Activities on ECOCLIMAP and orography
Surfex Steering Committee – March 2014
(Surfex team)

Orography :
A tutorial (based on GRASS64) has been developed in order to mainly help users from the MesoNH community to use SRTM data.

ECOCLIMAP :
Several corrections were introduced in both ECOCLIMAP 1 and 2 :
The Surfex-lab page has been updated and completed accordingly.
In particular, the reference to ecoclimats_v2 was added to avoid confusions for the users.
http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/surfex-lab//spip.php?article136

Corrections introduced :
Changes of the Norway permanent glaciers (ECOCLIMAP 1 and 2)
Removing of two imaginary lakes near Belarus (ECOCLIMAP 1)
Removing of a false Island near New Caledonia and a false lake in Surinam. (ECOCLIMAP 1 and 2)

Identified problems :
A shift has been identified in ECOCLIMAP2 compared to ECOCLIMAP1 and other databases.
Some improvements are under considerations by some teams (HIRLAM, CNRM) concerning the river/lake/sea/ classification in research mode.

Prospects :
The VEGEO team (CNRM/GMME) is beginning an internal reflexion on the future of ECOCLIMAP in April/May. The main issues are the extension of ECOCLIMAP2-like quality over globe, the spatial resolution (300m, 100m?), the need for additional vegetation types, the computational efficiency.
The context is that :
- The French space agency is promoting a thematic pole (THEIA) https://www.ptsc.fr/
- The European Copernicus satellites sentinel 1 and 2 will provide high resolution data
- The ESA-CCI land cover product will be available this year (resolution 300m).

This reflexion can shared and be a contribution to the proposed SRNWP reflexion.