



Trift glacier at Weissmies in Saas valley in summer 2015  
From "Werkstattgespräch" with Prof. Martin Funk  
([vimeo.com/142795405](https://vimeo.com/142795405))



Trift glacier at Weissmies in Saas valley after breaking off on 10 September 2017

# Simulation of climate change and scenarios for Switzerland

*Christina Schnadt Poberaj*

*and the CH2018 team:*

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Christoph Schär, Christoph Raible, Simon Scherrer,  
Cornelia Schwierz, Silje Sørland, Kuno Strassmann  
and many more*

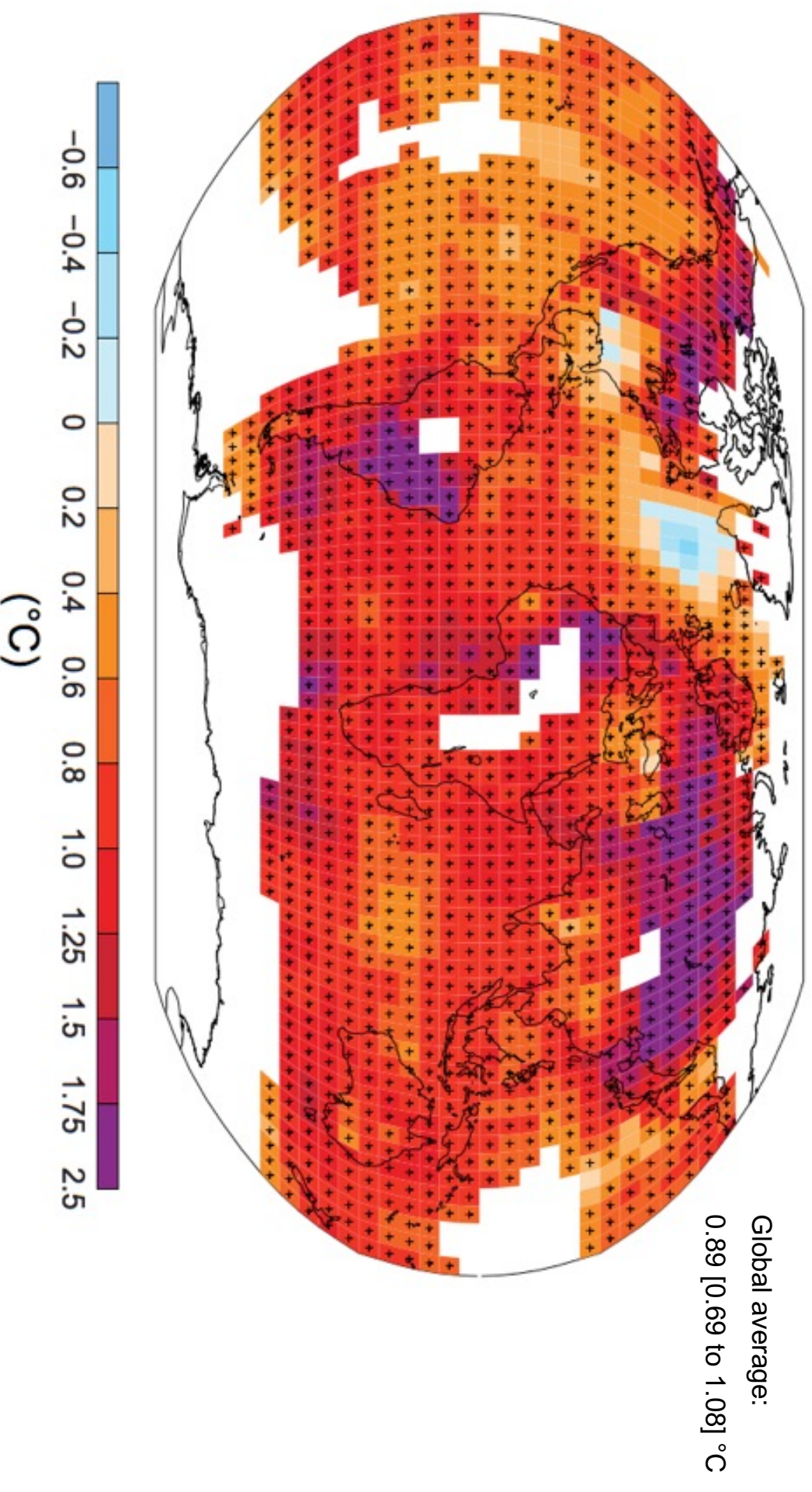
## **Structure**

**Has climate changed in Switzerland?**

**Global and regional climate modelling**

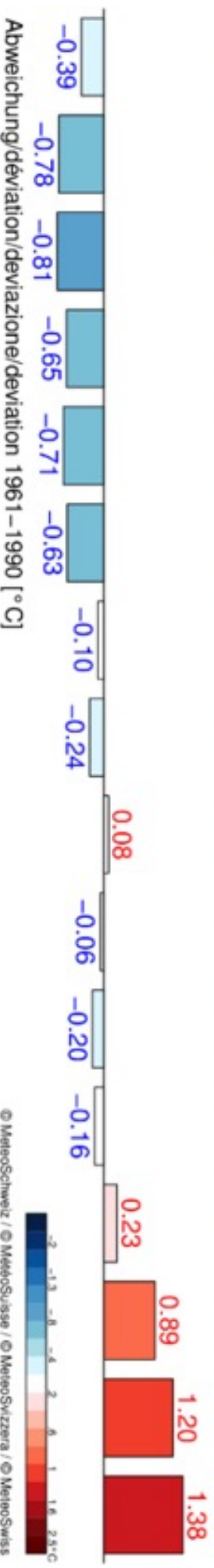
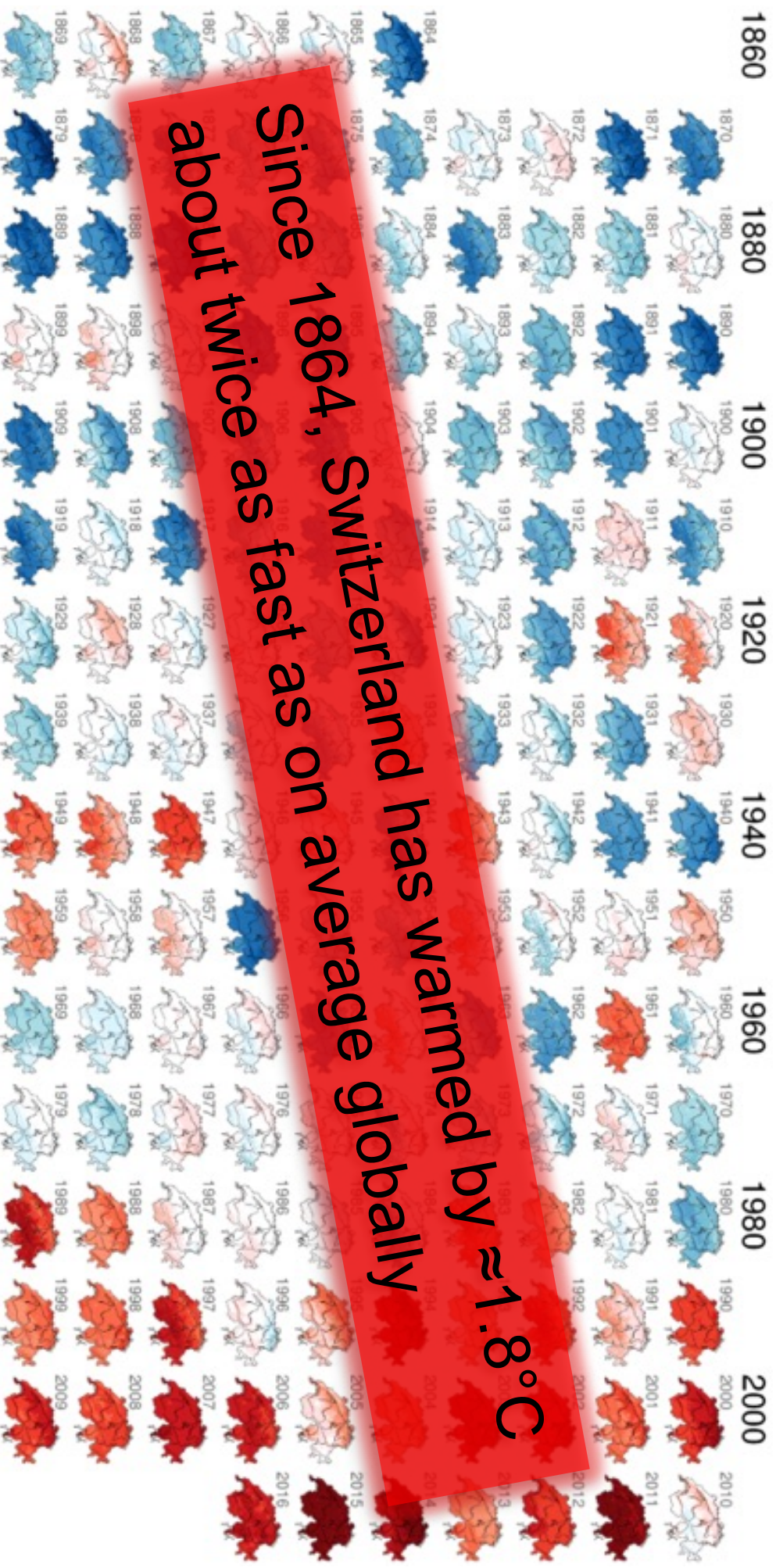
**Swiss climate change scenarios**

