

## Climate Change: Impacts on Terrestrial Ecosystems

2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL NCCR CLIMATE SUMMER SCHOOL GRINDELWALD, SWITZERLAND, 30 AUGUST – 6 SEPTEMBER 2003

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NCCR Climate Summer School commenced on 30 August 2003, following the PAGES meeting in Bern on 29 August 2003.

A total of 70 enthusiastic participants from 20 different countries attended this year, bringing along their own individual research interests. PAGES supported the attendance of four students from developing countries. The NCCR Climate Summer School proved to be an excellent platform for dynamic and stimulating conversation among students dedicated to research on the impacts of climate change in terrestrial ecosystems. The lectures, presentations and keynote speeches were conducted by an equally dynamic group of leading senior scientists from various scientific disciplines. Lectures covered terrestrial biosphere, hydrological, and atmospheric research. Topics of interest included mitigation and adaptation of plants and animals to climate change,



Fig. 2: Martin Grosjean explaining the Grindelwald geology to participants under advice of a local expert (Photo: C. Cunningham).

from varying disciplines to engage in the discussions that followed. The conference truly succeeded in encouraging a multi-disciplinary knowledge exchange, both in the academic and the social arena. Climate and global change effects on terrestrial ecosystems is

sociable people. Evenings were dedicated to relaxation, conversation about other common interests, sharing stories from one another's homeland, and hanging out in the now-famous Eiger Bar. The highlight of the week was a half-day hiking excursion (Figs. 1, 2) up to the Grindelwald Glacier, where we were graced by witnessing an ice-fall. All conference attendants stood in awe at this marvel of nature. An indication of warmer temperatures in this alpine environment?

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International NCCR Climate Summer School came to an end on Friday, 6 September with closing speeches given by Prof. Heinz Wanner, the Director of NCCR, Prof. Jürg Fuhrer, the visionary behind this Summer School, and Prof. Martin Grosjean, the guiding hand behind the organization of all the pieces for this dynamic and successful event.

Thanks again to NCCR, the Organizing Committee, and PAGES!

CATHERINE CUNNINGHAM<sup>1</sup> AND CAROLINE NARAYAN<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich, Switzerland; catherine.cunningham@env.ethz.ch

<sup>2</sup>Max Planck Inst. for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany; narayan@dkrz.de



Fig. 1: The Wetterhorn (3701 m asl.) as seen from Grindelwald (Photo: C. Cunningham).

global perspectives that integrated the socio-economic aspect of climate change issues, and finally an overview of the role of science in the UNFCCC/Kyoto process.

We are grateful to the conference planning committee for thoughtfully orchestrating this diverse team of senior scientists and encouraging them to share not only the latest advancements in their selected field, but also important background knowledge on their topic. This style of presentation effectively allowed all the students

such an enormously complicated topic that it necessitates interaction among specialists. Thus, it was encouraging to learn that our generation of field ecologists and ecosystem modeling experts are really delighted at the prospect of working together in research teams to solve the critical problems of climate change affecting our natural environment today.

But wait! The Summer School was not all lectures and discussions and 'brain-drain'. After all, scientists are also fun-loving and

