Systematic observations of the climate system underpin, through interpretation, our knowledge about our changing climate. This knowledge in turn can be used to inform sound policy development.

However, systemic observations need:
- Commitment to the long term
- Investment—human as well as financial
- Ongoing calibration
- Maintenance
- Satellite data expensive (heavy computing)

Pressure to:
- Reduce costs therefore to reduce measuring sites.
- Resist the call that ‘all the information you need is on the Internet’
- Or the call to ‘just Google it’.

Ongoing capacity development:
- Language, interpretation into local languages
- Training
- Data recovery
- Digitization

*“Better information means better environmental management. Fit for purpose and enduring policies, regulation and management practices depend on having a “collective truth” about what is happening, what and where are the problems. Scientific research plays a critical role in providing authoritative information and in creating ways in which this can be integrated and shared to meet the needs of those using it”. *after: OECD Environment Performance Review, March 2017.

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