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SUNSET: Addressing key challenges for the successful provision of climate services

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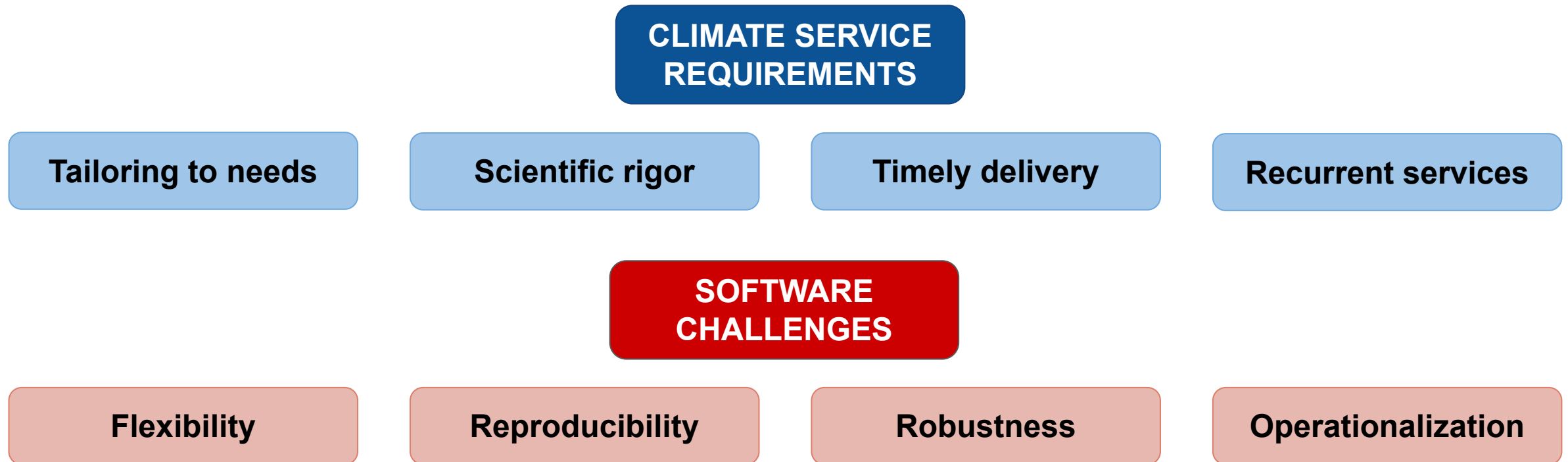
EGU26 ESSI2.8
PICO spot 1b.4

Earth Sciences Department, BSC-CNS



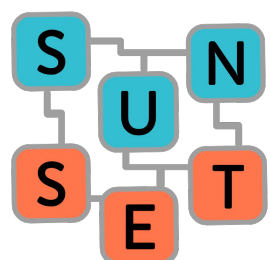
SUNSET: Addressing key challenges for the successful provision of climate services

“Climate services are the provision and use of climate data, information and knowledge **to assist decision-making.**” (WMO, [Global Framework for Climate Services](#)).

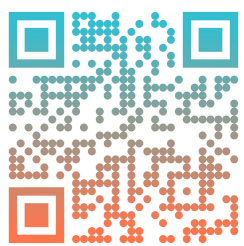
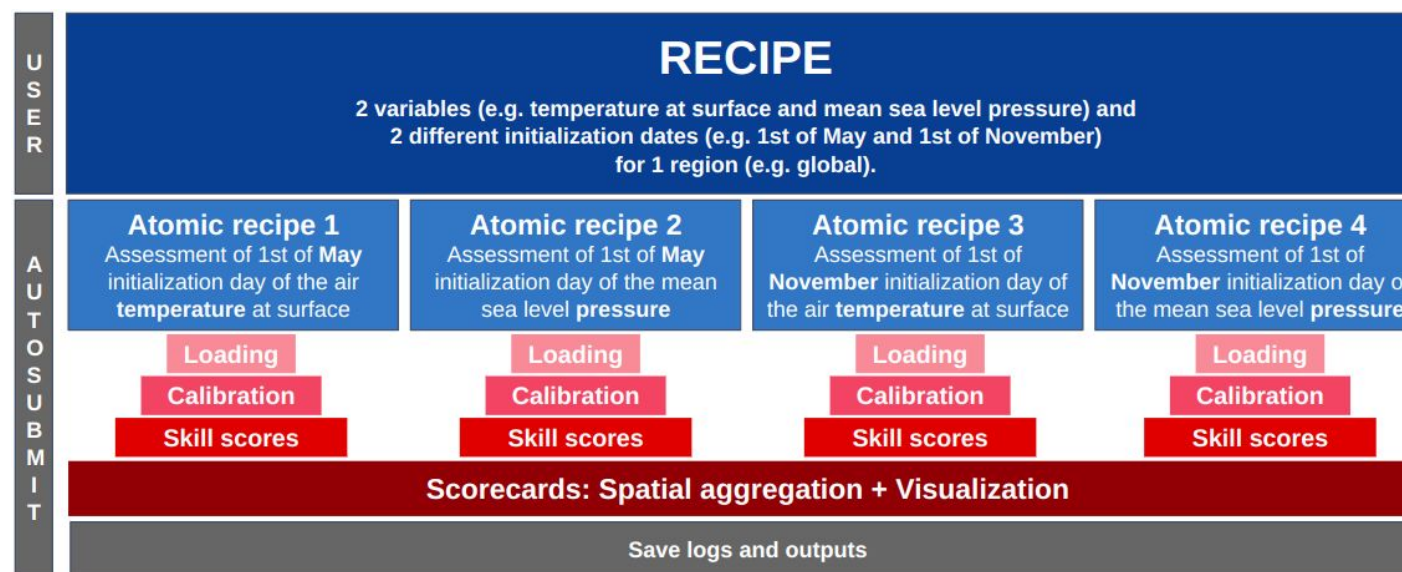


SUNSET is an R-based software suite developed collaboratively at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, aiming to address these challenges in **post-processing climate forecast outputs to provide climate services** for sub-seasonal, seasonal and decadal time scales.

Its **modular design** allows flexibility in defining the required products and post-processing steps, which can then be **easily parallelized on HPC platforms** making use of the Autosubmit workflow manager.



The SUNSET repository:
<https://gitlab.earth.bsc.es/es/sunset>

Pérez-Zanón, N., et al.: SUNSET: SUBseasonal to decadal climate forecast post-processing and asSEssmenT suite, EMS Annual Meeting 2024, Barcelona, Spain, 1–6 Sep 2024, EMS2024-361, <https://doi.org/10.5194/ems2024-361>, 2024.

