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Barcelona
Supercomputing
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Centro Nacional de Supercomputación



EXCELENCIA
SEVERO
OCHOA

Visualising climate services

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Living Lab 2021
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Building on the knowledge of **many BSC colleagues**: Marta Terrado, Dragana Bojovic, Diana Urquiza, Konstantina Chouta, Andria Nicodemou, Sara Octenjak, Jose Canovas, Miguel Segura, Marina Conde, Ilaria Vigo, Asun Lera St. Clair, Luz Calvo, Guillermo Marin, Fernando Cucchiatti

1990

SO, THIS CLIMATE CHANGE THING COULD BE A PROBLEM...



1995

CLIMATE CHANGE: DEFINITELY A PROBLEM.



2001

YEP, WE SHOULD REALLY BE GETTING ON WITH SORTING THIS OUT PRETTY SOON...



2007

LOOK, SORRY TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD HERE...



2013

WE REALLY HAVE CHECKED AND WE'RE NOT MAKING THIS UP.



2019

IS THIS THING ON?



TAP TAP TAP

KOPKA
28/9/13

A hand holds a rectangular piece of cardboard with the text "There is NO Planet B" written on it. The text is written in black and red paint. The background is a blurred crowd of people at a protest, with a large yellow balloon visible on the left. The sign is held up in the center of the frame.

There is
NO Planet B



NARRATIVES

VISUALS

#ShowYourStripes

Córdoba 1901-2018



Not only for
broad audiences...

Policy makers



Industry



Civil protection



... and many more

Engage them
Raise Awareness
Trigger action



**ACTIONABLE
INFORMATION**



1. Design

Design is **ALL** around but we only realise when it **FAILS**



WOW factor... **Aesthetics also matter**

We all have
Unconscious biases



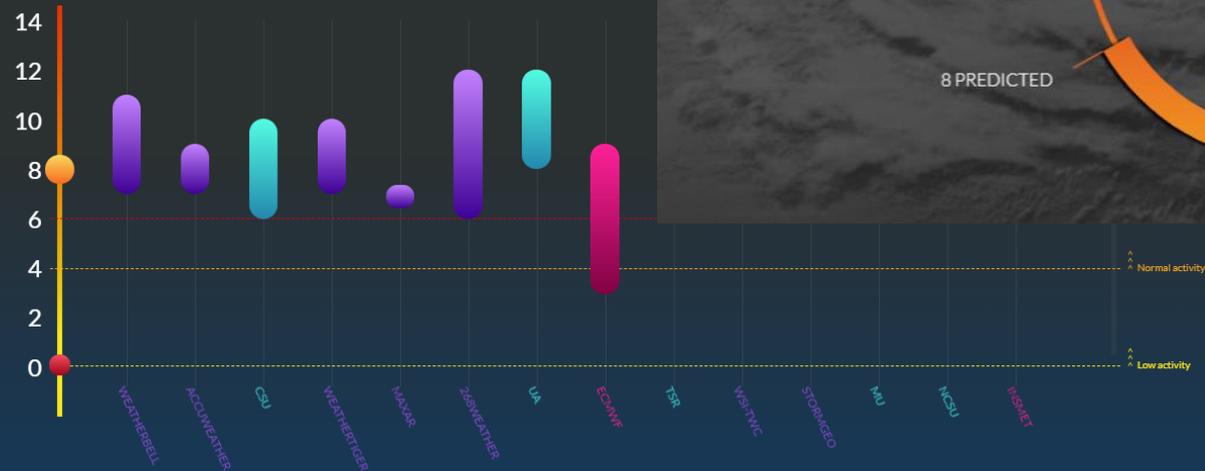


- LEGEND**
- UNIVERSITY
 - PRIVATE ENTITY
 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY
 - CURRENT SEASON
 - AVERAGE PREDICTION

PLOT DESCRIPTION
Most recent tropical cyclone forecasts from each of the forecasting centers. Limits for the activity levels correspond to the ones defined by NOAA

Download .CSV

Download .PDF



FORECAST EXPLANATION

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on 1 June, and over one dozen groups have already issued seasonal hurricane forecasts for the 2020 season. To date, most groups have predicted an above-average season, with several forecasting an extremely active season (e.g., 9+ hurricanes). The spread in these early season predictions is somewhat less than we have seen in recent years. Several months

season historically ramps up in August, and consequently, significant alterations in seasonal forecasts are possible. For example, if the tropical Pacific were to anomalously warm and tropical Atlantic SSTs were to anomalously cool, seasonal forecasts would likely decrease. Alternatively, if La Niña appeared more likely and the tropical Atlantic remained warmer than normal, seasonal forecasts could be

