Climatic Change and Variability (CCAV)

**Description**  
A methodology of descriptive statistics to illustrate the changing average conditions and the variability in conditions over time. Climate time-series data can be described according to their average conditions, but of particular importance for vulnerability are the impacts of adaptation to the variability of conditions from year to year. Within the range of climatic conditions is a range of conditions with which humans can cope. This range can be changed with adaptive responses. The climatic conditions can also be described and compared according to the variation of conditions over a particular time period (indicated by the variance).

**Appropriate Use**  
To assess climate change and variability in the context of the coping capacity of human systems.

**Scope**  
All locations; all levels of analysis.

**Key Output**  
Allows user to understand changes not only in average climate conditions but also in extreme conditions.

**Key Input**  
Climate time-series data.

**Ease of Use**  
Easy.

**Training Required**  
No formal training required, although an understanding of climatic data and descriptive statistics is an asset.

**Computer Requirements**  
None identified.

**Documentation**  

**Applications**  
Applied by Environment Canada’s Environmental Adaptation Research Group, and in other climate change and variability research in Canada and Germany.

**Contacts for Framework, Documentation, Technical Assistance**  
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**Cost**  
None identified.

**References**  
See Documentation above.