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1. Data post-processing for Climate Services

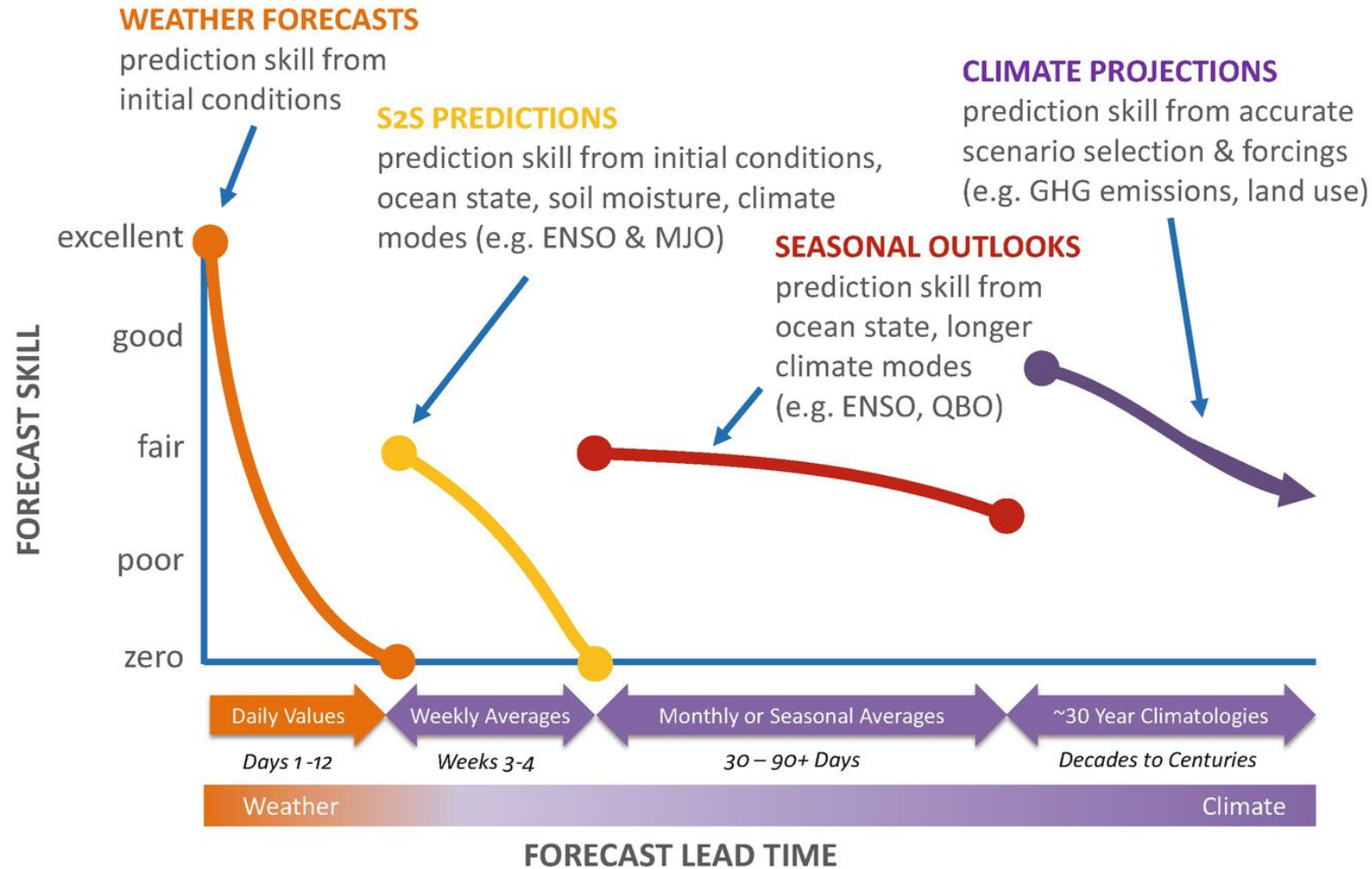


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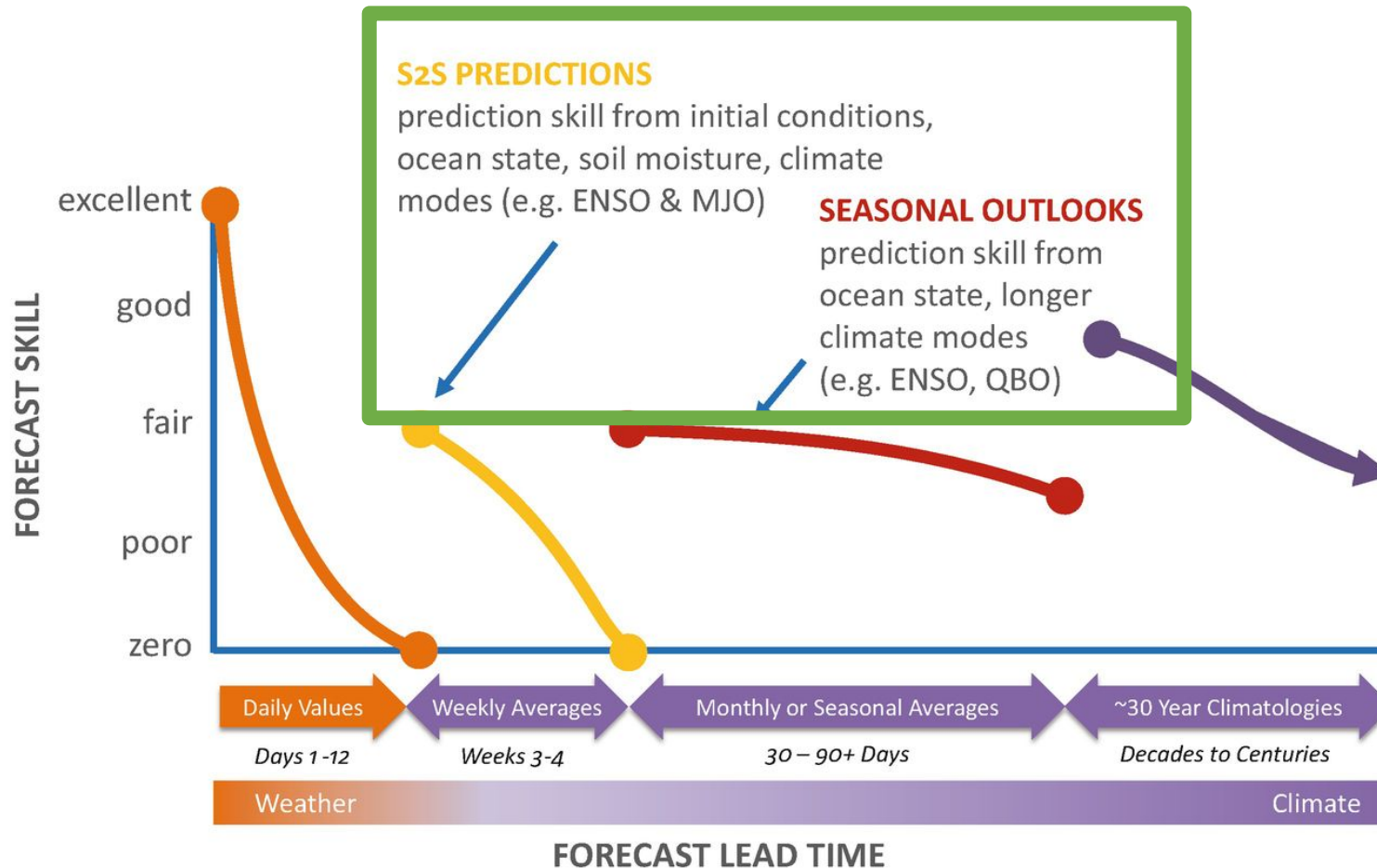
What is a “climate forecast”? Forecast horizons

Weather and climate predictions can be classified according to the time horizon they cover.