# Global surface temperature changes 1901 - 2012



IPCC AR5, Figure SPM1.1.b

Data set: National Climatic Data Center, National Merged Land-Ocean Surface Temperature Analysis





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Föderation des Kantone  
Bundesamt für Meteorologie und Klimatologie MeteoSchweiz

**MeteoSCHWEIZ**



**ETH zürich**

**u<sup>b</sup>**

UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

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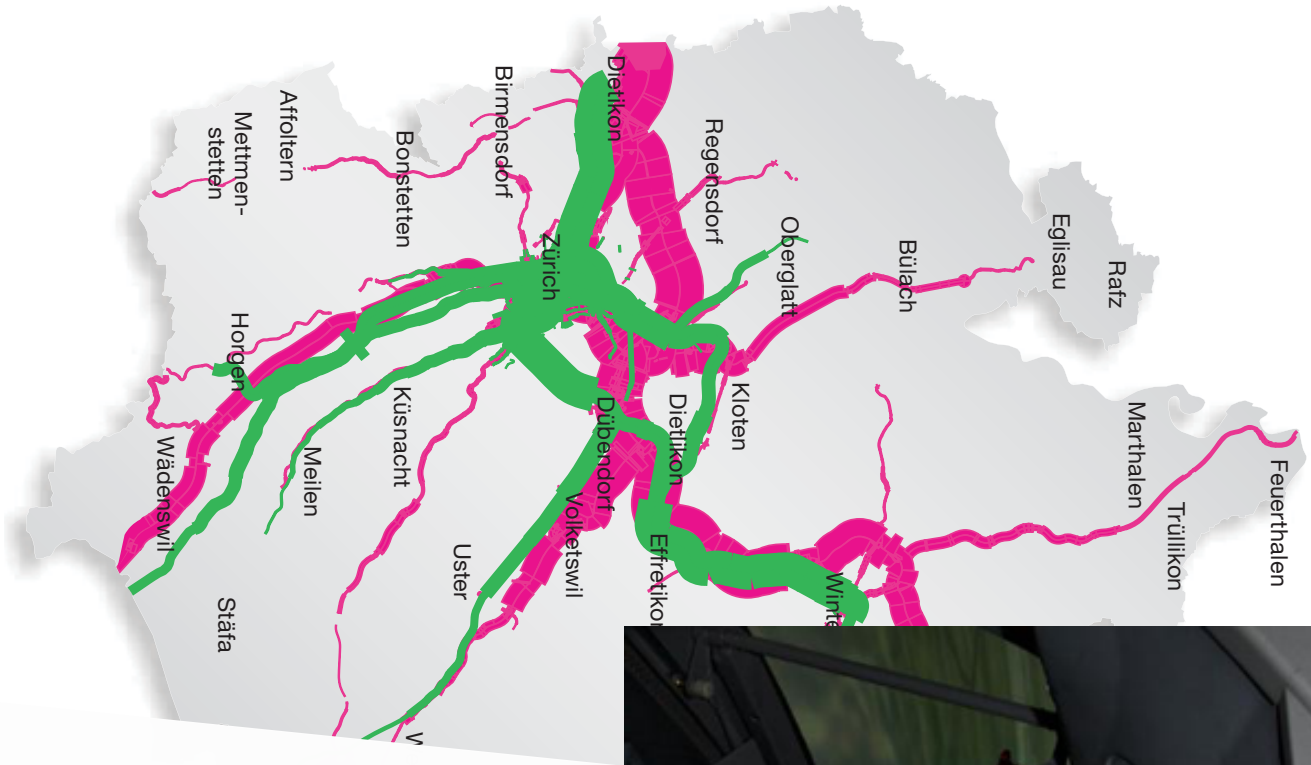
Science and Policy  
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences  
Proclim  
Forum for climate and global change

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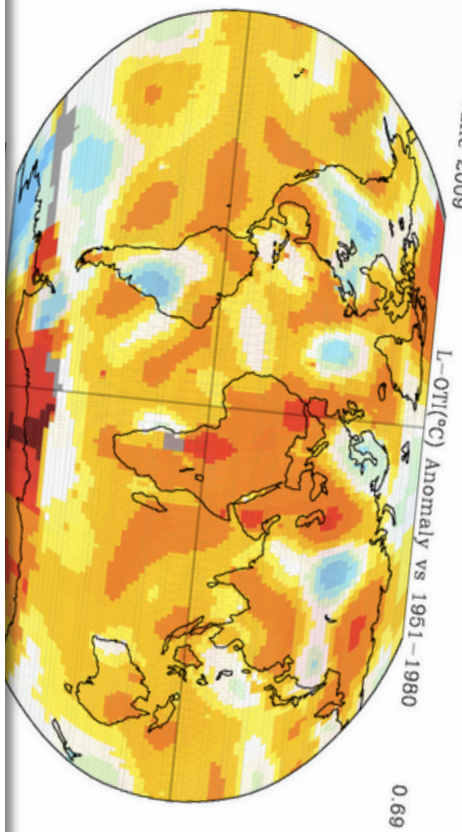


Models simulating Earth's climate help scientists to understand past climate and project future climate

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## Ein Indiz mehr für den Klimawandel

Die momentan herrschende Hitze wird als Extremereignis angesehen. Sie gilt als weiterer Hinweis auf den durch den Menschen verursachten Klimawandel.

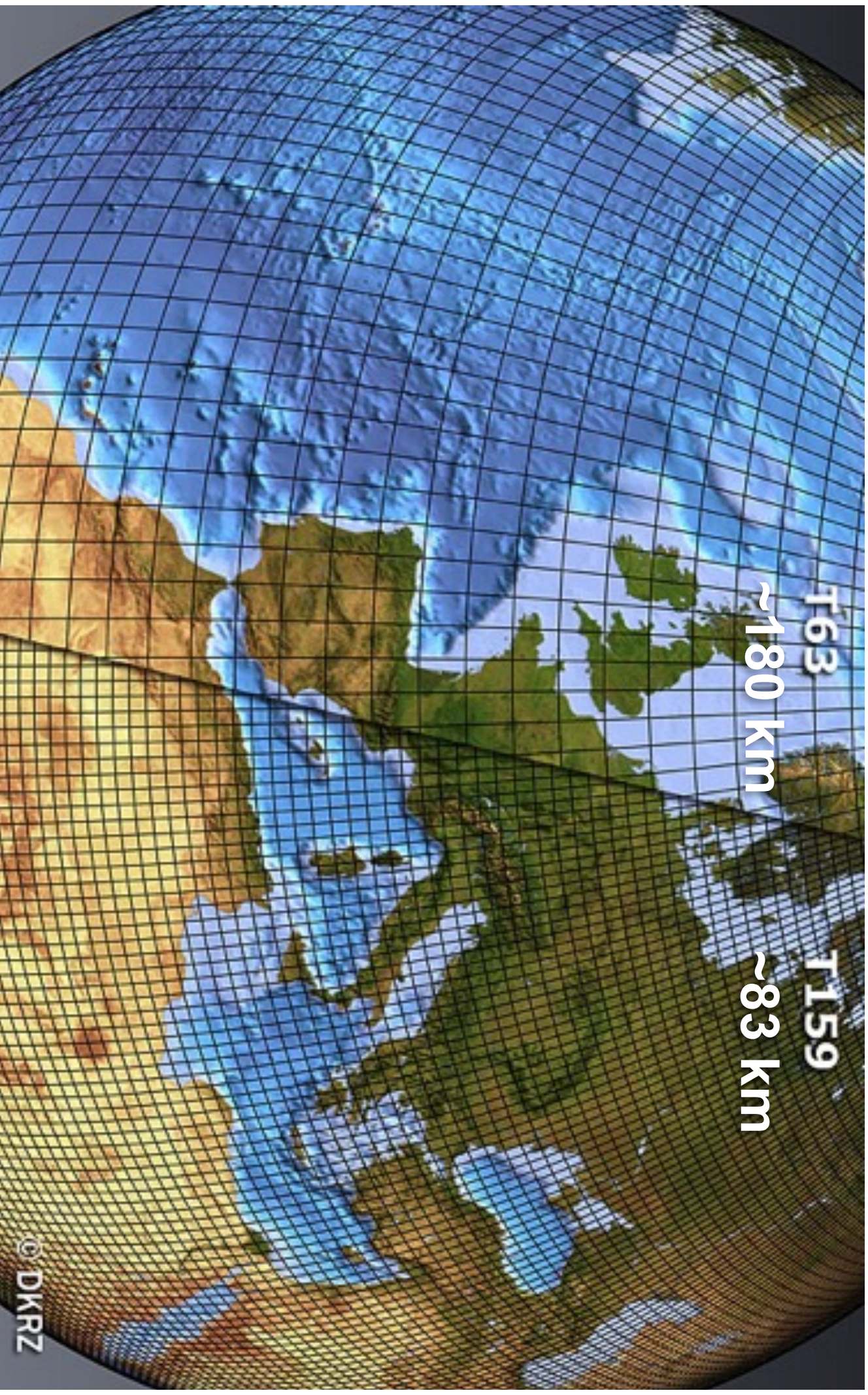


**Artikel zum Thema**  
 Die Sonne schwächtelt, aber der Klimawandel ist stärker

...h werden wie  
 ...szeit\*. Doch die  
 ...ng. Mehr...  
 ...hen Kaffee  
 ...und sterben



