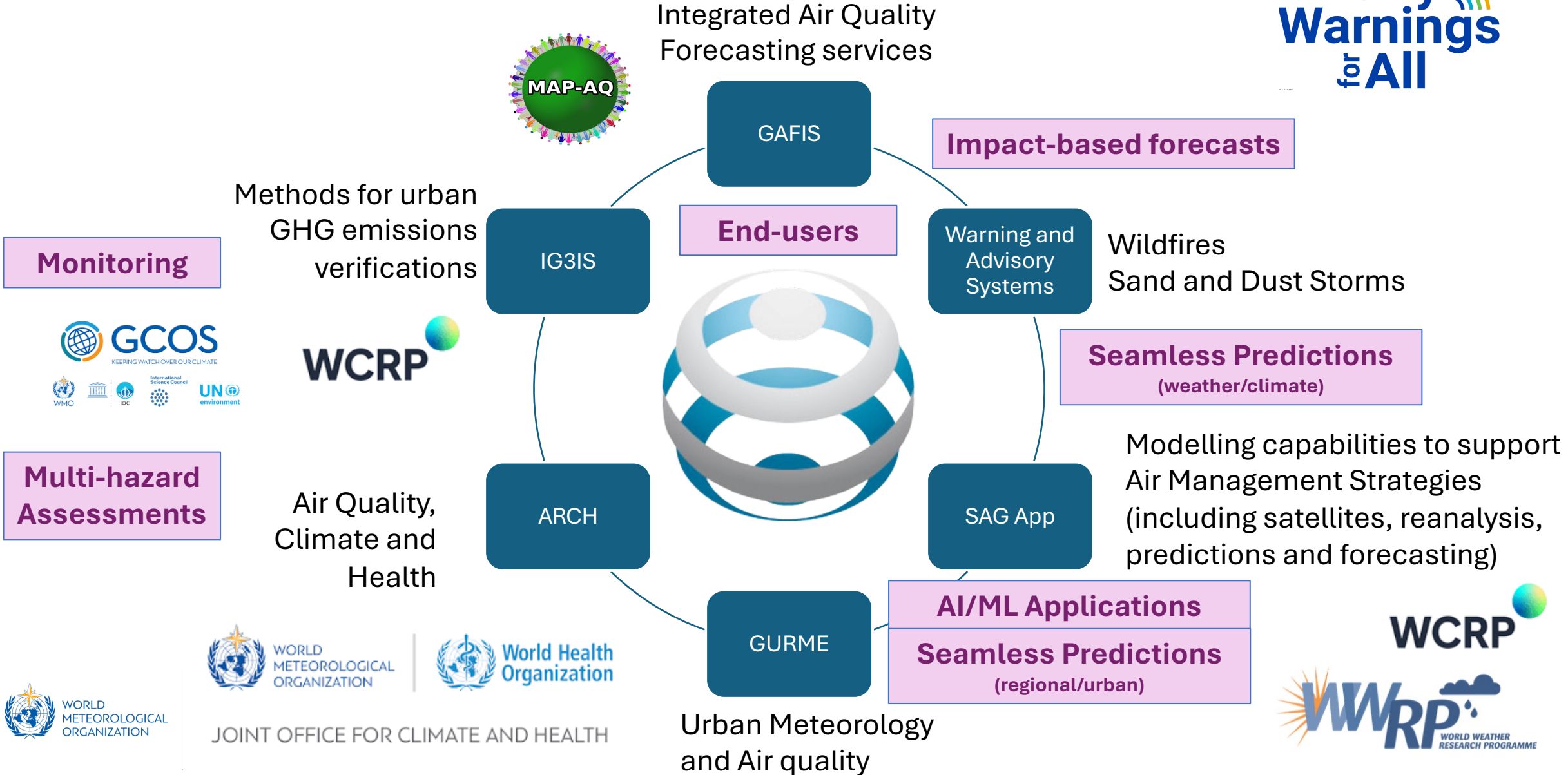
Dissemination and awareness

Infrastructure for the provision of Services

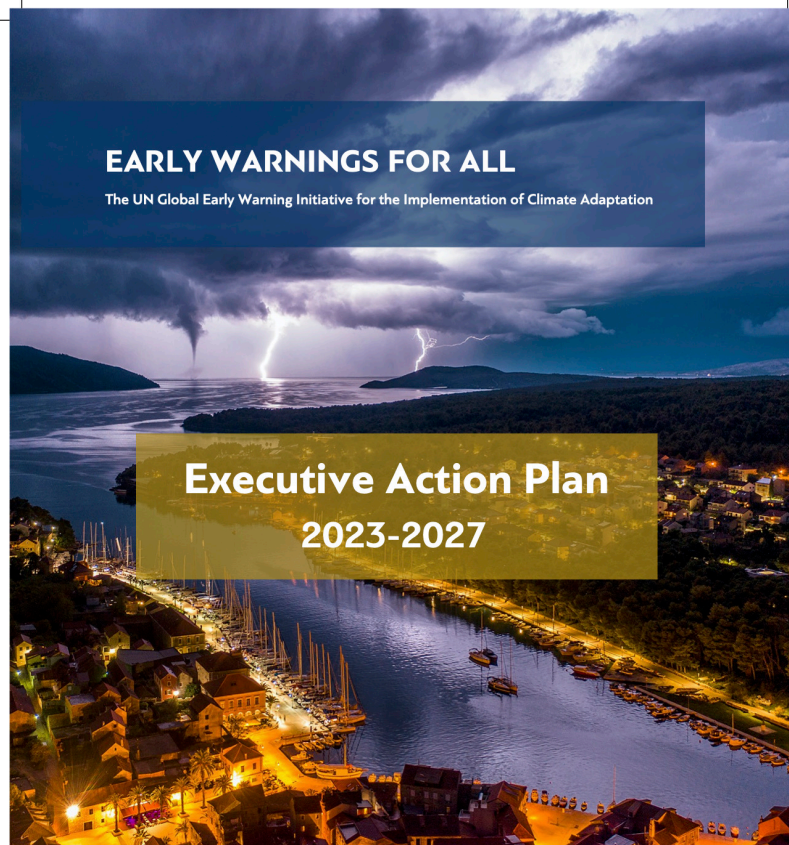


Ongoing Cross-cutting Urban discussions

Early
Warnings
for All



UN Early Warning for All | EW4All



“The facts are clear. Early warnings save lives and deliver vast financial benefits. I urge all governments, financial institutions and civil society to support this effort.” – UN Secretary-General António Guterres



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

+C IFRC



Strategy build in 4 pillars:

1. Disaster risk knowledge and management
2. Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting
3. Warning dissemination and communication
4. **Preparedness** and response capabilities

50% of countries not protected by Early Warnings
In the list of hazards are SDS and wildfires



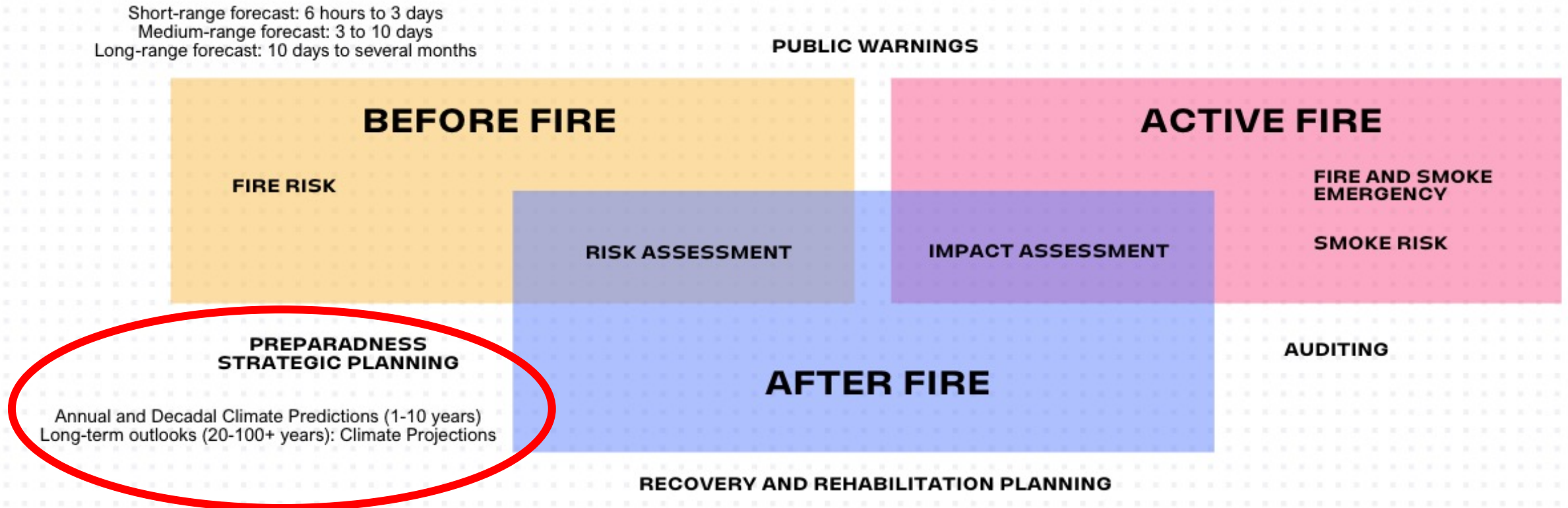
WORLD
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WEATHER CLIMATE WATER



Early Warning Services, e.g. wildfires



GAW community

Subscribe to the
GAW Newsletter
for staying to date
on our activities



GAW Symposium

13-17 April 2026
WMO Headquarters
Geneva



<https://community.wmo.int/en/activity-areas/gaw/news>

WGNE and GAW discussion points

- **Bridging Observations and Modelling:** How can GAW observational networks and datasets be more effectively integrated into WGNE model development and evaluation to close gaps between observed and simulated atmospheric composition?
- **Model Evaluation and Verification:** What joint methodologies or metrics can GAW and WGNE develop to systematically evaluate and improve the representation of key atmospheric composition processes in models?
- **Coupled Processes and Earth System Integration:** How can GAW observations support WGNE efforts to better represent chemistry–meteorology–climate interactions, such as aerosol–cloud–radiation feedbacks, in coupled models?