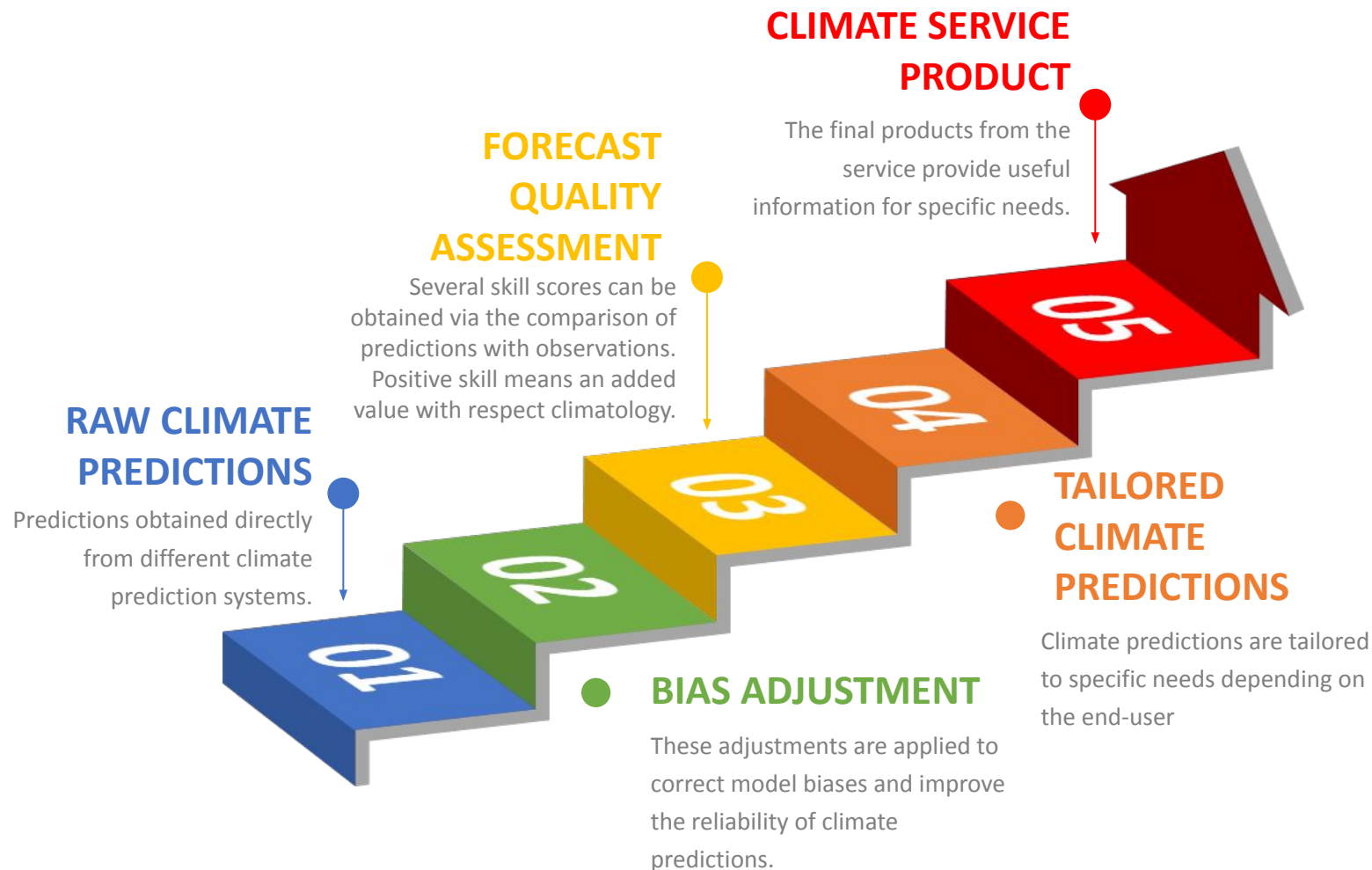
What is a “climate forecast”? Forecast horizons

SUNSET (**S**ubseasonal to decadal climate forecast post-processing and asSEssment suite) is an R-based software suite that deals with subseasonal, seasonal and decadal predictions.



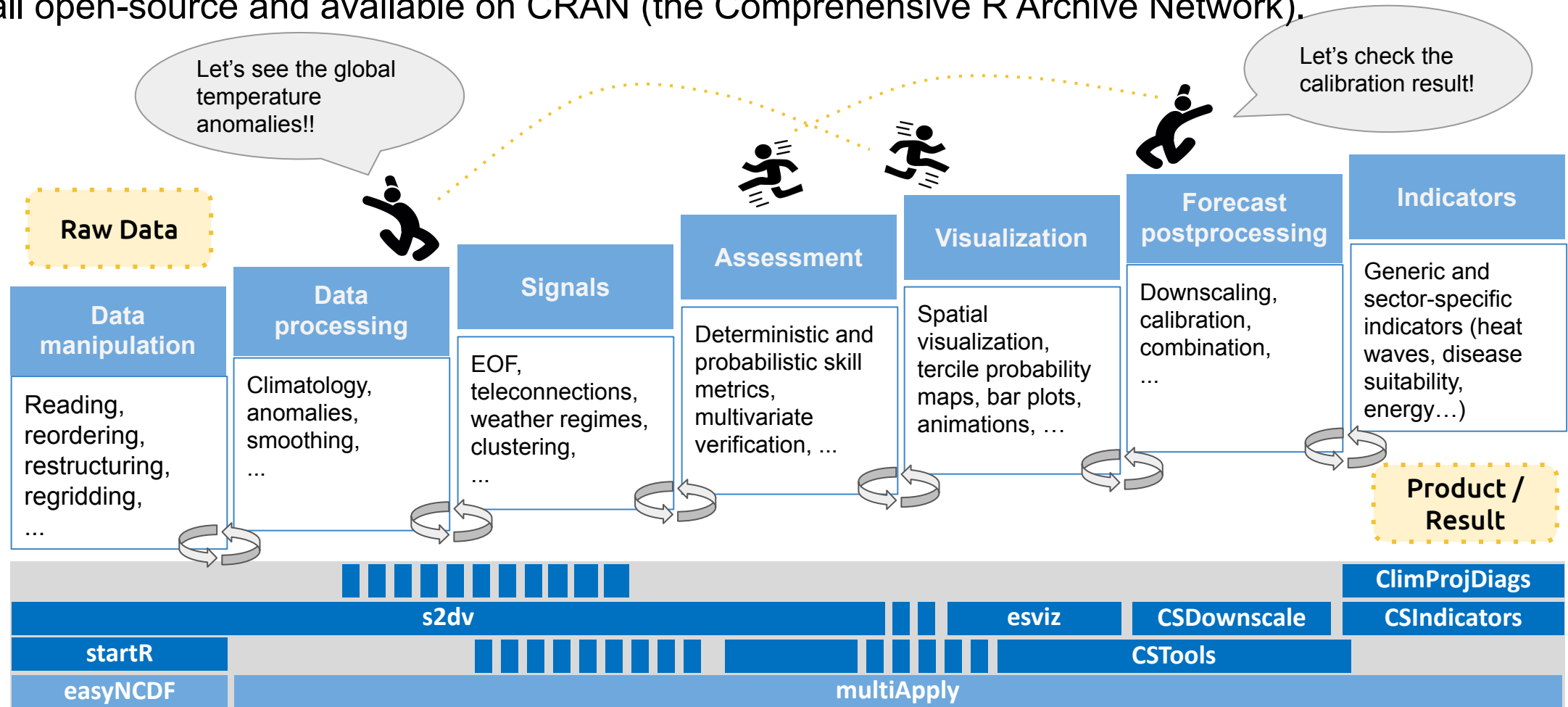
Climate Services: From climate data to climate products

Climate forecast data requires **multiple post-processing steps** to be transformed into an **informative result or product**, that is, a Climate Service:



BSC Earth Sciences R-Tools Ecosystem for Climate Forecast Analysis

SUNSET relies on an **ecosystem of R packages** developed in-house at BSC-ES. These packages are all open-source and available on CRAN (the Comprehensive R Archive Network).