# Global climate models (GCMs)



# Global climate models (GCMs)

## Governing Equations

$$\frac{d\mathbf{V}}{dt} = -\nabla\Phi - f\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{V} + \mathbf{F}$$

Horizontal equation of motion

$$\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial p} = \frac{-RT}{p}$$

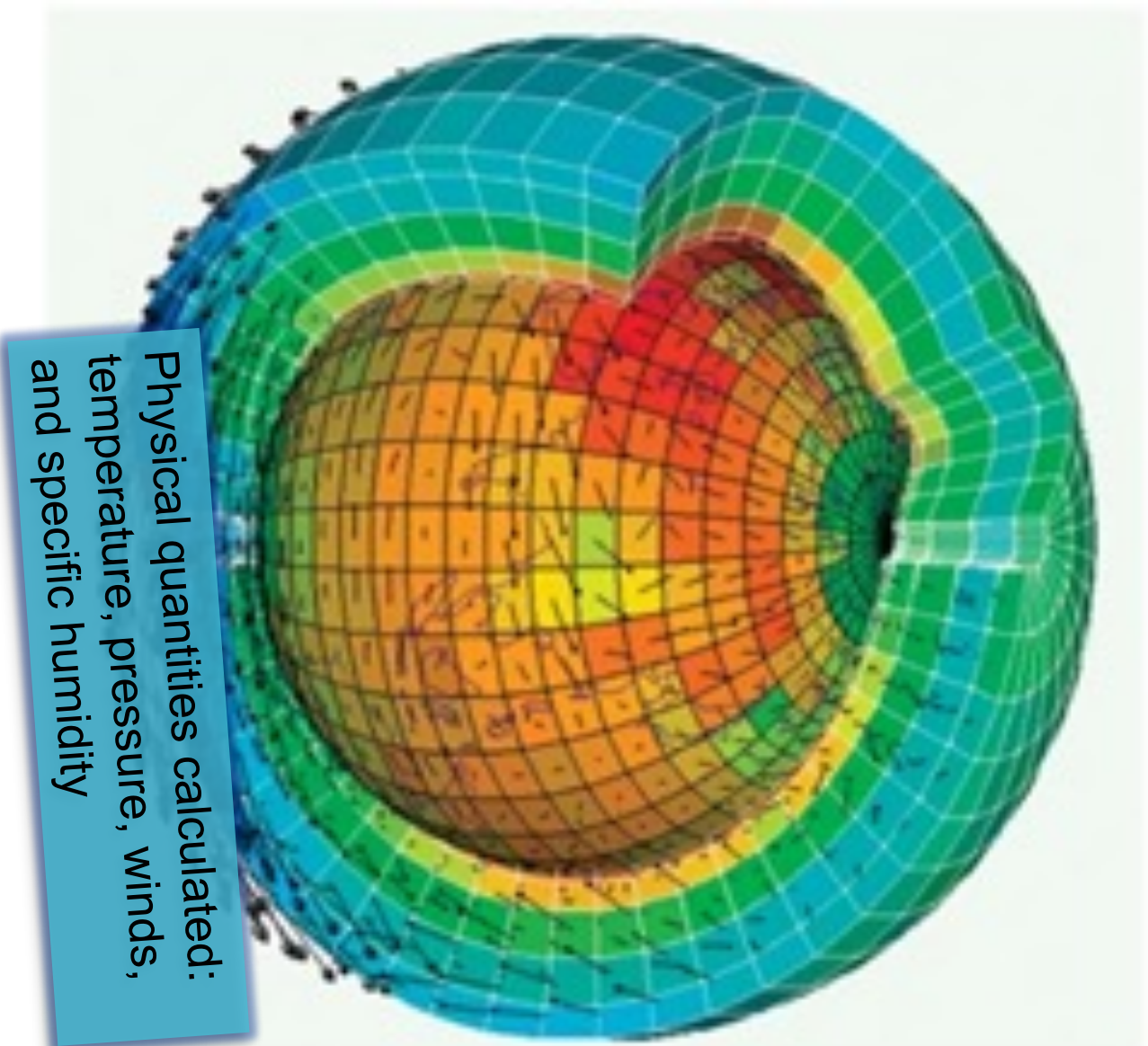
Hydrostatic/Hypsometric equation

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{\kappa T}{p} \omega + \frac{J}{c_p}$$

Thermodynamic energy equation

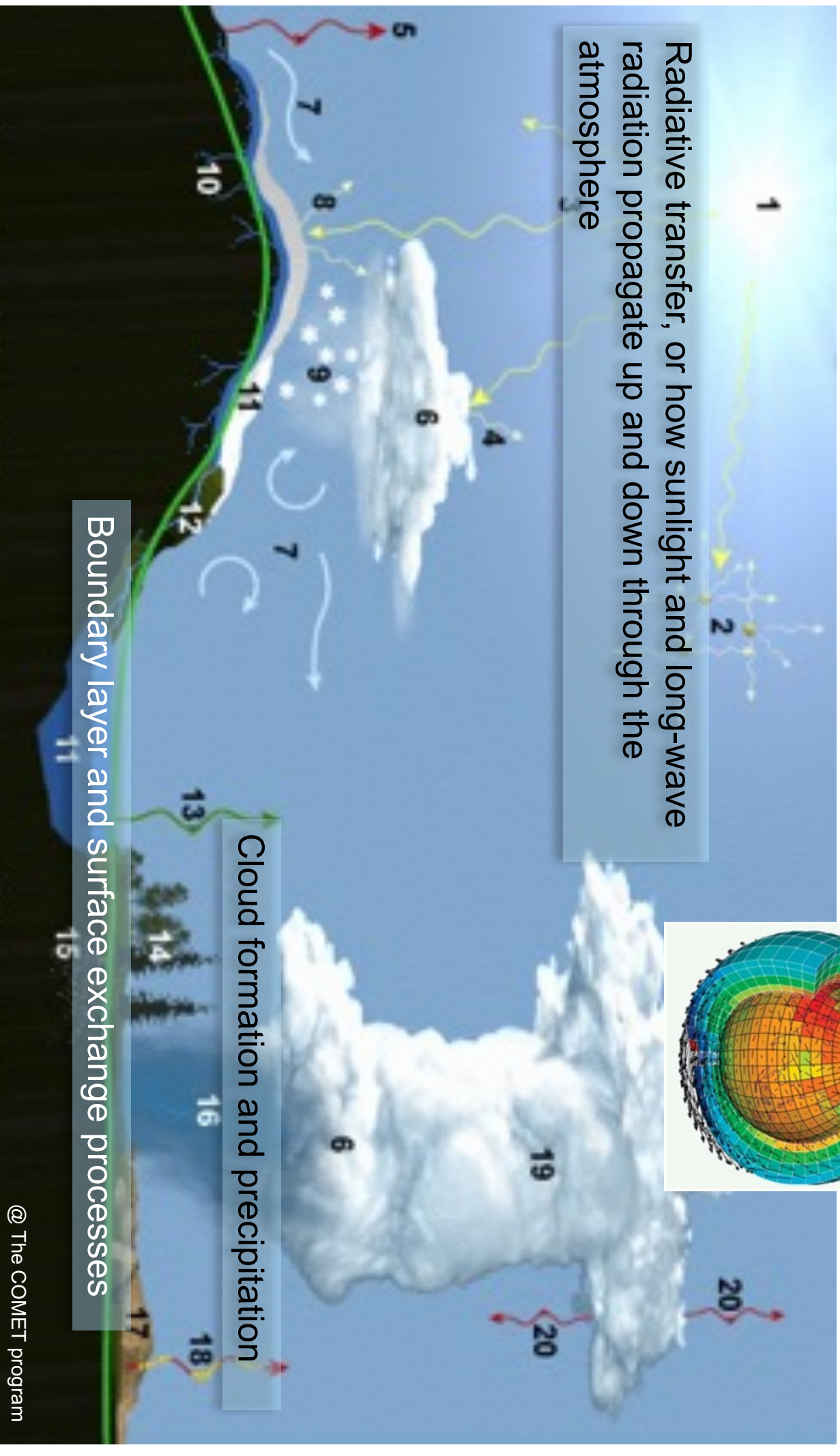
$$\frac{\partial\omega}{\partial p} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}$$

