UCAR Climate Services Evaluation supports NCAR and UCAR member organizations’ delivery of climate science to decision makers. UCAR Climate Services Evaluation is also an important resource for facilitating collaborations and drawing on multi-disciplinary expertise to provide a comprehensive view of the climate services continuum, describe the critical interdependencies of climate service activities and identify intervening variables that help or hinder the translation of these services into desired outcomes.

**Evaluation Tools and Products**

- **Assessments of User Needs for Climate Services**
  How do you know what your users need from your science? How technically proficient are they? Do they understand the role of uncertainty in climate data and projections? Delivering climate services tailored to local needs and contexts first begins with assessing user needs. Without sufficient engagement with climate service users, subsequent implementation will likely result in poor or non-existent outcomes. Within UCAR, we utilize a broad suite of tools for assessing different types of needs – resource inventories to assess community capacity, service statistics for assessing presence/absence and utilization of services, surveys for assessing perceived needs, and planning open meetings as a forum for collecting data on expressed needs. Collectively, these tools ensure data is gathered on all aspects of needs, so climate services can be delivered appropriately.

- **Climate Services Data Collection Tools**
  UCAR offers a full continuum of evaluation services that include: 1) developing and piloting new data collection instruments; 2) data collection and analysis; 3) preparation and presentation of briefings; and 4) preparing final reports that provide recommendations based on data findings. The following data collection tools have been developed and piloted for a number of UCAR programs and projects:
  - Observational protocols
  - Online surveys
  - Focus groups/individual interview
  - Rubric development
  - Needs assessment
  - Comparative analysis data collection

- **Training and Evaluation Capacity Building**
  Building evaluation capacity among climate services providers and partner organizations is important to any long-term, sustainable strategy for improving climate services. Researchers within the UCAR Evaluation Program host training workshops intended to build internal capacity for monitoring and evaluation. These workshops are highly interactive, giving participants an opportunity to develop logic models, performance measures, and outcome mapping tools for tracking the number and various types of outcomes associated with climate services delivery.

- **Climate Services Logic Models and Theories of Change**
  Logic models are useful tools for describing how resources that support climate services are intended to lead to long-term impacts such as improved decision-making and economic productivity. By visually displaying connections between climate services resources, activities, products, dissemination pathways, and user outcomes, the logic model is a critical tool in assisting in the development of evaluation plans and strategic data collection. Within UCAR, we have an overarching framework for evaluating climate services programs and products.

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