Development strategy and user engagement

SUNSET is built through a **collaborative approach**, with a core developer team that maintains the code and organizes the strategy, and scientists who make contributions according to their needs.

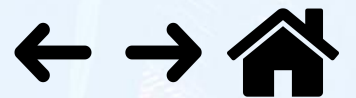
The development and user engagement strategy includes:

- Weekly meetings with the core developer team
- Biweekly updates through a mailing list
- Monthly user meetings to maintain alignment with projects and user needs
- 3-month scheduled release cycle
- Ongoing documentation improvements and creation of hands-on use cases.

2. File configuration and Workflow definition



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File configuration

SUNSET is able to read data in the following formats:

- NetCDF
- GRIB (experimental)

In the tool, the **archive** is a YAML configuration file that defines the **paths**, time **horizons**, available **variables** and other information needed to access the datasets in a given filesystem.

This archive can be configured to work on any filesystem, provided the datasets follow a given structure.

```
archive.yml
<filesystem_name>
  src: [general directory]

System: [Parameters for each system]
  <system_name>:
    src: [dir path]
    monthly_mean: [variable dictionary]
    daily_mean: [variable dictionary]
    nmember:
      hcst: [int]
      fcst: [int]
    reference_grid: [path to .nc]

Reference: [Parameters for each reference]
  <reference_name>:
    src: [dir path]
    monthly_mean: [variable dictionary]
    daily_mean: [variable dictionary]
    reference_grid: [path to .nc]
```

Workflow definition: the recipe

The **recipe** is a YAML configuration file that must be defined by the user for each distinct workflow. It contains the information about the data retrieval and the details of the post-processing steps.

What dataset?

```
Analysis:
  Horizon: Seasonal
  Variables:
    - {name: tas, freq: monthly_mean}
    - {name: slp, freq: monthly_mean}
  Datasets:
    System:
      - {name: ECMWF, system: '5.1'}
    Multimodel: False
    Reference:
      - {name: ERA5}
```

What dates?

```
Time:
  sdate:
    - '0501'
    - '1101'
  fcst_year: '2020'
  hcst_start: '1993'
  hcst_end: '2016'
  ftime_min: 1
  ftime_max: 6
```

What region?

```
Region:
  latmin: -10
  latmax: 10
  lonmin: 0
  lonmax: 20
  Regrid:
    method: bilinear
    type: to_system
```

Workflow definition: the recipe

The **recipe** is a YAML configuration file that must be defined by the user for each distinct workflow. It contains the information about the data retrieval and the details of the post-processing steps.

What to do?

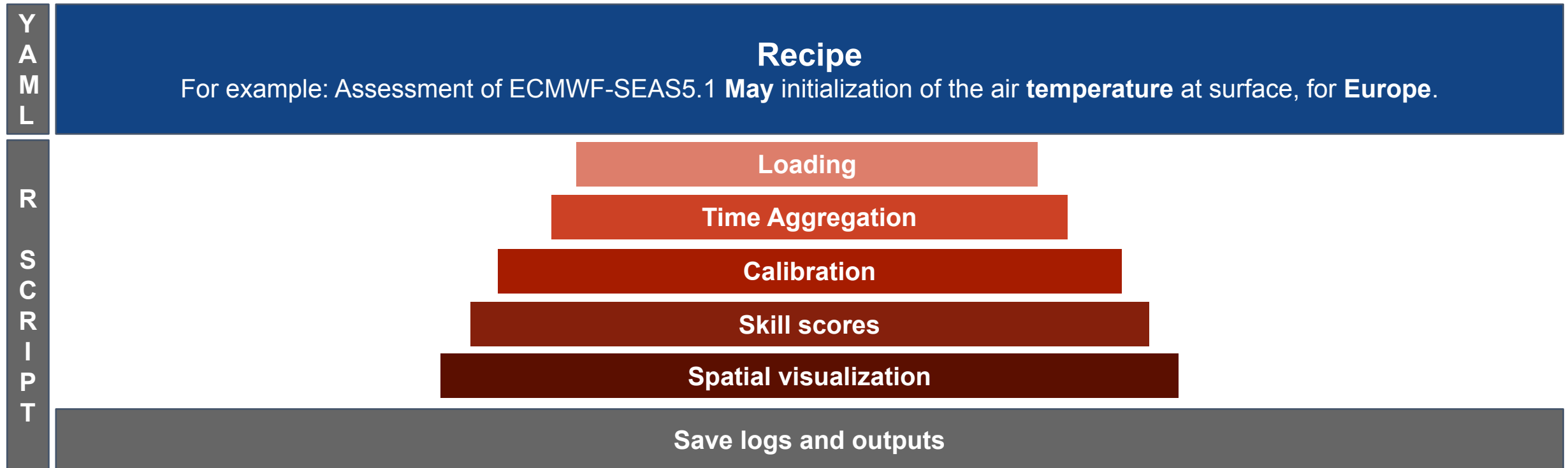
```
Workflow:
  Anomalies:
    compute: no
    cross_validation: no
    save: none
  Calibration:
    method: bias
    cross_validation: yes
    save: none
  Skill:
    metric: rpss
    save: all
    cross_validation: yes
  Probabilities:
    percentiles: #[[1/3, 2/3]]
    Terciles: [1/3, 2/3]
    P10: [1/10]
    P90: [9/10]
    save: all
```

Where to do it? And more...

```
Run:
  Loglevel: INFO
  Terminal: yes
  filesystem: gpfs
  output_dir: /esarchive/scratch/vagudets/auto-s2s-outputs/
  code_dir: /home/Earth/vagudets/git/auto-s2s/
  autosubmit: yes
```