Continuity equation



Physical quantities calculated:  
temperature, pressure, winds,  
and specific humidity

# Physical processes too small to be resolved



Radiative transfer, or how sunlight and long-wave radiation propagate up and down through the atmosphere

Cloud formation and precipitation

Boundary layer and surface exchange processes

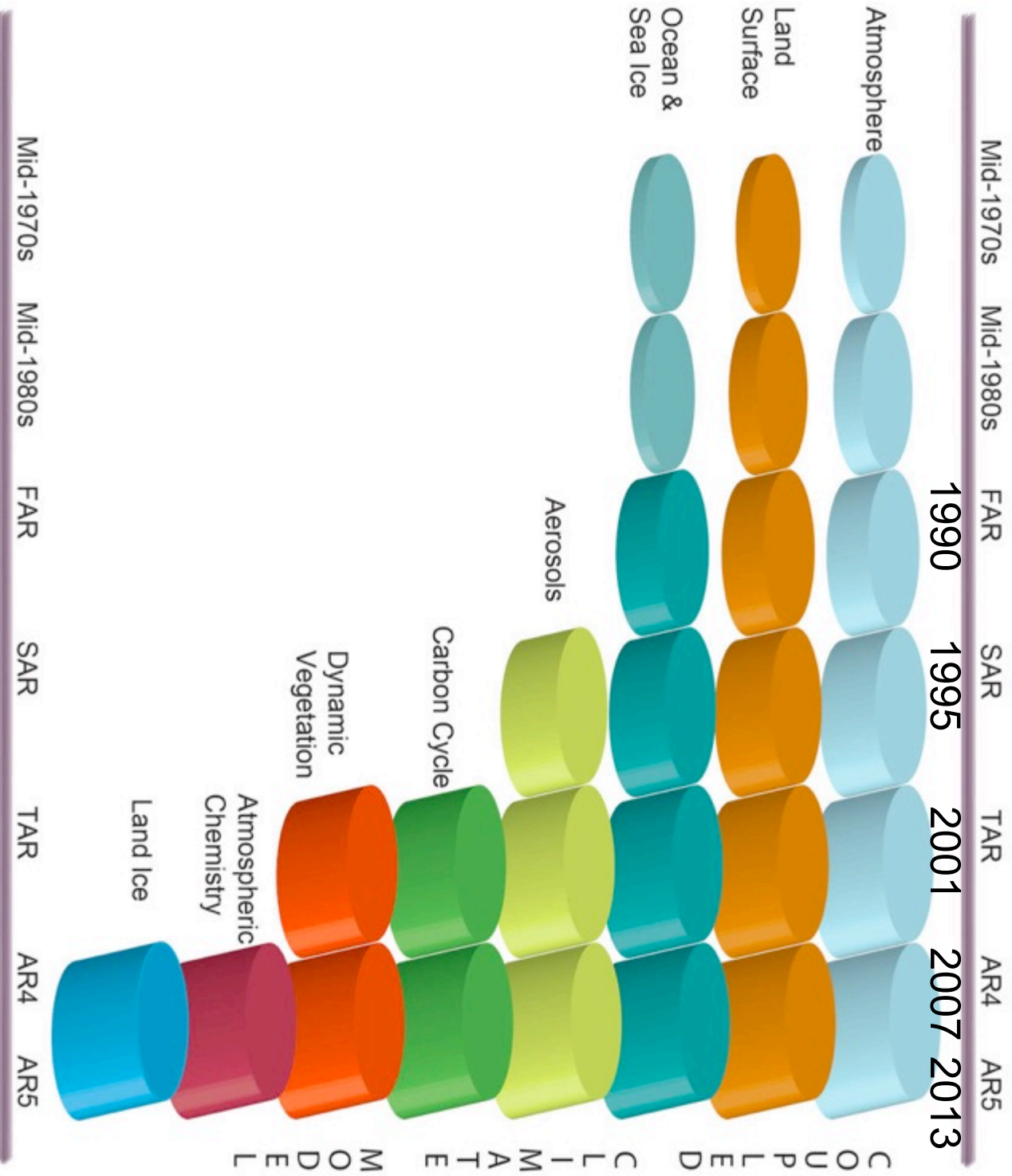
## **World's largest supercomputers to run climate model codes**



Named after Piz Daint, a prominent peak in Grisons, this supercomputer at CSCS is the flagship system for national HPC Service

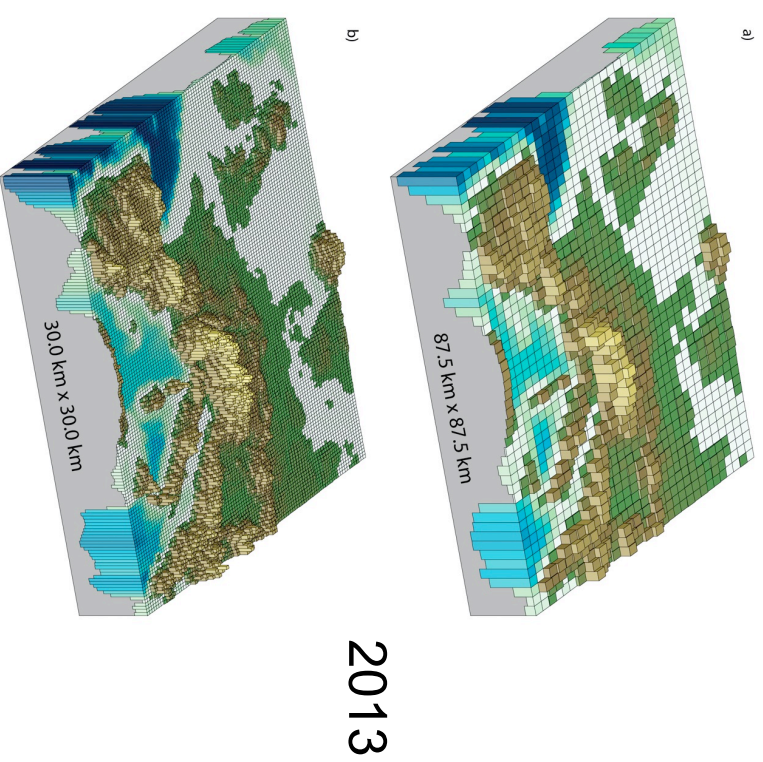
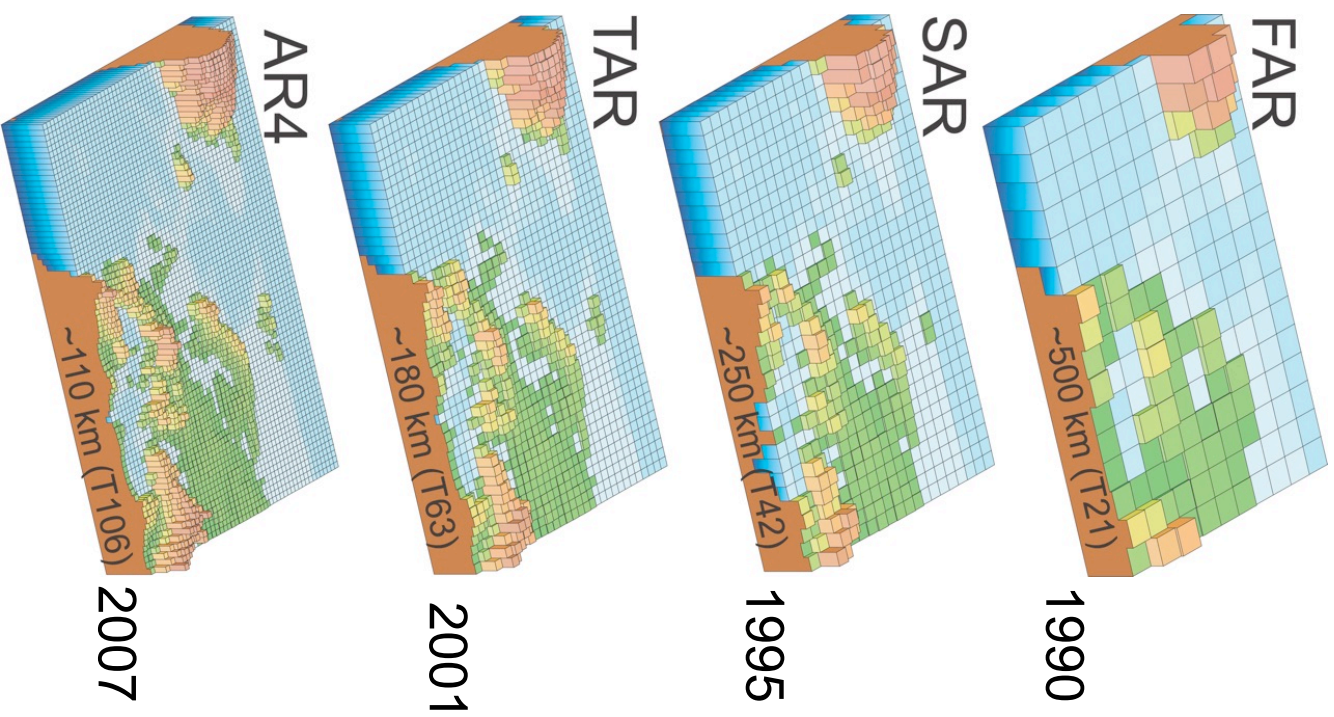
# Global climate models:

## The basis for our scenarios of the future



# Global climate models:

The basis for our scenarios of the future



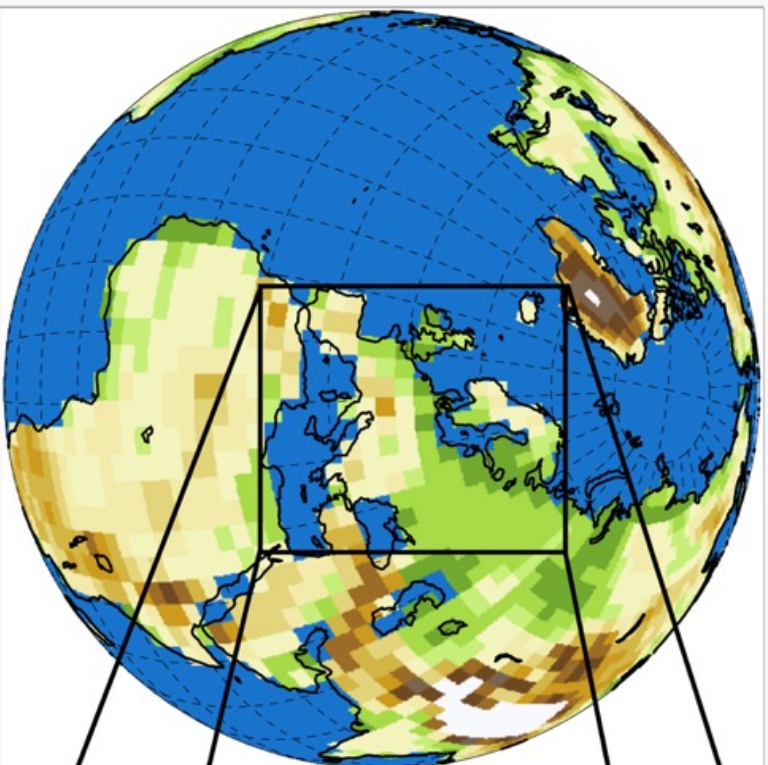
Source:  
IPCC AR5, Fig. 1.15

Source:  
Christina Schnadt Poberaj  
IPCC AR4, Fig. 1.4

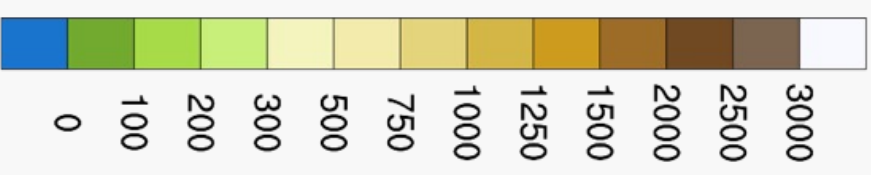
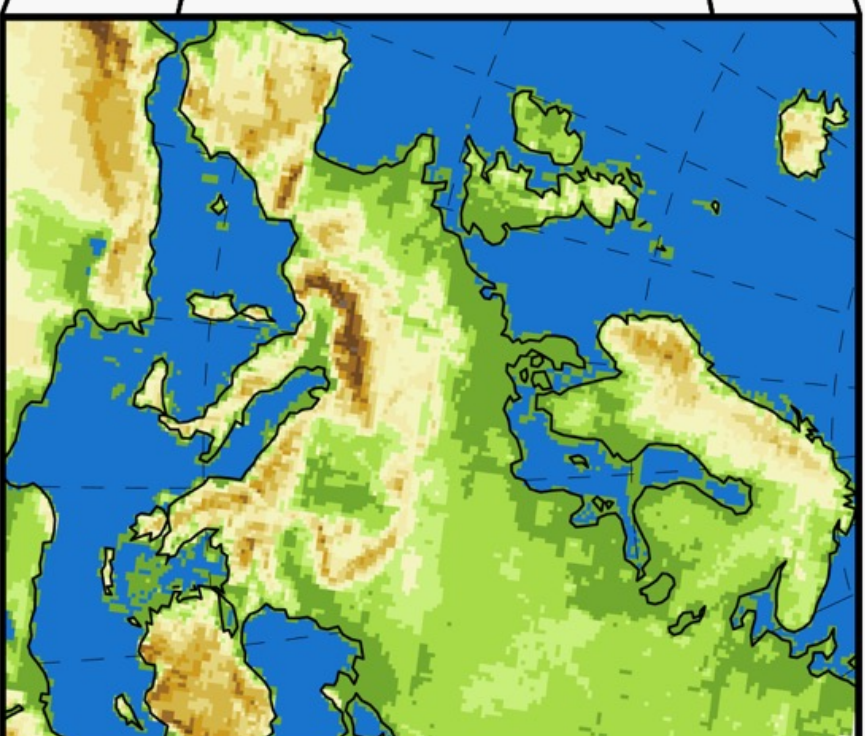
# Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5



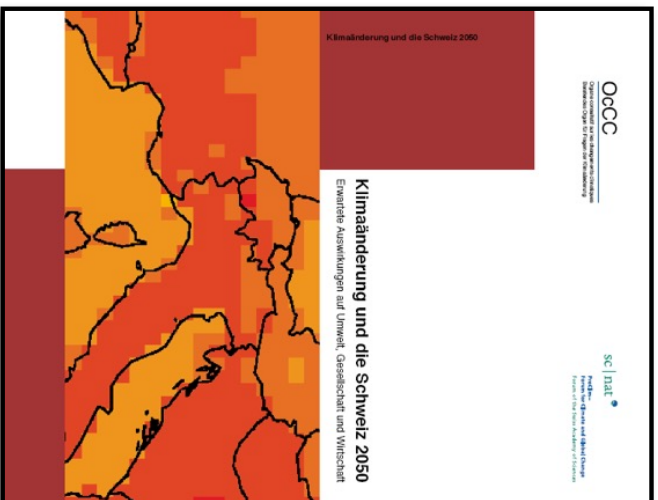
**CMIP5**



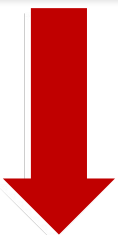
**EURO-CORDEX**



# Short history of national scenario assessments

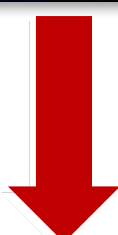


CH2007



CH2011

[www.ch2011.ch](http://www.ch2011.ch)



