

→ CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

The ESA Climate Change Initiative has been set up to exploit the archives of satellite data now available, to help improve our understanding of the global climate system. There are 13 essential climate variables involved, all of which aim to produce stable, long-term, error-characterised data products, which will be easily accessible to all.

The 13 projects are looking for potential users of these datasets to guide the final products to make sure they are useful and useable to the widest number of people possible. Therefore SOLAS members are invited to review the User Requirement Documents and Product Specification Documents produced by relevant projects, which are available on their website (website page: Resources, Documents).

For those more involved in Earth Observation, each project is undertaking a 'round robin' exercise, an objective procedure to determine the best algorithm to be implemented in each project. External participants are invited to contribute their algorithms, or where the projects are at different stages and the round robin is already being undertaken, to inspect the results (website page: Round Robin).

The projects currently cover clouds, aerosols, ozone, greenhouse gases, sea surface temperature, ocean colour, sea level, land cover, fire, glaciers, as well as the recent additions of sea ice, soil moisture and ice sheets. More details can be found by going to <http://www.esa-cci.org> from which there are links to the individual project