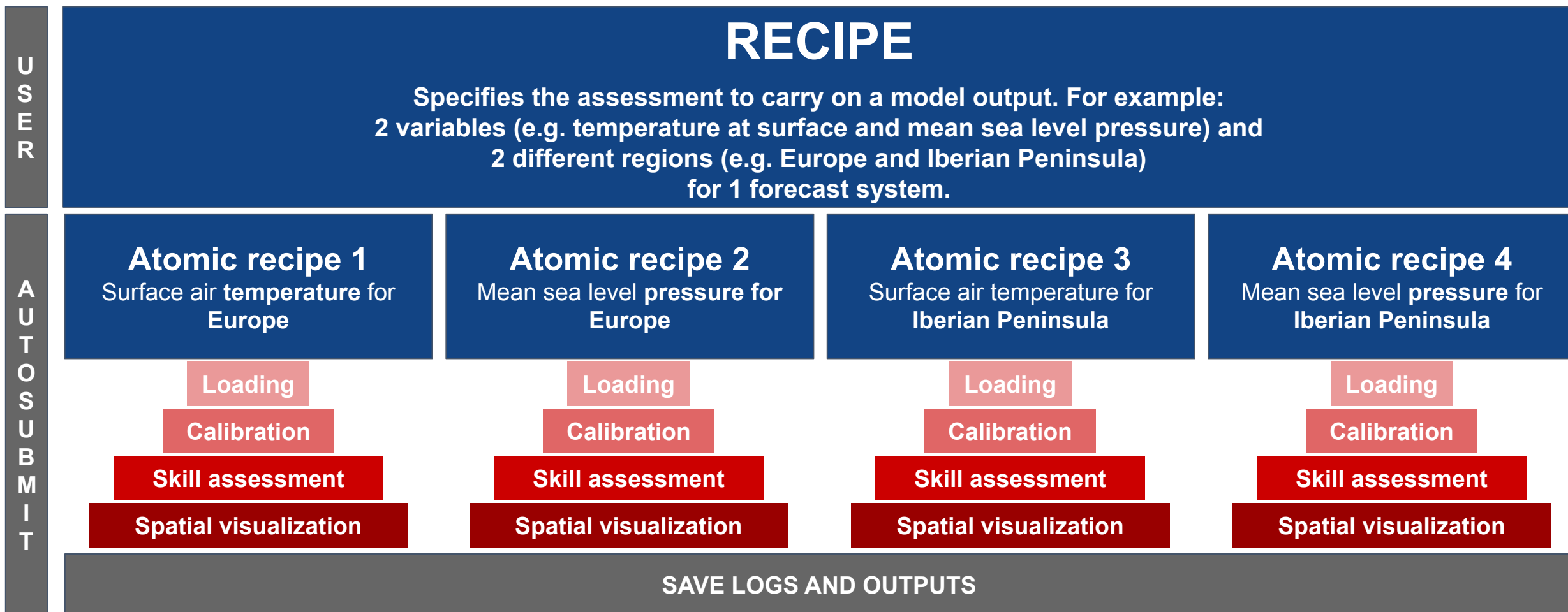
Workflow definition: the script

The main functions in SUNSET follow a **modular structure**, with each module performing a specific task. The user must create an **R script** using these functions to perform the desired tasks.



Parallel executions for independent workflows

A recipe can be divided into independent tasks to be submitted to an HPC cluster.



To enhance traceability and reproducibility, we have explored the implementation of metadata encoding in SUNSET products through the **METACLIP Provenance Framework** (Bedia et al., 2019)

The embedded metadata can be viewed through the METACLIP online interpreter:

[SEE EXAMPLE](#)

J. Bedia, D. San-Martín, M. Iturbide, S. Herrera, R. Manzananas, J.M. Gutiérrez: The METACLIP semantic provenance framework for climate products, *Environmental Modelling & Software*, Volume 119, 2019, Pages 445-457, ISSN 1364-8152, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2019.07.005>.

To enhance
encoding

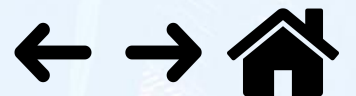
ta
, (2019)

The screenshot shows the METACLIP website interface. On the left, there are navigation buttons: Home, Graph restart, Layout-image export, and Fit graph to window. Below these is a detailed view for a 'Node: Bilinear interpolation', including its URI, description, label, and relationships. The main content area features a provenance graph with nodes and edges, and a map titled 'ECMWF SEAS5 / 2 Metre Temperature Anomaly CRPS / January / 2000-2006' with a color scale from 0 to 1.

3. User-friendly computation on HPCs with Autosubmit



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What is Autosubmit?

Autosubmit (Manubens-Gil et al., 2016) is an open-source Python **experiment and workflow manager** used to handle job submission and monitoring for complex workflows on Cloud and HPC platforms.



SUNSET can **automatically initiate and run an experiment with Autosubmit.**

It creates the experiment configuration files according to the specifications in the recipe:

- ★ User and platform info
- ★ HPC cluster resource requests
- ★ Job dependencies

```
auto_conf:
  script: my_script.R
  expid: a6wq
  platform: mn5
  hpc_user: bscXXXXX
  wallclock: 01:00
  processors_per_job: 16
  custom_directives: ['#SBATCH --exclusive']
  email_address: victoria.agudetse@bsc.es
  notify_completed: yes
  notify_failed: yes
```

Translating SUNSET workflows into Autosubmit

U
S
E
R

RECIPE

Example: 2 variables x 2 regions x 1 forecast system x 1 initialization = 4 atomic recipes

S
U
N
S
E
T

The “CHUNK” feature in Autosubmit can be used to divide an execution in different pieces. On the HPC cluster, Autosubmit will launch one job per chunk.
SUNSET splits the recipe and writes a file linking each atomic recipe to a CHUNK number.

A
U
T
O
S
U
B
M
I
T

Atomic recipe 1
(tas, Europe)

Atomic recipe 2
(psl, Europe)

Atomic recipe 3
(tas, Iberian Peninsula)

Atomic recipe 4
(psl, Iberian Peninsula)

Run script
auto-verification.sh
%CHUNK% = 1

Run script
auto-verification.sh
%CHUNK% = 2

Run script
auto-verification.sh
%CHUNK% = 3

Run script
auto-verification.sh
%CHUNK% = 4

Autosubmit GUI: A user-friendly interface to monitor experiments

When the jobs are launched with Autosubmit, the **Autosubmit GUI** can be used to monitor their status in real time. Logs and performance statistics can also be consulted through the GUI.

The screenshot displays the Autosubmit GUI interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, 'HOME', an information icon, and 'ABOUT'. The user's email 'victoria.agudetse@bsc.es' is shown in the top right. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb path is 'Experiment a9pz > Tree View'. The main content area shows a tree view of jobs under the experiment 'subseasonal forecast operational'. The tree view includes a search bar 'Run: Latest' and a 'Filter job...' input. The tree view shows a folder 'a9pz_20260417' containing a folder 'a9pz_20260417_fc0' with 7 completed and 5 queuing jobs. A detailed view of the job 'a9pz_20260417_fc0_1_VERIFICATION' is shown on the right, displaying its start and end times, section, member, platform, processors, wallclock, queue, and run times, as well as its dependencies and logs.

subseasonal forecast operational

Run: Latest Filter job... Filter Clear START MONITOR

Total #Jobs: 13 | Chunk unit: month | Chunk size: 1

Default Expand Expand All + Collapse All -

a9pz_20260417

- a9pz_20260417_fc0 7 / 12 COMPLETED 5 QUEUING
 - VERIFICATION
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_12_VERIFICATION #QUEUING ~ (0:00:00) SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_11_VERIFICATION #QUEUING ~ (0:00:00) SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_10_VERIFICATION #QUEUING ~ (0:00:00) SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_9_VERIFICATION #QUEUING ~ (0:00:00) SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_8_VERIFICATION #QUEUING ~ (0:00:00) SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_1_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 1:21:21 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_2_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 1:21:07 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_3_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 0:56:50 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_4_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 1:21:00 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_5_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 1:00:16 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_6_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:31:24) + 1:00:01 SOURCE
 - a9pz_20260417_fc0_7_VERIFICATION #COMPLETED ~ (0:41:31) + 0:38:33 SOURCE
- Keys
 - a9pz_CUSTOM_FINISH #WAITING TARGET

a9pz_20260417_fc0_1_VERIFICATION

Start: 2026 04 17 End: 2026 05 17

Section: VERIFICATION

Member: fc0 Chunk: 1

Platform: NORD4 QoS: bsc_es Remote ID: 35357612

Processors: 24 Wallclock: 05:00

Queue: 00:31:24 Run: 01:21:21

Status: COMPLETED

Dependencies: CHILDREN: 1 PARENTS: 0

OUT /esarchive/autosubmit/a9pz/tmp/L... COPY >

ERR /esarchive/autosubmit/a9pz/tmp/L... COPY >

Submit: 2026-04-17T03:14:14+01:00

Start: 2026-04-17T03:45:38+01:00

Finish: 2026-04-17T05:06:59+01:00

4. Workflow operationalization with Jenkins



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Operationalization requirements

Projects such as **Impetus4Change** often require climate service products to be **delivered operationally** (e.g. on a weekly or monthly basis).

SUNSET has a command that can be launched to automate this process for subseasonal and seasonal forecasts, allowing easy operationalization.

As with other executions of the tool, this requires the user to define:

RECIPE

User-defined template with the data, post-processing workflow and HPC specifications.