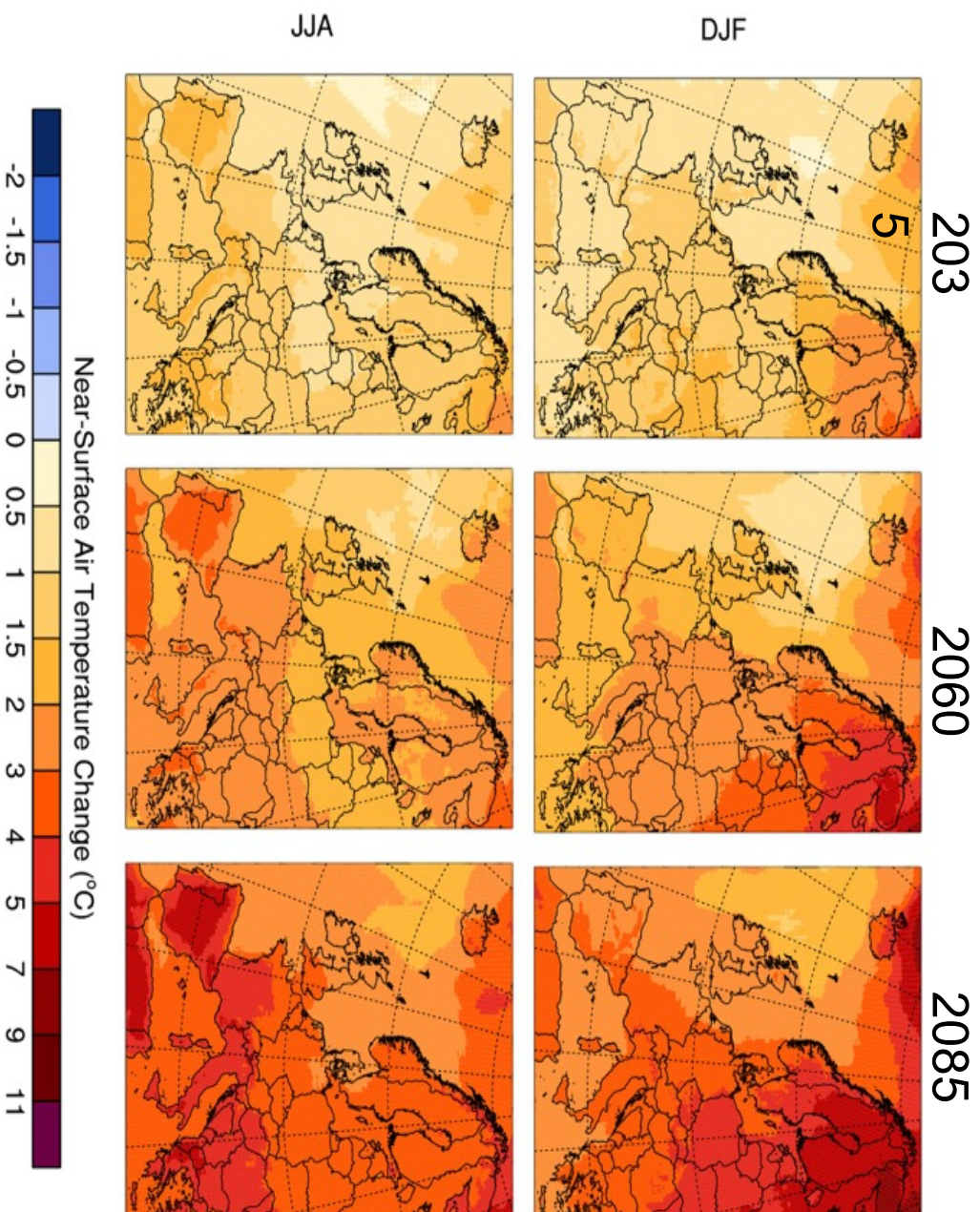
CH2018

[www.climate-scenarios.ch](http://www.climate-scenarios.ch)



GCM	init	RCM	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP2.6
			0.11° 0.44°	0.11° 0.44°	0.11° 0.44°
CNRM-CERFACS-CNRM-CMS	r111p1	CLMcom-CCLM4-8-17	✓	✓	○
		CLMcom-CCLM5-0-6	✓	○	○
		CNRM-ALADIN53	✓	✓	○
		HMS-ALADIN52	✓	○	○
		SMHI-RCA4	✓	✓	○
ICHEC-EC-EARTH	r111p1	KNMI-RACMO22E	✓	✓	○
		DMI-HIRRHAMS	✓	✓	○
		CLMcom-CCLM4-8-17	✓	○	○
		CLMcom-CCLM5-0-6	✓	○	○
MOHC-HadGEM2-ES	r111p1	CLMcom-CCLM4-8-17	✓	✓	○
		CLMcom-CCLM5-0-6	✓	○	○
		ICTP-RegCM4-3	✓	○	○
		KNMI-RACMO22E	✓	✓	○
MPI-M-MPI-ESM-LR	r111p1	CLMcom-CCLM4-8-17	✓	✓	○
		CLMcom-CCLM5-0-6	✓	○	○
		MPI-CGC-REMO2009	✓	✓	✓
		SMHI-RCA4	✓	✓	○
CSIRO-QCCCE-CSIRO-Mk3-6-0	r111p1	CLMcom-CCLM5-0-6	✓	○	○
		SMHI-RCA4	✓	○	○
		SMHI-RCA4	✓	✓	○
		SMHI-RCA4	✓	○	○
IPSL-IPSL-CM5A-MR	r111p1	SMHI-RCA4	✓	✓	○
		SMHI-RCA4	○	○	○
NCC-NorESM1-M	r111p1	SMHI-RCA4	✓	✓	○
		SMHI-RCA4	○	○	○
NOAA-GFDL-GFDL-ESM2M	r111p1	SMHI-RCA4	✓	○	○
		SMHI-RCA4	○	○	○

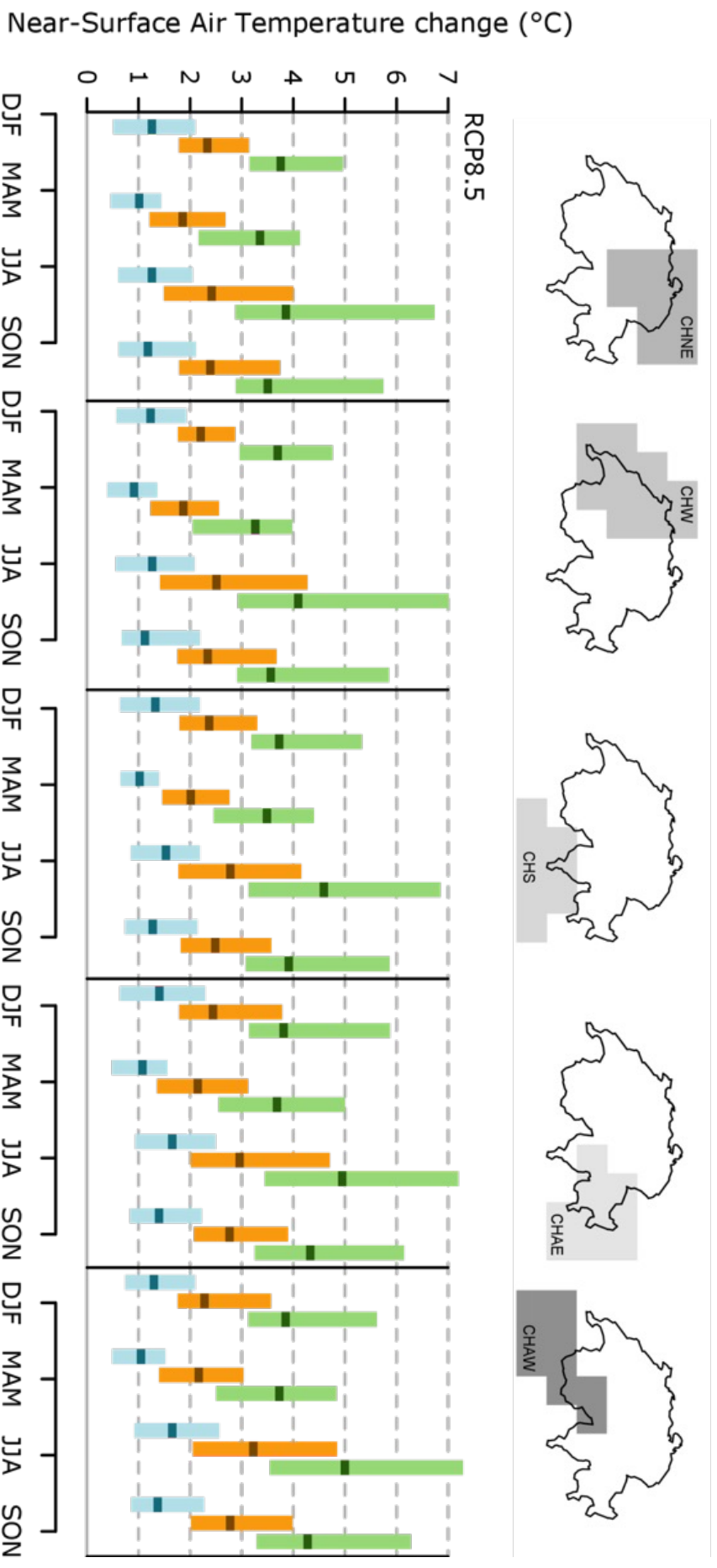
81 simulations with 9 RCMs, driven by 13 GCM simulations with partly differing initial conditions