In association with



HISTORICAL AVERAGE

6

PAST ACTIVITY

2017 10

0 TO DATE

Seasonal Hurricane Predictions

8 PREDICTED

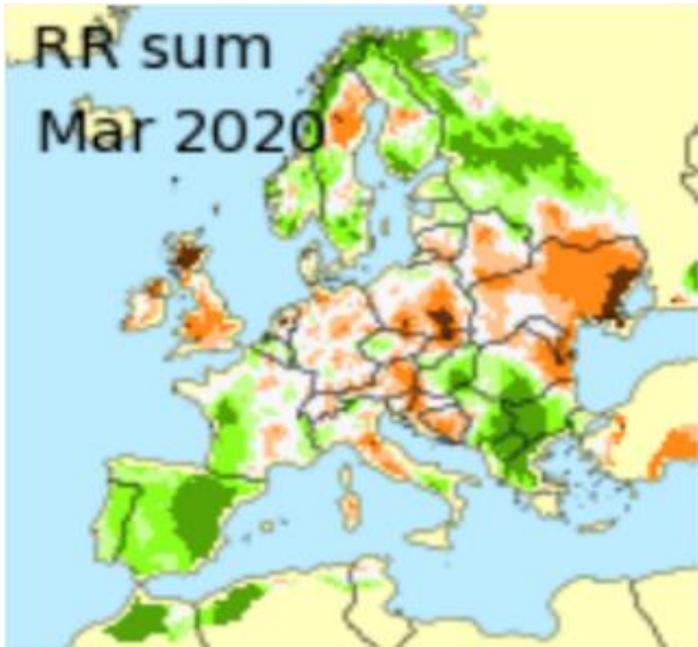
Normal activity

Low activity

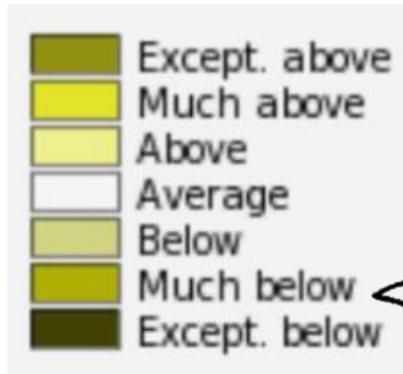




1. Design
2. Color



Usual color scale
for precipitation



Color-blind
simulation

Build
color-blind friendly
products



Travel Security Solutions
Making your world a little safer



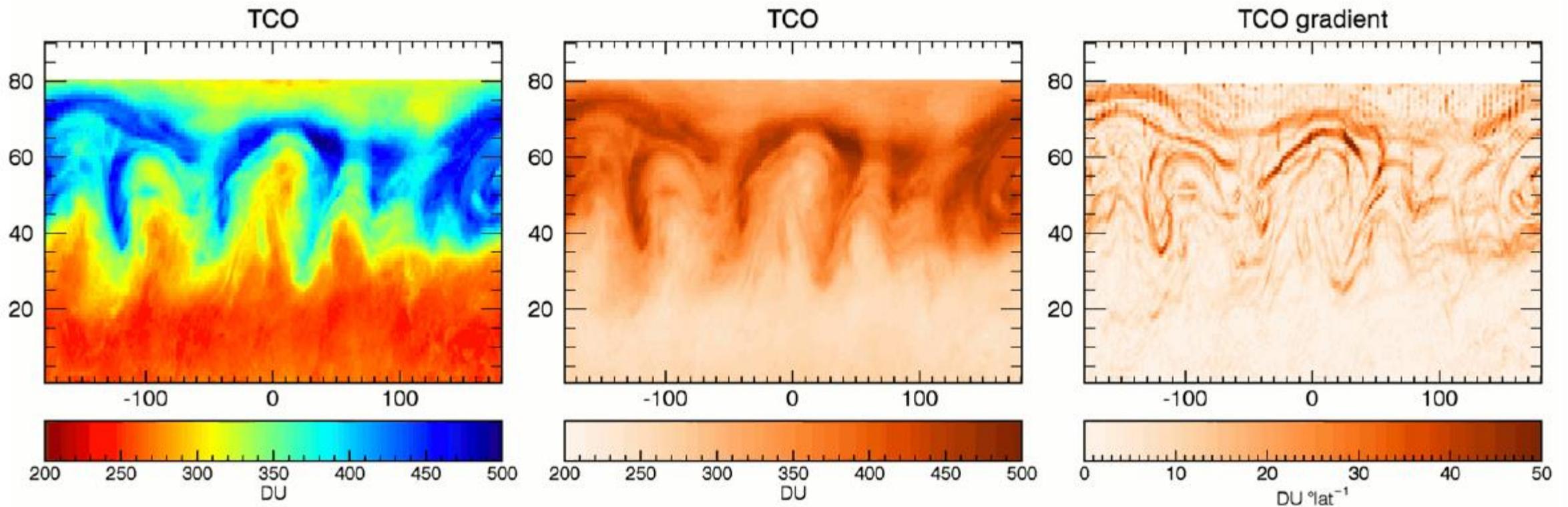
Travel Security Solutions
Making your world a little safer

Scan and download the latest version
More information online
www.global-monitoring.com