SCRIPT

The R script to execute the workflow, calling SUNSET functions and/or custom code.

Operational execution script: Steps

```
> bash <dir_path>/SUNSET-oper.sh --expid=a000  
--recipe=my_template.yml --horizon=seasonal  
--code_dir=<dir_path>
```

STEP 1

The initialization date is calculated according to the forecast horizon.

STEP 2

A new recipe is created for that initialization date, from the provided template.

STEP 3

The autosubmit experiment is launched and the jobs are run on the HPC cluster.

Operational execution script: Scheduling

```
> bash <dir_path>/SUNSET-oper.sh --expid=a000  
- --recipe=my_template.yml --horizon=seasonal  
  --code_dir=<dir_path>
```

The **SUNSET-oper.sh** command could be launched manually, with a time-based job scheduler (e.g. cron) or with an automation-server such as The Jenkins Project (Jenkins Contributors).

We use Jenkins because it allows time-based scheduling, command parameterization and shared access between multiple individuals.



Operational workflow management with Jenkins

The screenshot shows the Jenkins web interface for a project named "SUNSET test". The top navigation bar includes the Jenkins logo, a search bar, and user information for "vagudets". The left sidebar contains navigation options: "Back to Dashboard", "Status", "Changes", "Workspace", "Build with Parameters", "Configure", "Delete Project", "Rename", and "Embeddable Build Status". The main content area displays the configuration for the "Project SUNSET test". It includes a section for "EXPID" (Autosubmit experiment ID) with a text input field containing "a6wq". Below this is the "RERUN" section, which explains the options for re-running a failed workflow: "no" (default), "rerun_failed", and "skip_failed". A "Build" button is visible at the bottom of the configuration area. A red callout box on the right side of the image contains the text: "The 'RERUN' parameter implemented in SUNSET-oper.sh provides flexibility in dealing with failed executions."

Operational workflow management with Jenkins

Build Triggers

- Trigger builds remotely (e.g., from scripts) ?
- Build after other projects are built ?
- Build periodically ?

Schedule ?

H(0-15) 15 19 **

Would last have run at Saturday, April 19, 2025 3:08:01 PM CEST; would next run at Monday, May 19, 2025 3:08:01 PM CEST.

- Build periodically with parameters ?
- Build when a change is pushed to GitLab. GitLab webhook URL: <https://earth.bsc.es/jenkins/project/SUNSET%20test> ?
- Monitor Docker Hub/Registry for image changes ?
- Poll SCM ?

Multiple options are available for scheduling executions. We typically use **time-based scheduling**.

Operational workflow management with Jenkins

Post-build Actions

☰ **E-mail Notification** ? ✕

Recipients

Whitespace-separated list of recipient addresses. May reference build parameters like \$PARAM. E-mail will be sent when a build fails, becomes unstable or returns to stable.

victoria.agudetse@bsc.es

Send e-mail for every unstable build

? Send separate e-mails to individuals who broke the build

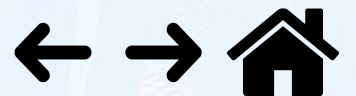
Add post-build action ▾

Email notifications alert one or more users in case of failure, helping to ensure the **timely delivery of services.**

5. Synergies with other projects



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Synergies with other projects

→ The work for the **Impetus4Change** project includes periodic delivery of bulletins with forecast outlooks and infographics.

These outlooks take advantage of many features that were developed for projects across many disciplines and sectors, such as **Energy** (S2S4E, BOREAS), **Agriculture** (VitiGEOSS, BigPrediData, ASPECT), **Risk Mitigation** (MedEWSa) and **Health** (HARMONIZE).



Pronóstico de temperatura subestacional
[Municipio], válido del día de mes al día de mes del 2026.

Emitido por el Barcelona Supercomputing Center el día de mes del 2026

Pronóstico subestacional de temperatura media

Semana 1 Válido del día mes al día mes del 2026	Semana 2 Válido del día mes al día mes del 2026
[Placeholder]	[Placeholder]
Semana 3 Válido del día mes al día mes del 2026	Semana 4 Válido del día mes al día mes del 2026
[Placeholder]	[Placeholder]

legenda

Resumen
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

¿Cómo podemos prepararnos frente a este riesgo?

- Noches tropicales
- Temperatura máxima
- Temperatura mínima

Este boletín está pensado para ayudarte a tomar decisiones de adaptación presente y futuras en función de las previsiones de eventos climáticos extremos a corto término. ¿Te ha parecido útil? Nos encantaría escuchar tu opinión. Por favor, escanea el código QR para hacernos llegar tus comentarios.

IMPETUS 4 CHANGE | BSC Barcelona Supercomputing Center | trescientosmil logo

Impetus4Change ha recibido financiación del programa de investigación e innovación Horizon Europe de la Unión Europea en virtud del acuerdo de subvención número 101081555.

Sample design for an I4C Subseasonal Forecast Bulletin

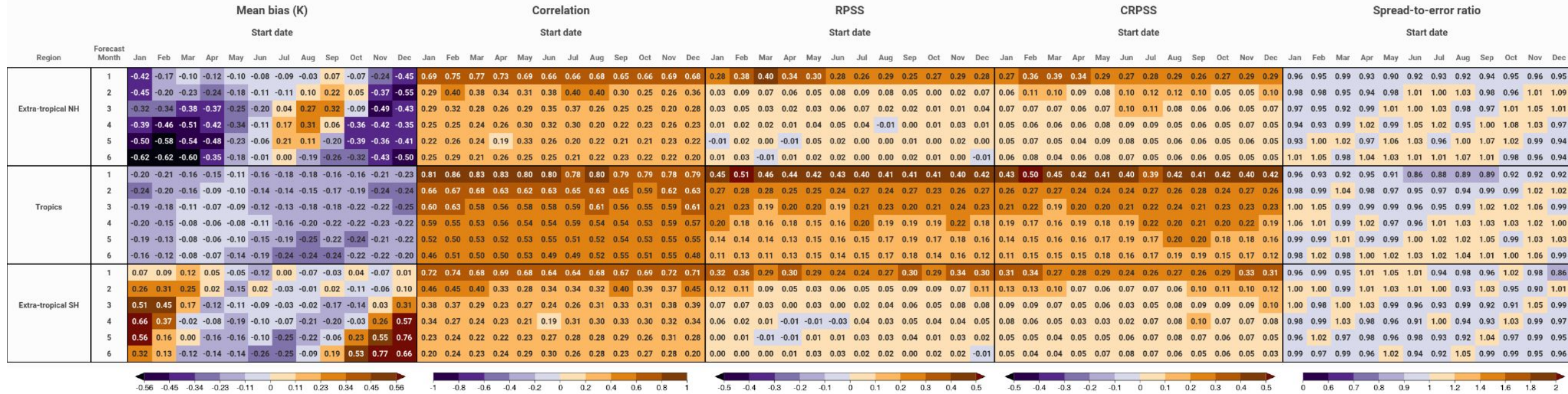


Synergies with other projects

→ SUNSET can generate **Scorecards** showcasing different metrics for multiple initializations of a model. In the CERISE project, these are used to support the **evaluation of the next generation of Copernicus Climate Change Service seasonal forecast systems**.

