



## **The North German Climate Office – An interface between science and practice**

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After several years of experience with the analysis of regional climate change and its impacts, in particular changing risks related to storms, storm surges and ocean waves we have sensed a broad need in the public to discuss aspects of climate change in a concrete manner, i.e., beyond the alarming general news often provided by the media. It has turned out that the need for background information regarding regional climate change and its impacts is enormous. Interaction with various stakeholders needs to be intensified, ranging from agricultural collectives and syndicates, coastal defence authorities, reinsurances, tourist organizations, energy providers, water suppliers, school classes, and local authorities, policymakers, and roundtable discussion clubs. In particular specific questions are raised, which are often unknown to the climate research institutes – such as the changing needs for pumping low-lying areas, changing strategies in coastal defence arrangements, changing needs for secure town planning and urban management or the manner how to adjust the agriculture in Northern Germany to a changing climate. Initially these requests were dealt with on an ad-hoc basis, but it turned out that this was not a sustainable practice. Therefore the North German Climate Office has been set up at GKSS. The office acts mainly by intensive communication to various stakeholders, by condensing the questions, and to provide answers mostly based on in-house research in the form of assessment reports related to the respective stake holders.