**Normal practice
does not mean
good practice**

Wrong color scale can show effects not present in data

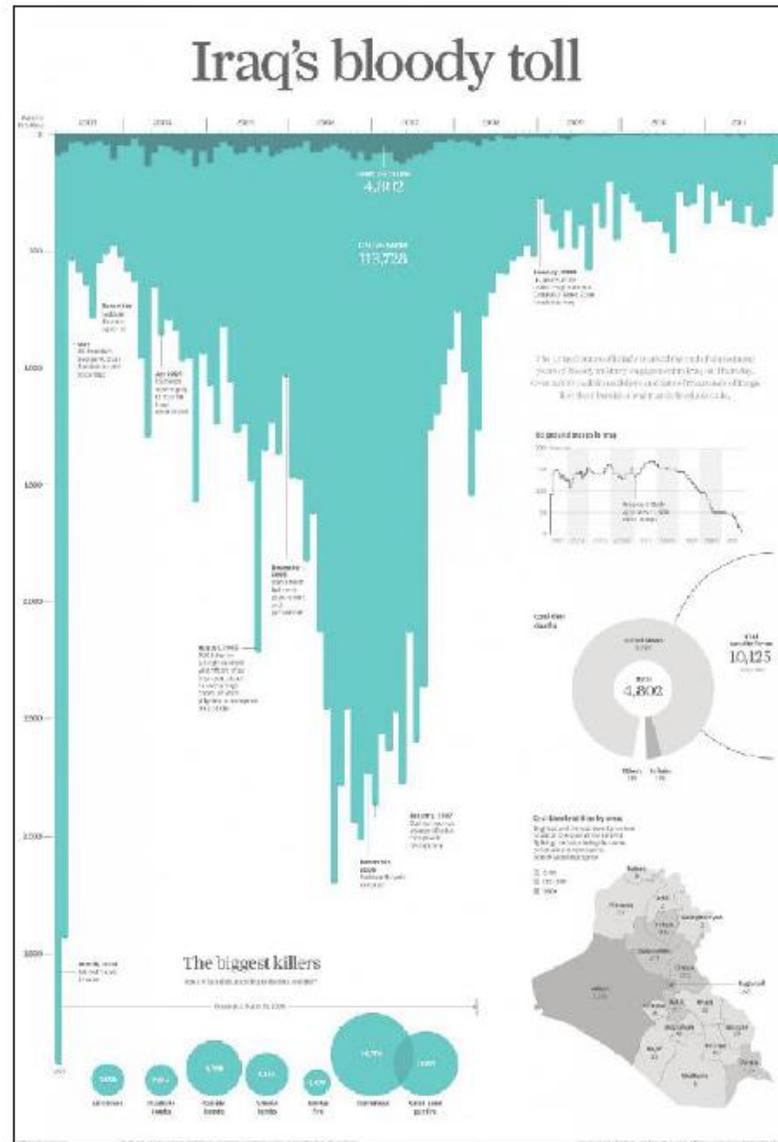
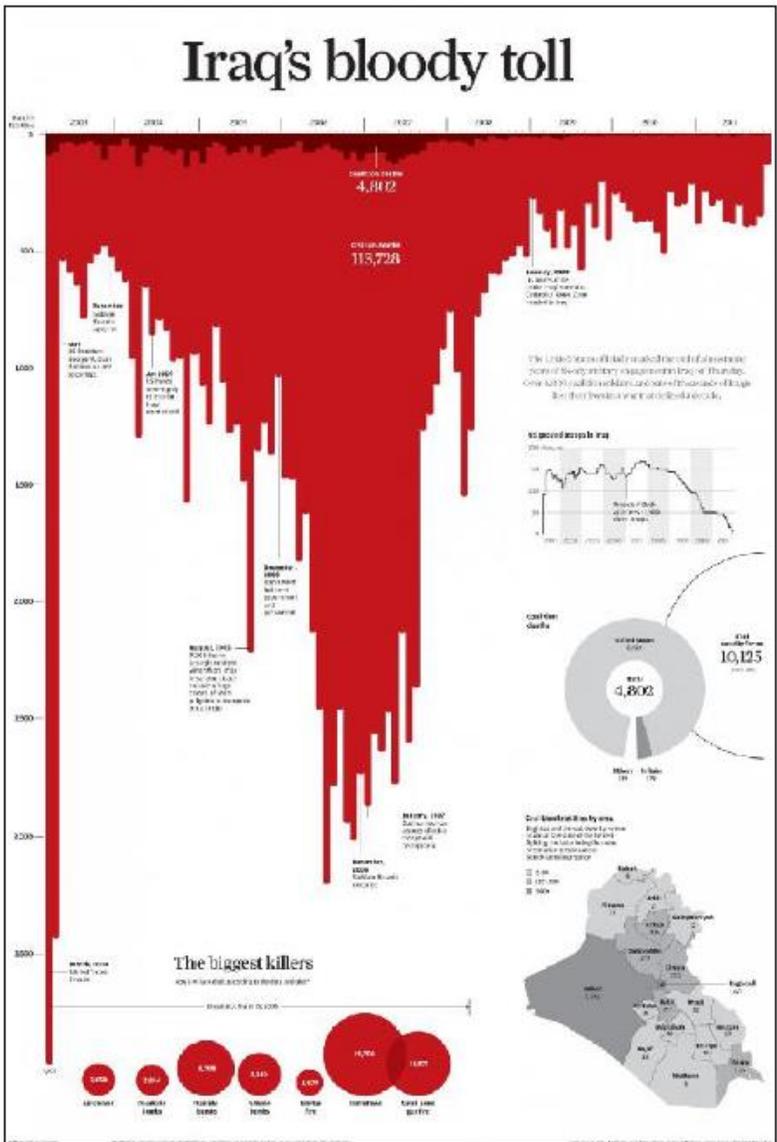


Learn more at: <https://www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/2014/end-of-the-rainbow/>

