

Integrating Climate Forecasts and Societal Decision Making

Challenges to an Emergent Boundary Organization

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ABSTRACT

The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) was created in 1996 with an "end-to-end" mission to engage in climate research and modeling at the seasonal-to-interannual time scale and to provide the results of this research in a useful way to farmers, fishermen, public health officials, and others capable of making the best of the predicted climate conditions. As a boundary organization, IRI straddles the divides between the production and use of research, and between the developed world and the developing world. This paper will describe the institutional history of IRI, examining how the "end-to-end" mission evolved over time, how it is becoming institutionalized in IRI as a boundary organization, and the ongoing challenges it presents to managing the boundary between climate variability research and societal applications.

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