
Organisation

More than 25 renowned research organisations use the DKK as a platform to network with each other and to speak with one voice.



The chairman of the executive committee is **Prof. Dr Astrid Kiendler-Scharr**, Forschungszentrum Jülich.

The committee members represent the various facets of the association:

Prof. Dr Anita Engels, Cluster of excellence CLICCS: "Climate, Climatic Change, and Society" at the University of Hamburg (universities)

Dipl.-Met. Tobias Fuchs, Deutscher Wetterdienst (the German Meteorological Service), Offenbach am Main (higher federal authorities)

Prof. Dr Jochem Marotzke, Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg (non-university research organisations)

Prof. Dr Mark Lawrence, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) (non-university research organisations)

Managing Director **Marie-Luise Beck** is responsible for the office based in the centre of Berlin, and is the first person of contact for policymakers and the general public.

Deutsches Klima-Konsortium

The Deutsches Klima-Konsortium (DKK) unites and represents the leading stakeholders of German climate research and climate impact research. It was established by renowned climate scientists in 2009.

The DKK functions as a platform for climate research and as a central point of contact for the general public and policy makers for issues concerning climate and climate change. The DKK follows the guiding principle of 'Research for society, the economy and the environment' in providing science-based political consulting.

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Climate – a complex system

We experience weather daily. The climate, however, is a statistical quantity: namely, the average weather over a time period spanning several decades. Climate changes such as the decline in precipitation or the spate of heat-waves are issues that directly affect mankind.

The climate is dependent on processes in the oceans, on land and in the atmosphere. Climate fluctuations are as old as the earth itself. The climate repeatedly changes to a certain extent, due to volcanic eruptions, changes in the earth's orbit or variations in solar radiation.



What is new is that mankind has also drastically influenced the climate since industrialisation. Never in the history of mankind has the concentration of CO₂ been as high as it is today – resulting in the atmosphere retaining more solar energy and the earth warming up.

There is a consensus among climate scientists on the correlation between the man-made increase in greenhouse gases and global warming, as also reported in the IPCC assessment reports.

Climate – a broad field of research

Climate research takes the entire Earth system into consideration. It is interdisciplinary and international.

Scientists from many disciplines in basic research work on their questions and theses in order to better understand the climate. Costly infrastructure such as research vessels, aircraft, weather balloons and supercomputers collate and process data. Climate models simulate processes in the Earth system and compute future climate changes. In addition to the estimations until the end of the century made by global climate models, new missions in regional and decadal projections for the near future are emerging.



Climate impact research analyses the effects of global warming on the Earth system. The objective is to make the earth and its inhabitants less vulnerable to the expected climate changes. Besides natural changes, economic and social consequences play an increasingly important role.

Ultimately, it is all about solution strategies. The search for new climate adaptation strategies as well as for pathways to a sustainable and low-carbon society is an interdisciplinary challenge: sustainability science, energy, technology, environmental and risk research all come together in climate science.

Our mission

New paths and fields of research

The DKK promotes knowledge sharing among institutions and supports collaboration between the various scientific disciplines in climate research.

We talk to decision-makers and assist in the development of climate-research programmes using a variety of methods: one-to-one discussions, parliamentary evenings and DKK statements about current and specialist topics and issues.

First-hand climate knowledge

The DKK makes climate-research information available both to society at large and to the media, and conveys climate-research findings to decision-makers.

Thus, we make climate science more accessible and make a fundamental contribution to rational discourses on climate policy. Regular DKK press briefings, for example, provide the scientific background of current topics.