RCP8.5 Scenario

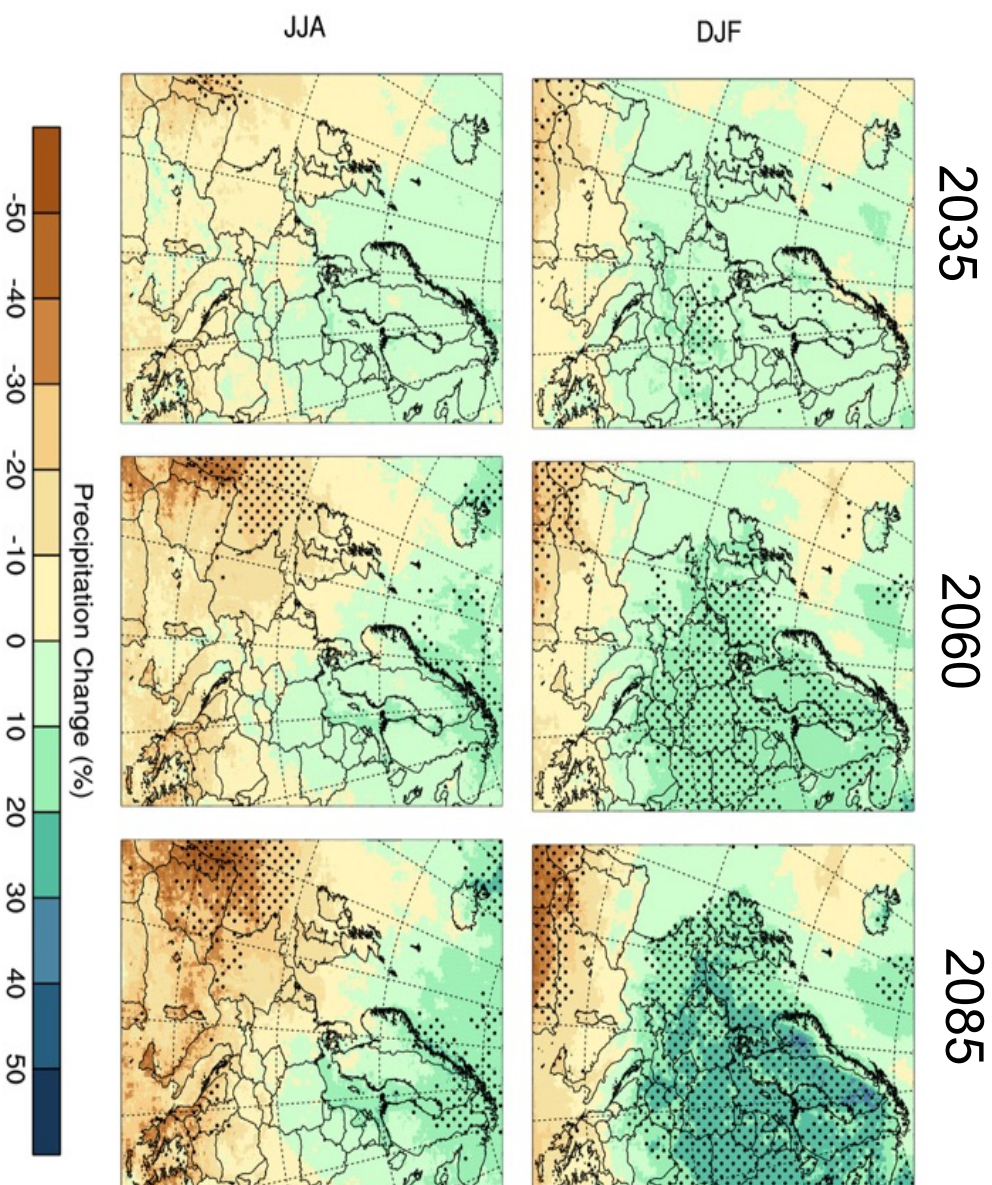
- Temperature changes amplify over 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Polar amplification: Larger increase in northern Europe in winter
- Mediterranean amplification: Larger increase in southern Europe in summer

## Median temperature change in Switzerland



- Switzerland affected by Mediterranean amplification
- Increase in temperature in all regions and seasons
- Assuming RCP8.5, median temperature increase in 2085: 3.2-5°C to 4.0-7.3°C

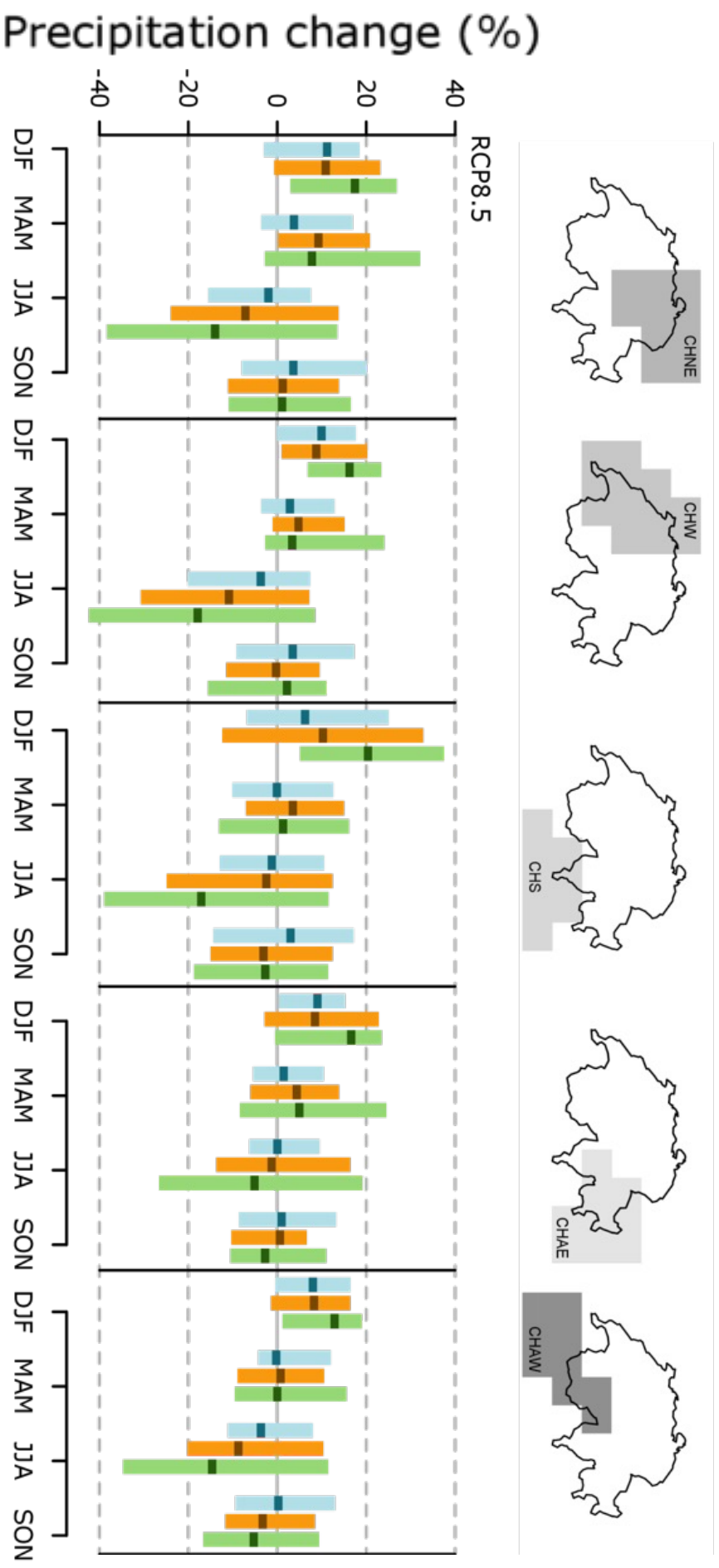
2035  
2060  
2085



RCP8.5 Scenario

- Large-scale geographic variations towards the end of the century
- Increase in precipitation across northern Europe
- Decrease in precipitation across southern Europe

## Precipitation change in Europe



- Significant wintertime increase in precipitation in all regions
- Other seasons: no significant change due to large spread between single model estimates



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Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

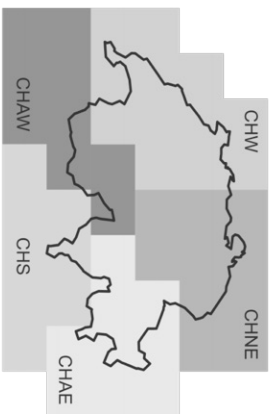


**Neue Klimaszenarien für die Schweiz**  
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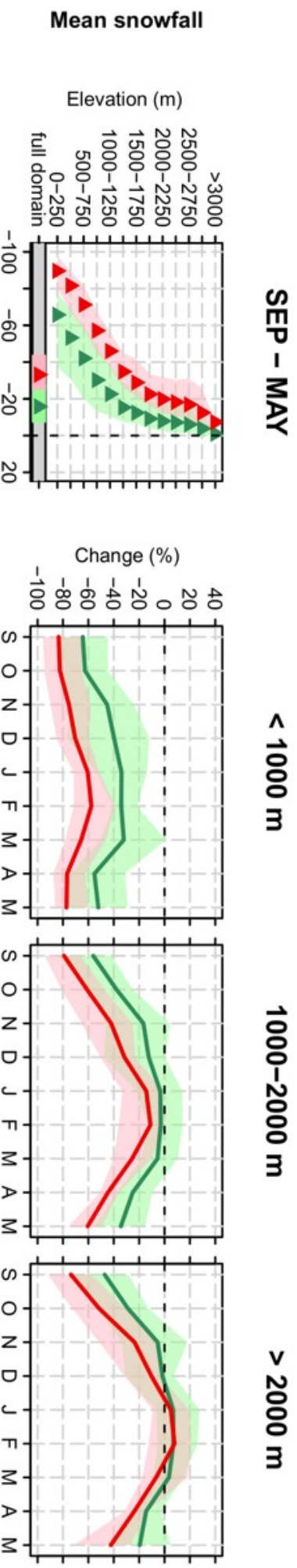
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# Change in snowfall in Switzerland



- Mean snowfall sums decrease at all elevations and over entire winter except for elevations higher than 2000m in mid-winter
- Below 750 m (RCP4.5) and 1250 m (RCP8.5) reduction of more than 50% of today's mean winter snowfall
- Stable/slightly increasing snowfall sums in mid-winter at high elevations due to increasing winter precipitation