Near-Surface Air Temperature of ECMWF SEAS5 (Interpolation = to system, Aggregation level = score, Cross-validation = anomalies & terciles & crps_clim)

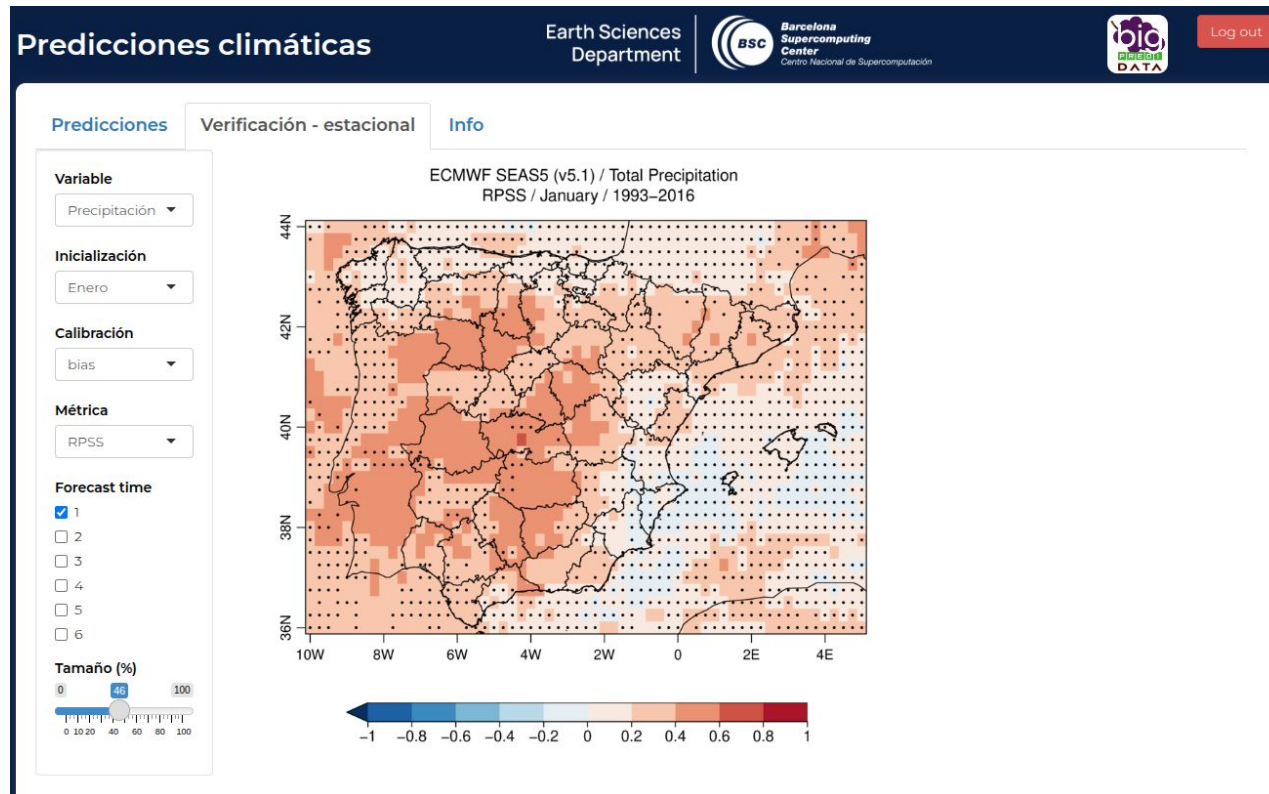
(Ref: ERA5 1993-2016)



Several skill scores can be obtained via the comparison of predictions with observations. Positive skill means an added value with respect to the climatology.

Synergies with other projects

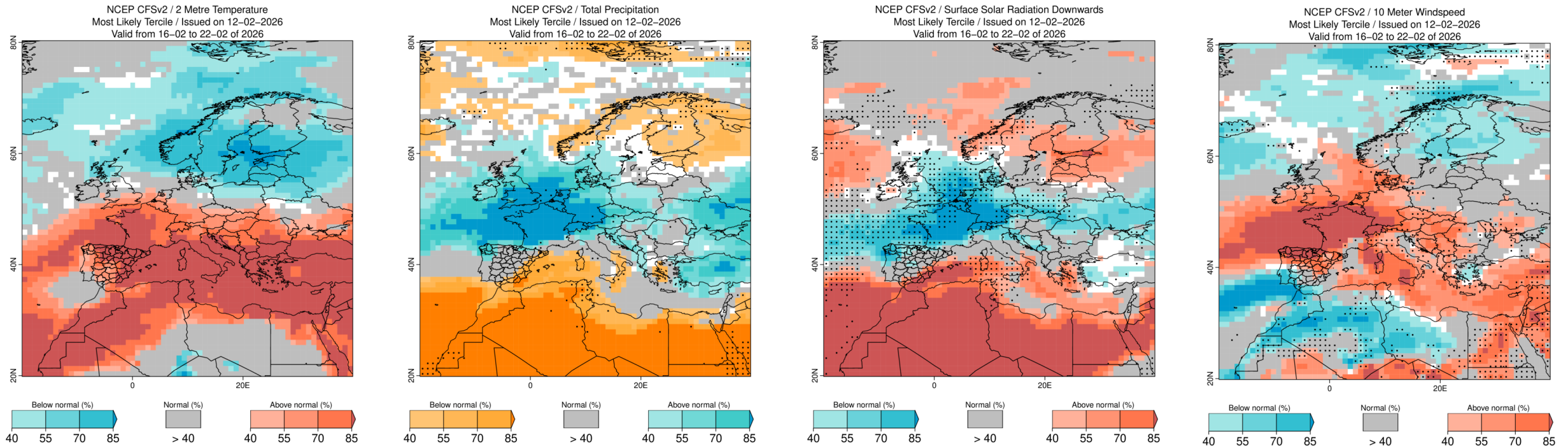
- The Visualization module in SUNSET can also produce **maps of the skill scores**, to provide information about the estimated quality of a forecast for a particular time and place.



Screenshot from the BigPrediData shiny app, hosted by BSC-CNS.

Synergies with other projects

→ **Most Likely Tercile maps** summarize probabilistic information to aid decision-making. This type of visualization was originally developed within the CStools R package (Pérez-Zanón et al., 2022), as part of the MEDSCOPE project.



Most Likely Tercile maps for multiple essential climate variables, generated as part of the operational subseasonal forecast provided for the BOREAS project.

Synergies with other projects

→ **Bias adjustment methods** are used to correct model biases and improve the reliability of climate predictions. In SUNSET, multiple bias adjustment and forecast calibration technique can be applied using the methods present in the CStools package.