Sean Davis, NOAA

Colors may also have

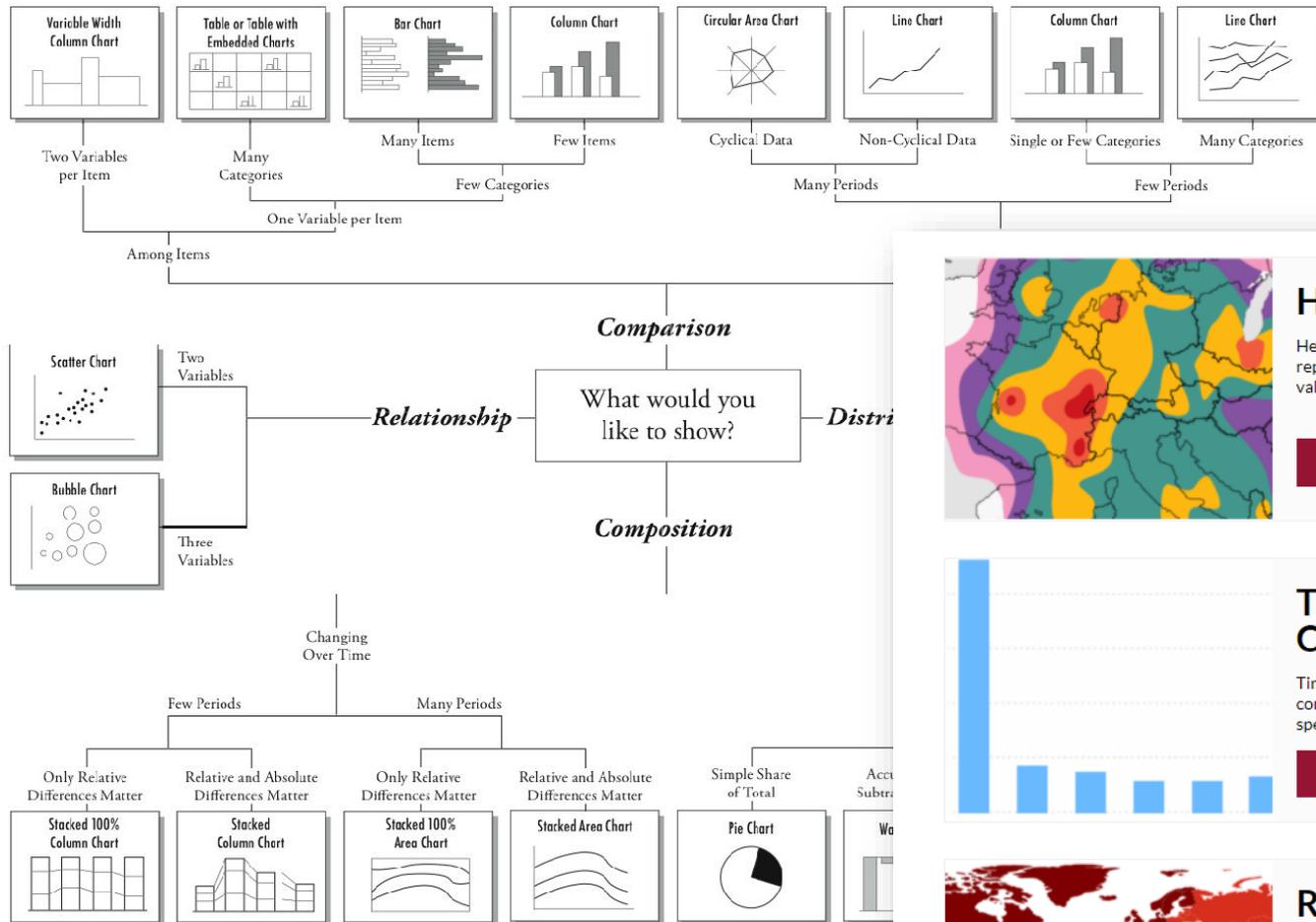
meaning



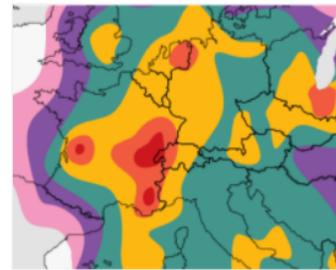


1. Design
2. Color
3. **Visual encoding**

Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter



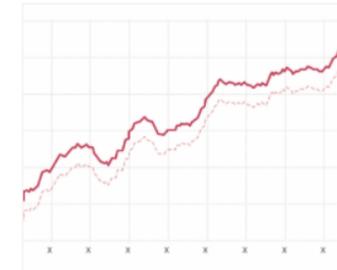
Type of data and type of product



Heatmap

Heatmaps are graphical representations of data where values are depicted by colours.

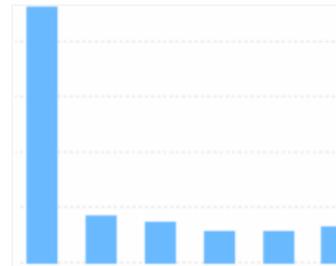
[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Timeseries

Time series show how multiple dimensions compare over time, spot trends, and seasonal changes in data.

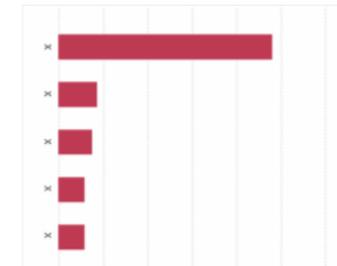
[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Time Comparison

Time Comparison allows you to compare a selection of a period in a specific time scale.

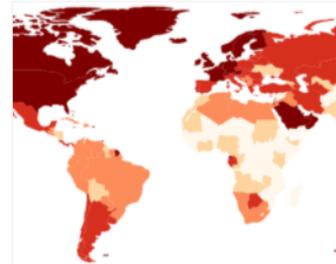
[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Ranking

Ranking charts are an effective way to show data ranked in an ascending or descending order.

[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Region Maps

Region maps display regions that are coloured, shaded or patterned in relation to a variable.

[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)

Position on common scale



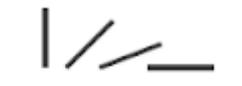
Position on unaligned scale



Length (1D size)



Tilt/angle



Area (2D size)



Depth (3D position)



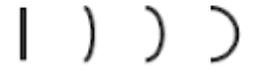
Color luminance



Color saturation



Curvature



Volume (3D size)



