

The South German Climate Office at KIT

Making climate research usable for society

Which effects does global climate change have on our region? Which trends are emerging and how does global climate change influence our daily life? What can we do to deal effectively with anthropogenic climate change? How can we adapt to the inevitable consequences? These and many other questions arise in many branches. Planners and decision-makers in politics, industry, and society need scientifically sound and close-to-practice information to deal with these issues. The South German Climate Office at KIT is committed to providing exactly this information. It is one of four Helmholtz Climate Offices (Karlsruhe, Leipzig, Geesthacht, Bremerhaven) having different regional and thematic focuses. The offices study interactions between the atmosphere, ice, ocean, and land surfaces as well as between natural climate fluctuations and human impacts. They also are members of the Helmholtz Climate Initiative (REKLIM, Regional Climate Changes and Humans), in which eight research centers of the Helmholtz Association, among others, pool their resources. The South German Climate Office, together with the three other climate offices, communicates REKLIM's relevant research findings to society.

Interactions Between the Atmosphere, Ice, Ocean, and Land Surfaces

High-resolution climate modeling, extreme weather events, aerosols and cloud processes, floods and the water budget are only some of the issues dealt with by KIT's Troposphere Research Department of the Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research and the South German Climate Office. Coupled climate models are used to demonstrate the regional and local impacts of changes of the climate system.

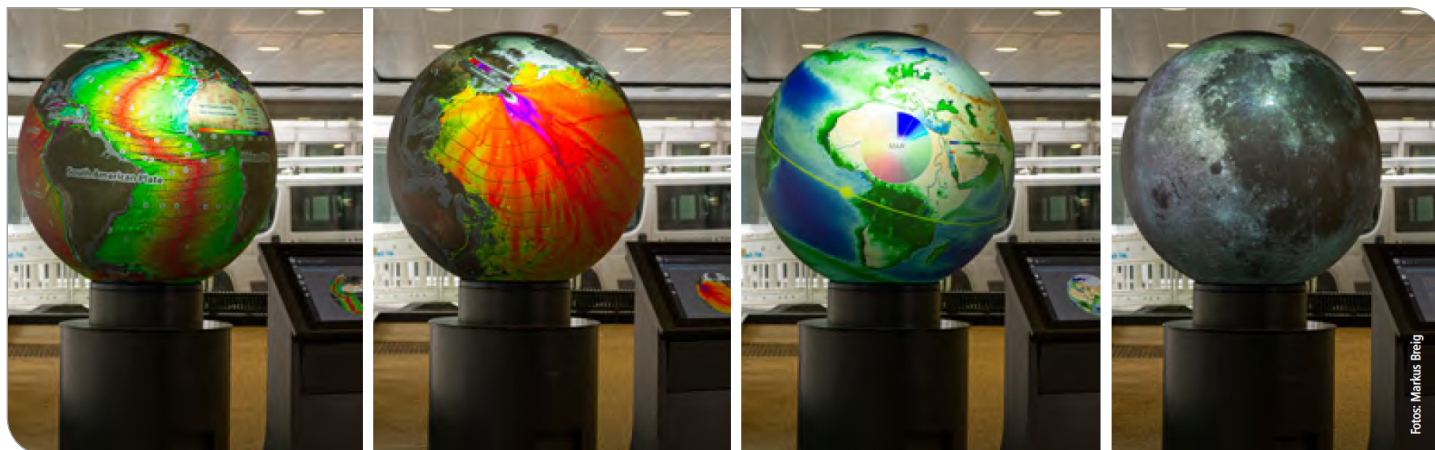
Figure: The core tasks of the South German Climate Office of KIT are "raising awareness," "stimulating dialog," and "coupling sciences."



Core Tasks: Raising Awareness, Stimulating Dialog, Coupling Sciences

As climate change is already noticeable in a large part of our society, but effects vary, **raising awareness** is of high importance. For this reason, the South German Climate Office of KIT offers presentations for clubs, companies, and school classes. Together with researchers, it sets up information material on construction, forestry, and energy, among others. Regular presence in the media is indispensable. As many aspects of regional climate change are interrelated, thus forming a big complex of questions, **in-depth dialog** is required. The South German Climate Office offers an adequate platform.

It promotes dialog by e.g. joint workshops of researchers and society. Moreover, it communicates research findings in various bodies and working groups. The impacts of climate change can already be noticed in many areas of daily life. Science has responded and, among others, studies measures to adapt to climate change. The South German Climate Office of KIT **initiates scientific projects** of climate research and other science disciplines and answers questions of industry, media, and politics in a scientifically sound way.



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