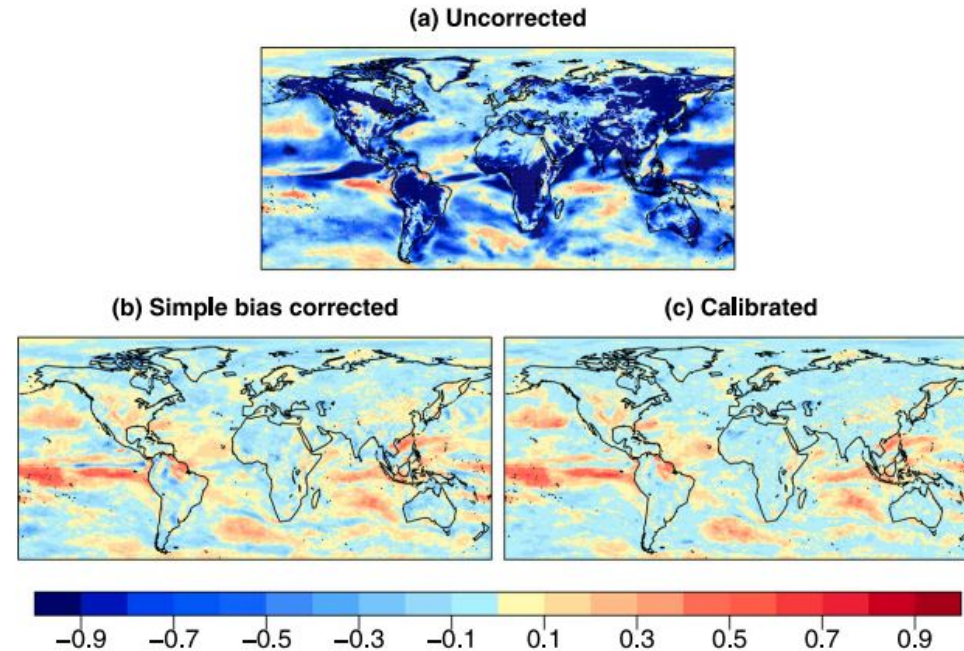
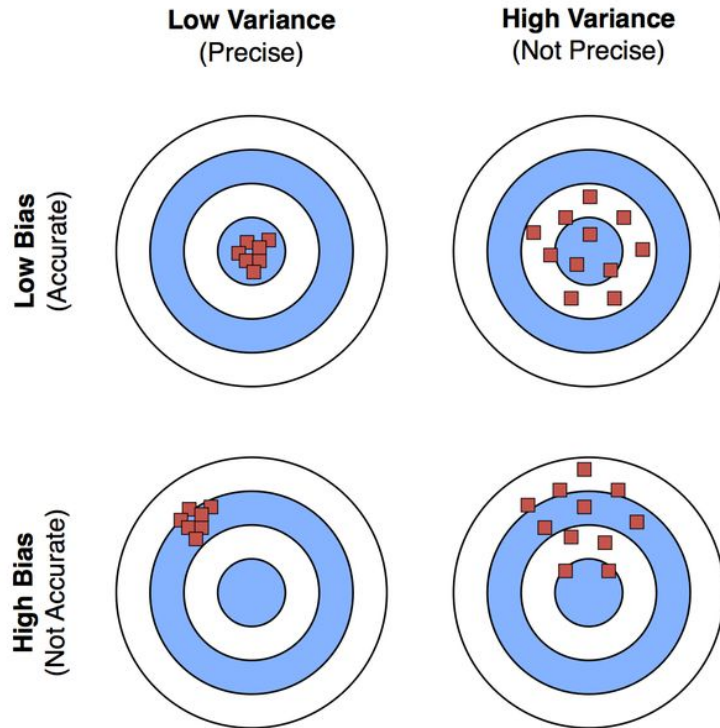
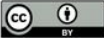


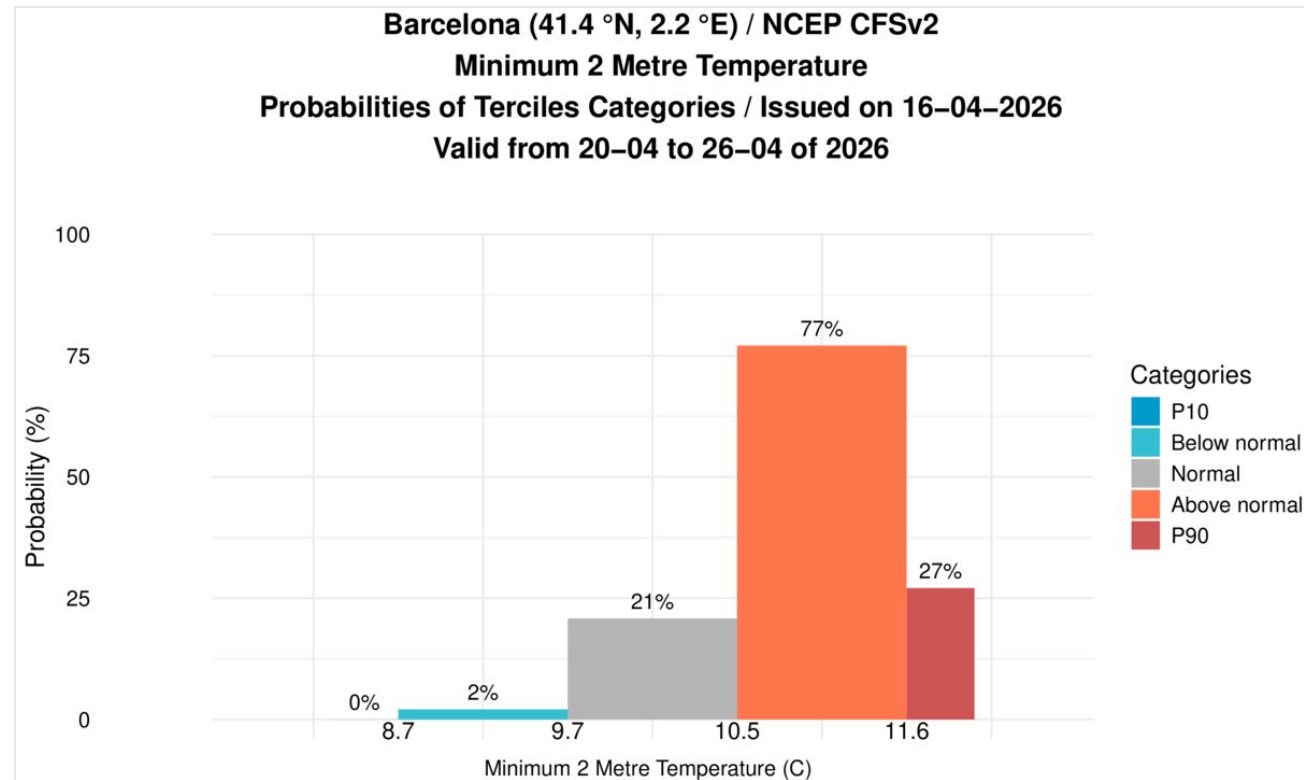
FIG. 4. Fair RPSS for tercile events of 10-m wind speed forecasts from ECMWF System 4 and ERA-Interim reanalysis in winter (DJF). These predictions have been initialized on 1 Nov for the period of 1981–2012.

Torralba, V., Doblas-Reyes, F. J., MacLeod, D., Christel, I., & Davis, M. (2017). Seasonal Climate Prediction: A New Source of Information for the Management of Wind Energy Resources, *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, 56(5), 1231-1247. Retrieved Apr 9, 2021, from <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/apme/56/5/jamc-d-16-0204.1.xml>

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Synergies with other projects

- Bar plot type visualizations showing **probabilistic forecast outlooks for point locations** were originally developed for the VitiGEOSS project.

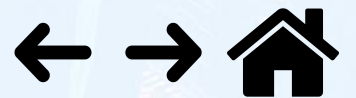


Bar plot showing the likelihood of minimum 2 metre temperatures falling within given probability thresholds.

6. Future developments



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Future developments

SUNSET is under continuous development, and many new features and improvements are currently planned to meet project needs and enhance the usability of the tool:

- Lazy loading and domain decomposition for very large datasets
- Docker containerization and general portability improvements
- Climate Indicators for the Health and Energy sectors
- AI-based downscaling methods
- Clearer and more complete documentation

References



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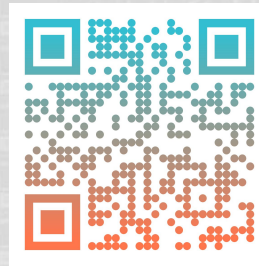


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Thank you for your interest!

The SUNSET repository:

<https://gitlab.earth.bsc.es/es/sunset>



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