Same

Spatial region



Color hue



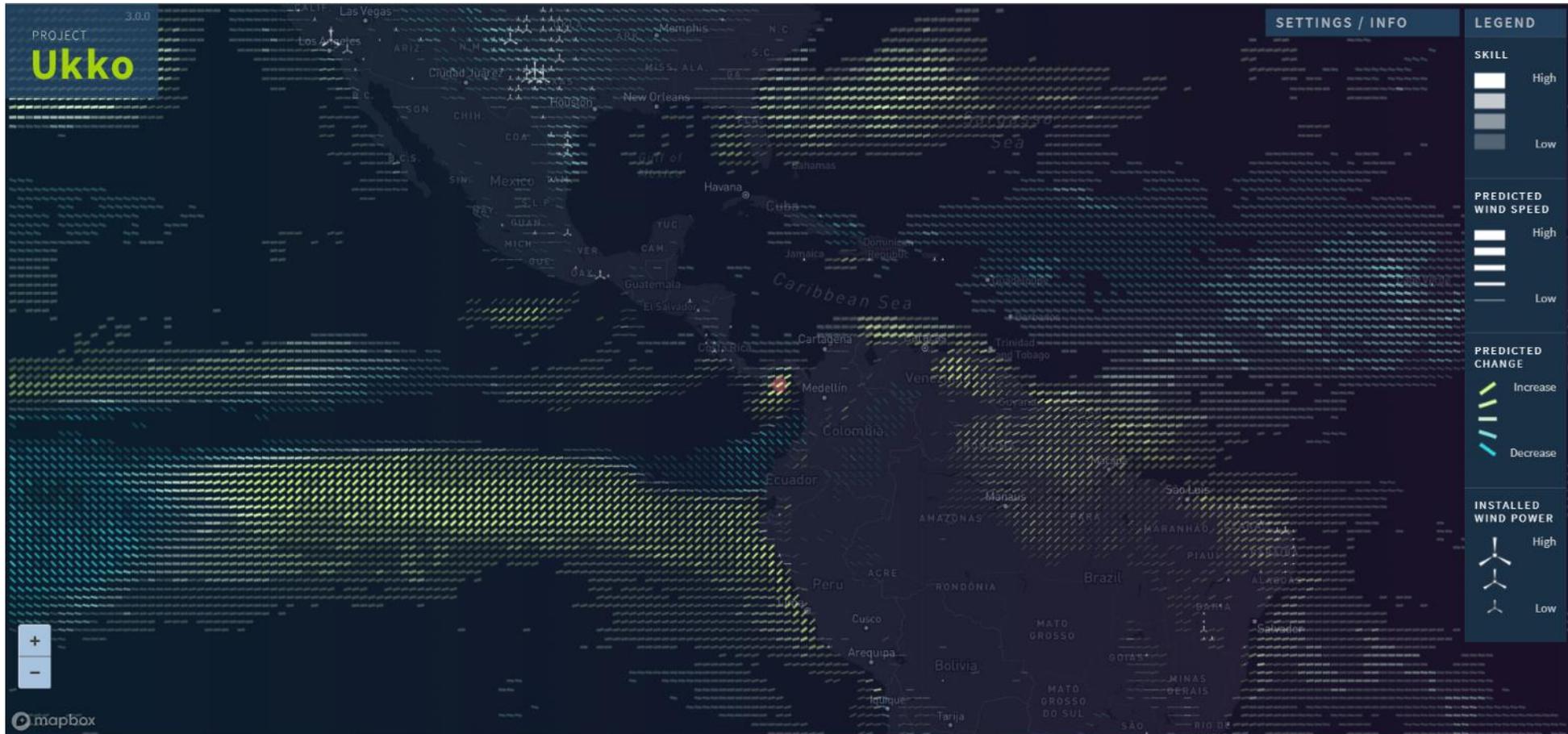
Motion



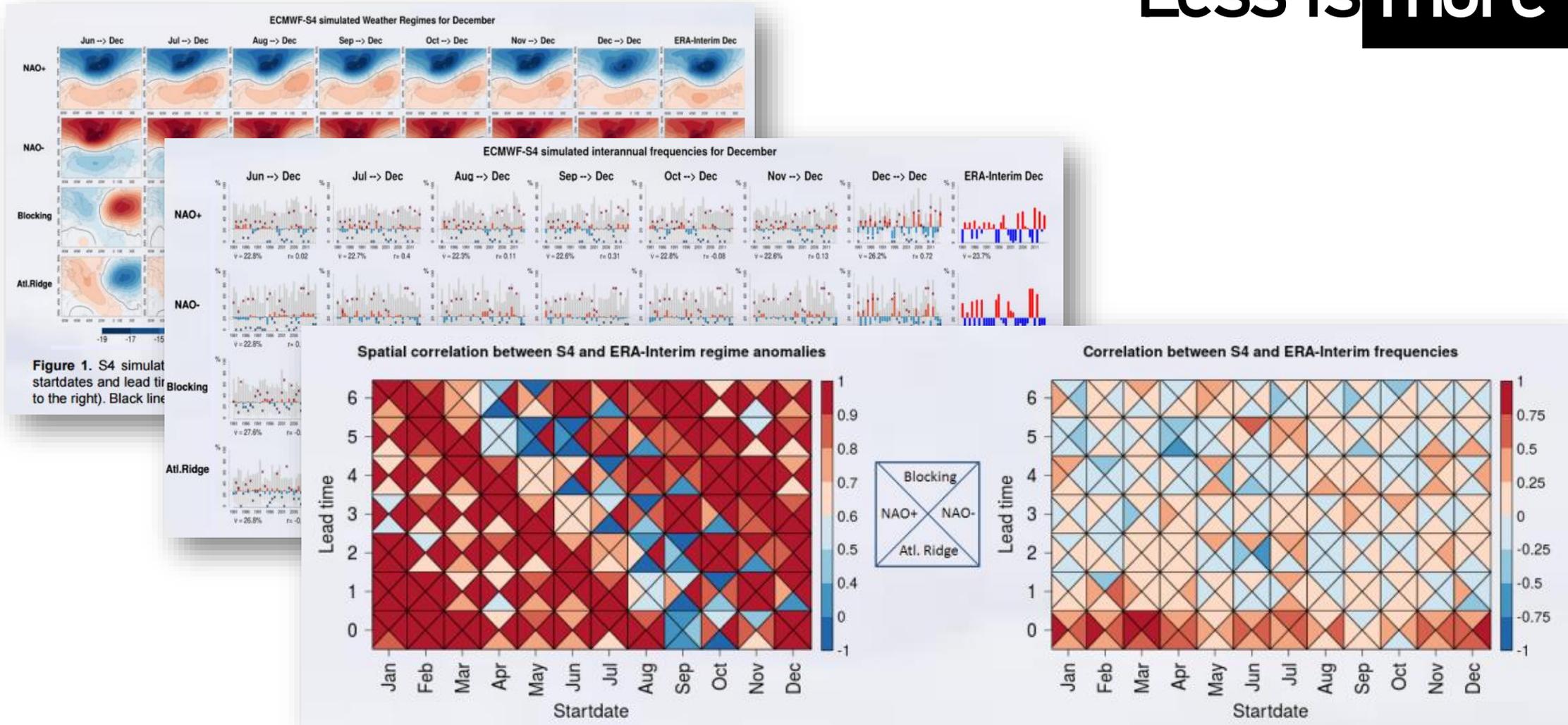
Shape



Not all encoding is equally good...



Less is more