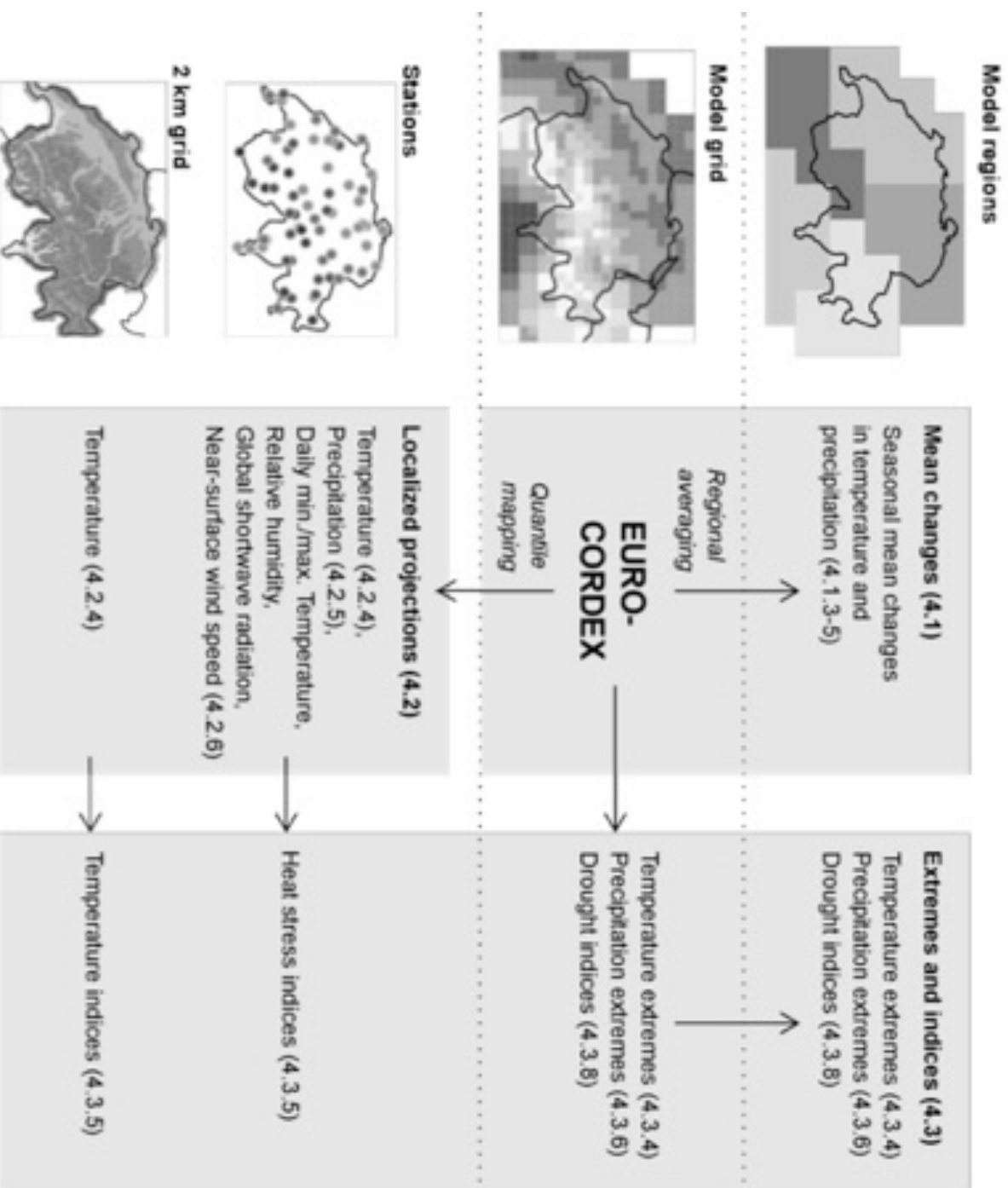
# Summary

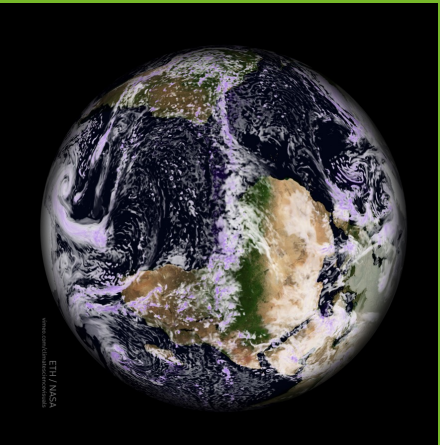
- ❑ Climate is changing
- ❑ Global climate models serve as basis for climate scenarios
- ❑ Global climate models have largely grown in complexity and resolution
- ❑ Downscaling techniques allow scenarios at the regional and local scale
- ❑ Swiss climate will significantly change

New Swiss climate change scenarios to be launched in autumn 2018! Check our website [www.climate-scenarios.ch](http://www.climate-scenarios.ch)



# Overview Products Swiss Climate Change Scenarios 2018





# ETH-Klimarunde

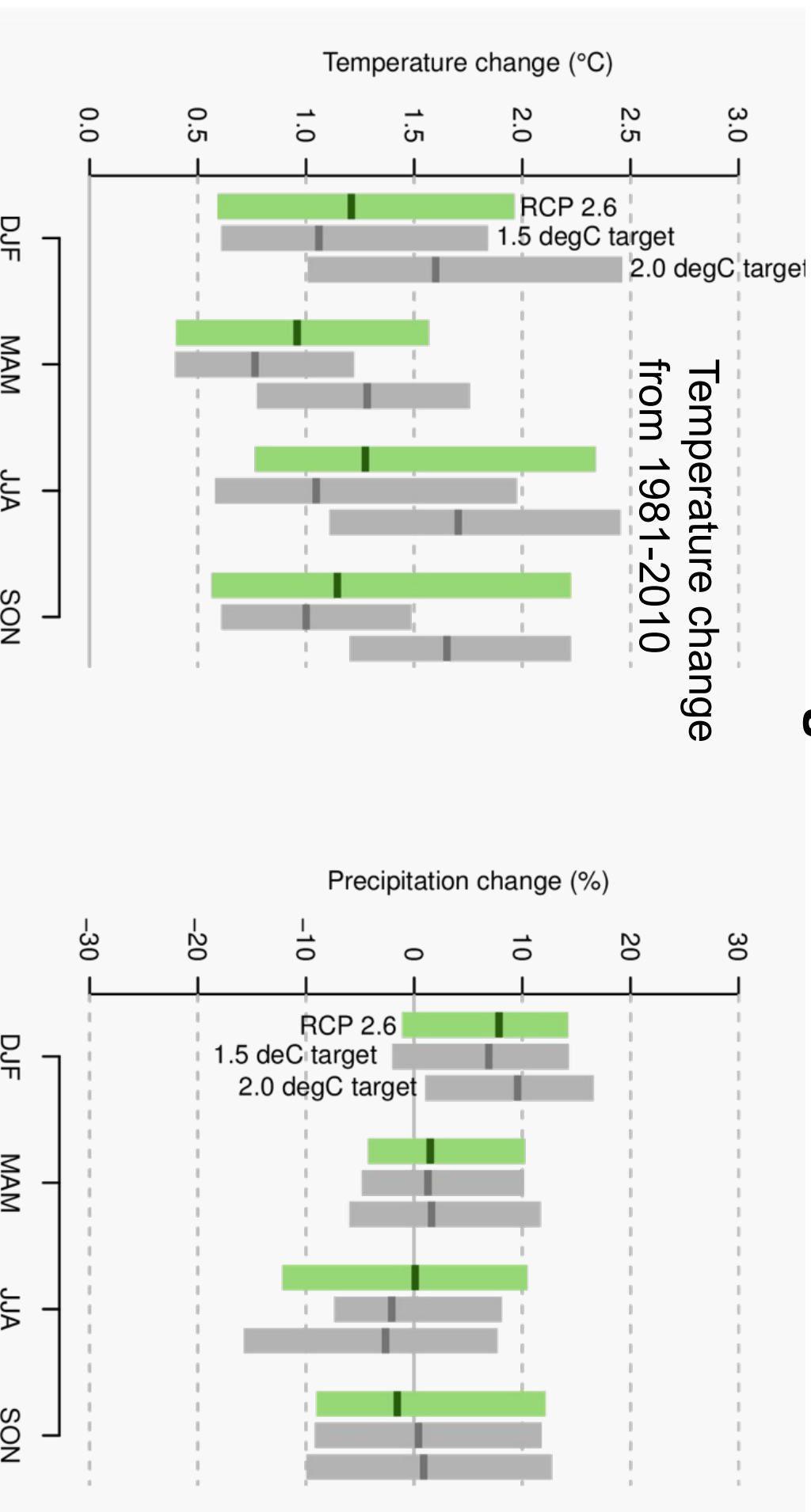
Stadt- und Klimawandel: Wie stellen wir uns den Herausforderungen?

Mittwoch, 8. November 2017, 15.00 – 19.30 Uhr  
ETH Zürich, Hauptgebäude

Informationen und Anmeldung:

<http://www.c2sm.ethz.ch/events/eth-klimarunde-2017.html>

## How would climate in Switzerland change if the Paris agreement was met?



- If Paris agreement was met, Switzerland may experience another 0.5-1.7°C temperature increase until the end of the century