



Climate related sea level data availability in the Mediterranean Sea

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Coastal sea level data are collected from tide-gauges installed by civil or military national authorities as well as, in a few cases, private entities. From the data collected some are made available to the user in real time other with various degrees of delay and some are never made available but their existence becomes known when the occasional paper describing them becomes published. Presently a number of established services, new initiatives and projects aim to make sea level data provision easier and more efficient. Some of these have been developed as a public service by National Services, others followed research and monitoring initiatives at regional or global scale while others were developed in order to facilitate the development of very specific needs a prime example being the development of a tsunami warning system. The data provided under these services may vary in quality, time delay as well as in respect of the different tide gauges included in each of these services and their associated measurements in respect of environmental parameters and land movements. This work aims in describing for the user the presently existing data services within the Mediterranean Sea and their characteristics and assess the validity of such data for climate related research. Through the development of a questionnaire we assess the usage of the various services by researchers and suggest, where necessary, improvements. The views of researchers working for providers in respect of the suitability of the networks and their views on the various data paths will also be explored. This work is a joint initiative of MedClivar, MedGLOSS and ESEAS.