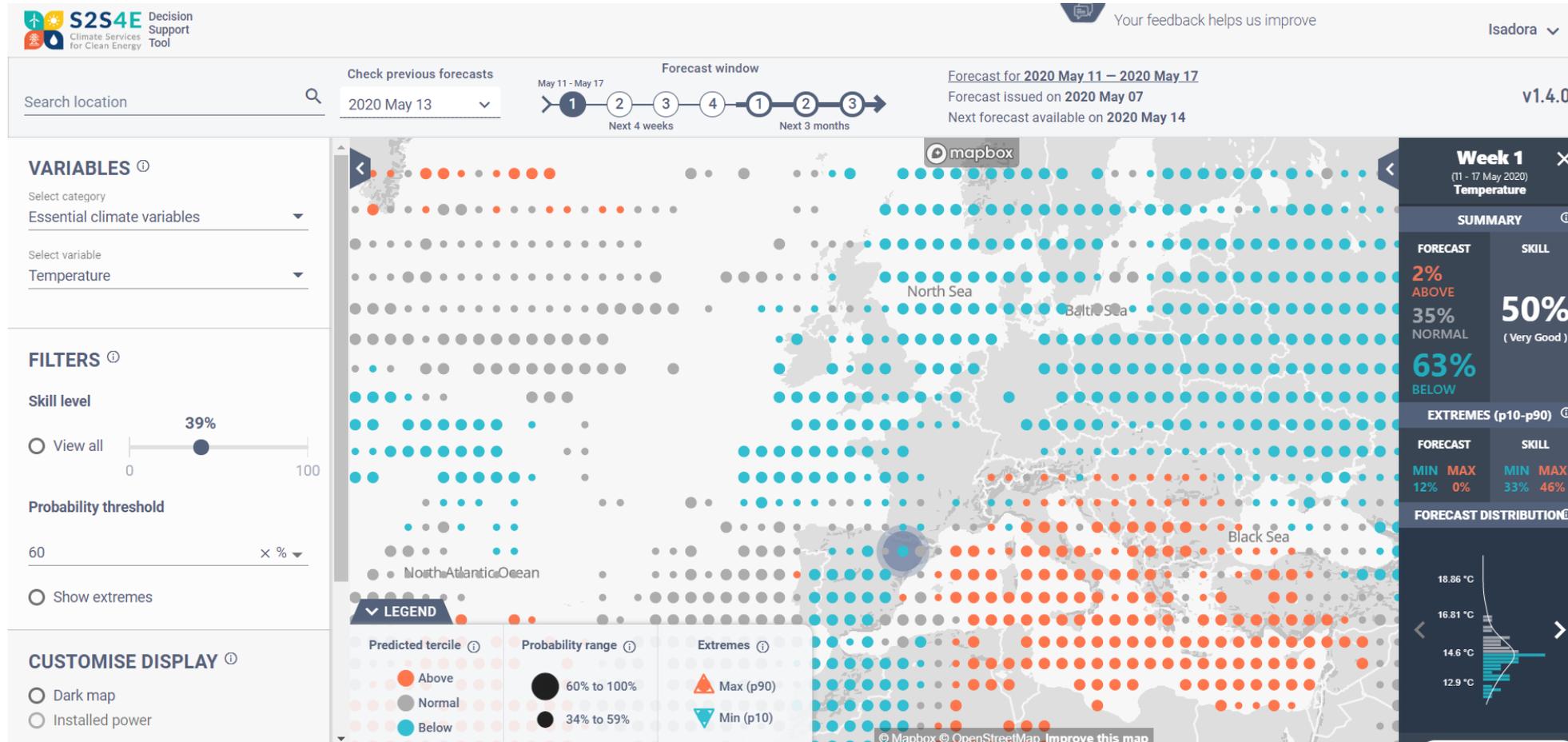
1. Design
2. Color
3. Visual encoding
4. Interacting with information

Two key concepts



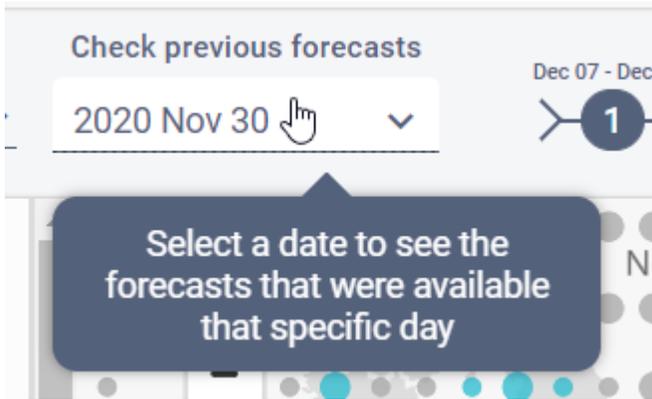
**Progressive Disclosure
Of information**

