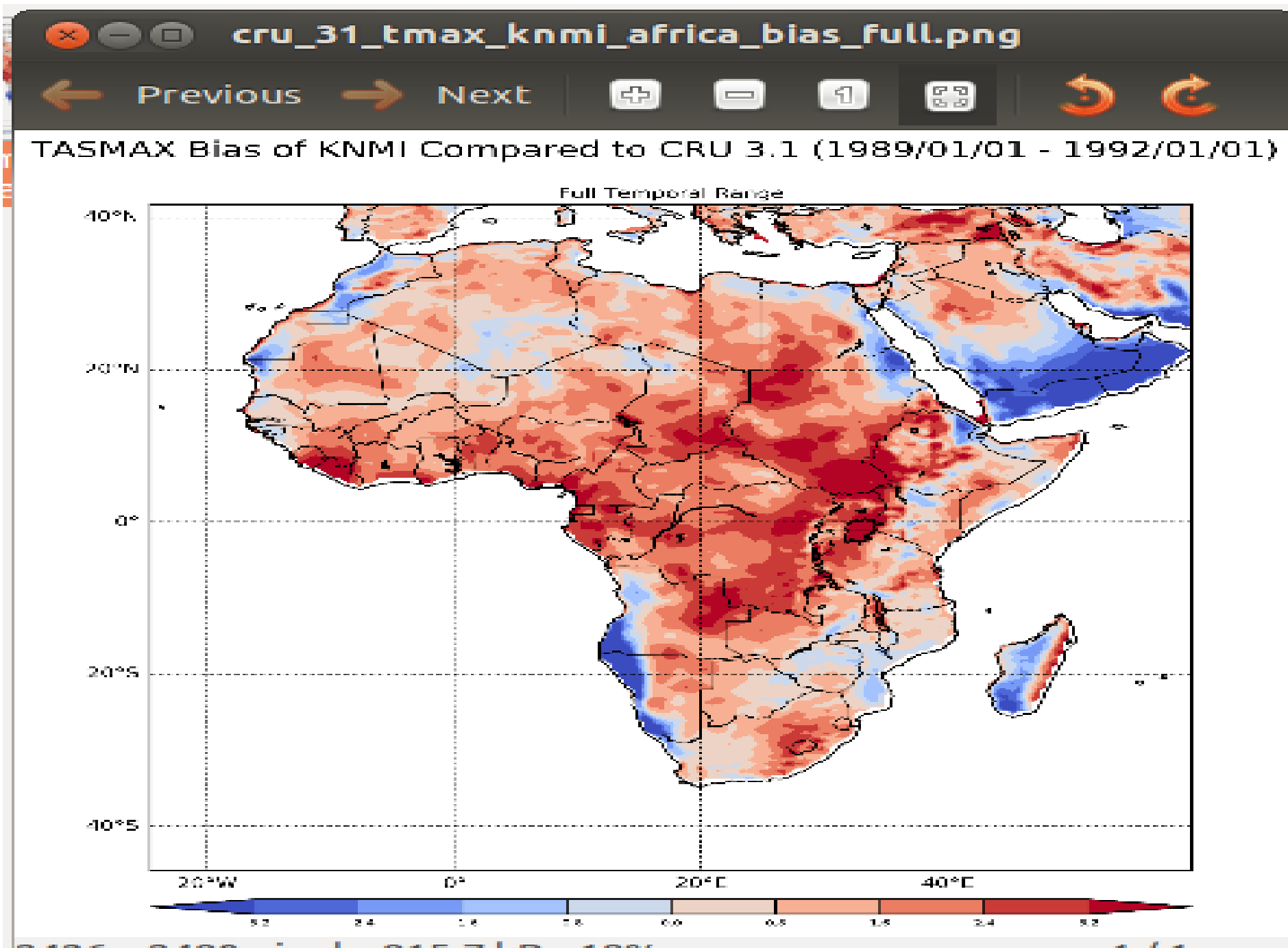


Explore climate data with open source tools



Climate scientists warn us that inaction could be fatal to our futures here. Military strategists at the Pentagon have [recently cautioned](#) President-Elect Trump that inaction on climate change could spell disaster for our national security as shrinking water supplies and meager rainfall cause crop failures will force large numbers of people to migrate to other parts of the world that can sustain them.

With all of the research on our climate by NASA, the US Defense Department, and others, I was curious if there are open source tools that would allow interested citizens to explore climate data and draw our own conclusions. A quick search of the Internet led me to the [Open Climate Workbench](#), a project that is part of the [Apache Software Foundation](#).



According to its website, the RCMES "is designed to facilitate regional-scale evaluations of climate and Earth system models by providing standardized access to a vast and comprehensive set of observations (e.g., satellite, reanalyzes and in-situ) and modeling resources (e.g., [CMIP](#) & [CORDEX](#) on the [ESGF](#)), as well as tools for performing common analysis and visualization tasks (e.g., OCW)."

You will need to have VirtualBox and Vagrant installed on your host computer. With it you can see an excellent example of the OCW in operation.