**Interactive
Design**

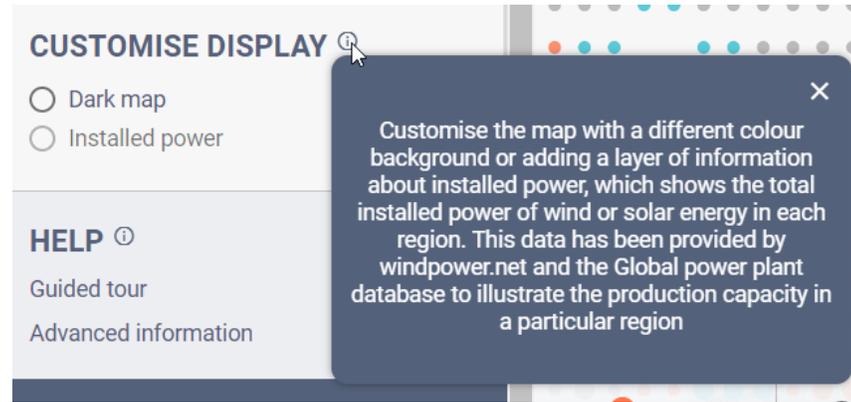


Guiding the User

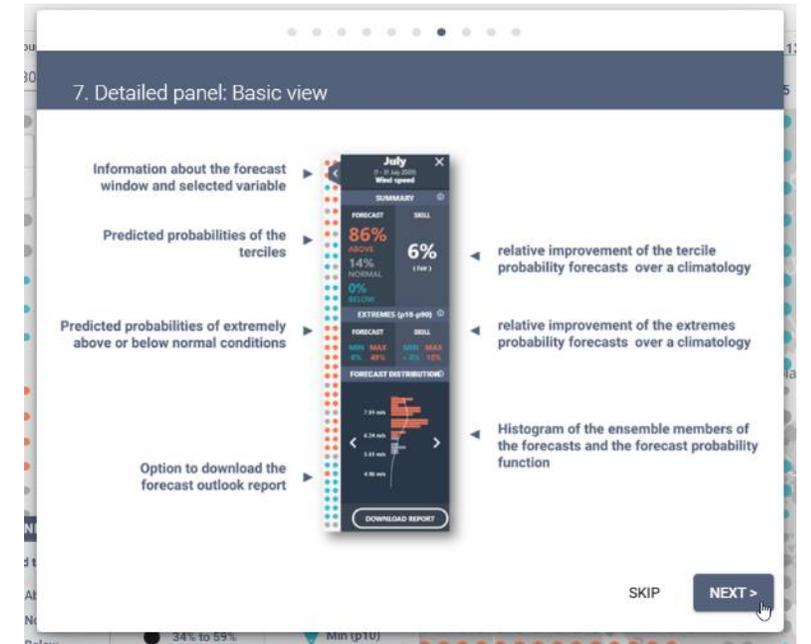
Mouse hover text



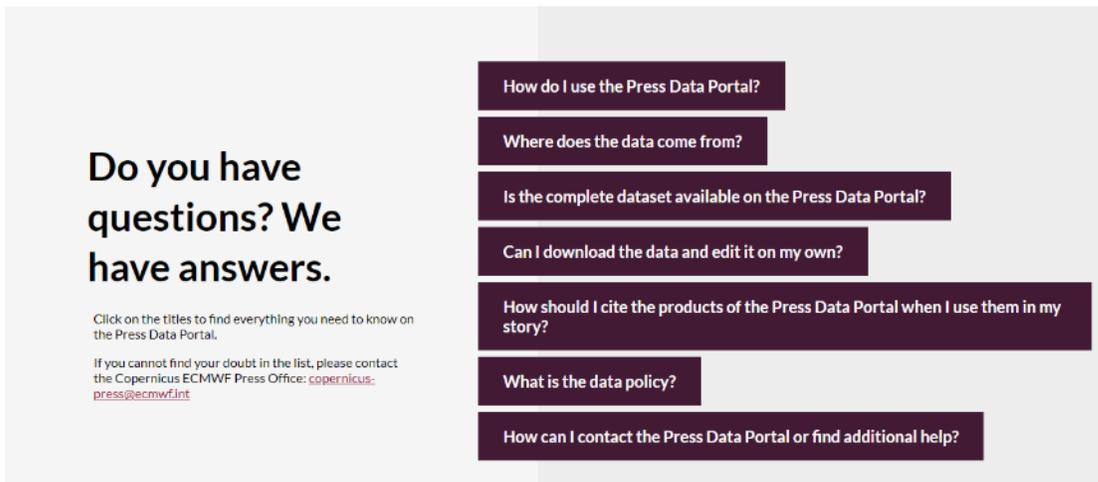
Tooltips



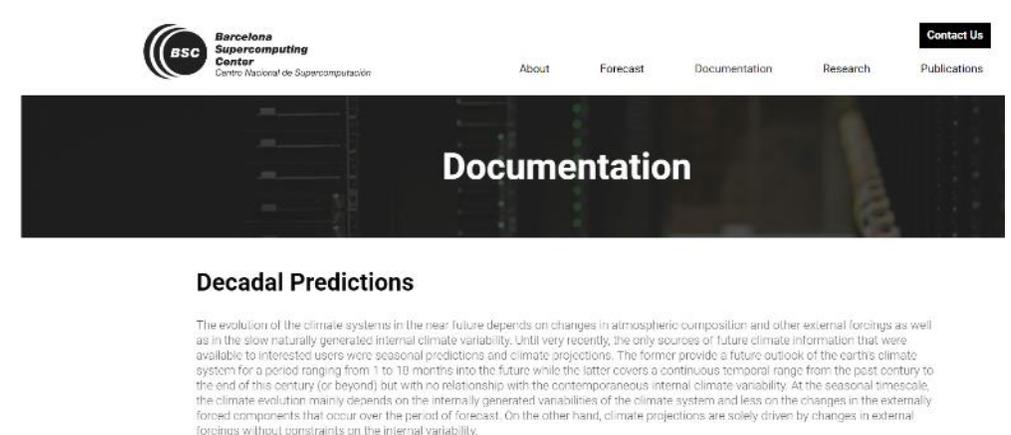
Guided tours



FAQ



Advanced help and documentation





1. Design
2. Color
3. Visual encoding
4. Interacting with information
5. **Uncertainty visualisation**

Uncertainty visualisation is a key challenge
for Data visualisation and Science

First order uncertainty:
e.g. **probabilities**

anomalies

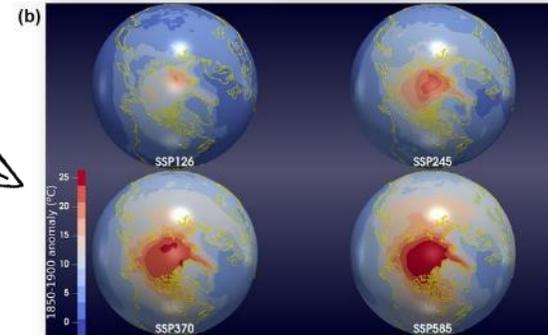
terciles

Terrado, M. et al.

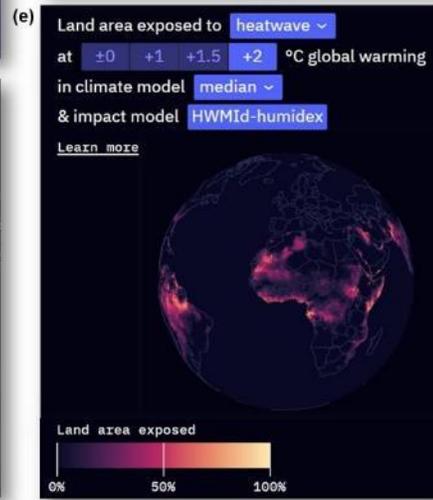
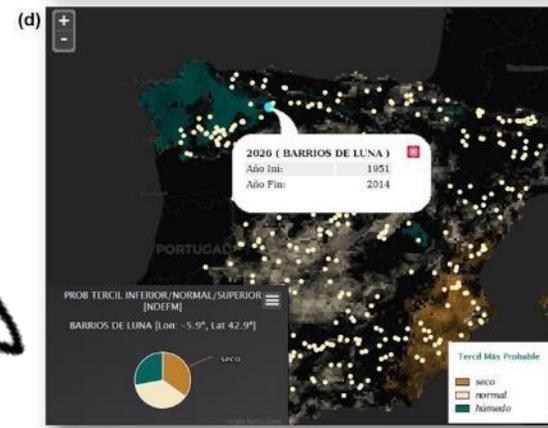
<https://www.climateurope.eu/10020-2/>



average and possible range



extreme events probabilities (e.g. p10 and p90)



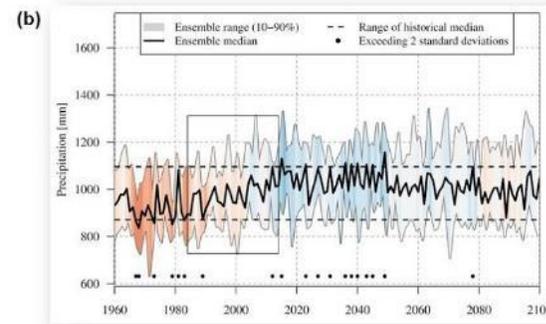
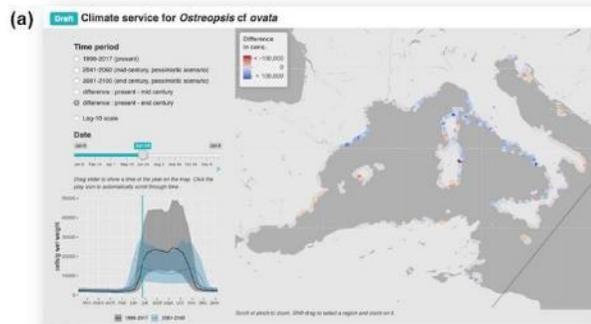
scenarios



whole probability distribution function

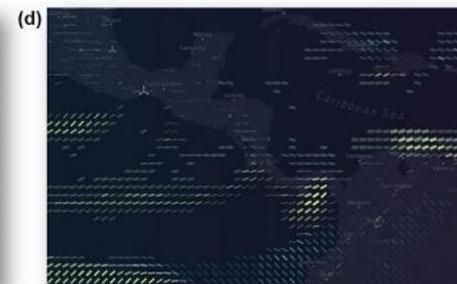
Second order uncertainty: e.g. skill, reliability

uncertainty
not shown

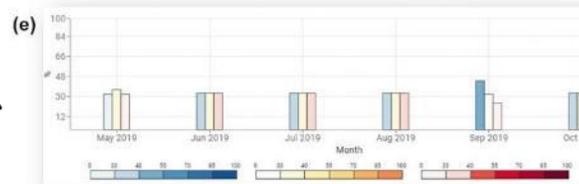


show ensemble
range

mask areas with
high uncertainty



use visual
encoding (e.g.
transparency)



replace predictions with high uncertainty by the
climatology (i.e. average conditions of the past years)

use interactive options (e.g. slider)

THANK YOU



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