MET Office EMC Project – Event Attribution

Whenever there’s a heatwave, you will often hear media reports saying that it’s impossible to state whether or not climate change was to blame. Well, that’s not quite true anymore. At the very least, you can say how much the probability of the heatwave has changed. We’ll provide you with official temperature observations from heatwaves last year. Plus, you’ll get two large sets of data from Met Office simulations of that same season, but only one set includes climate change. Which set looks more like the observations? How much more likely was the heatwave with climate change?

A project looking at the comparison of a number of timeseries (e.g. annual temperatures) from two families of climate models (with and without human influence), looking at their statistical distribution and comparing to the observed event.  This will help understand how climate change is affecting events, and how certain we are of the size of that impact.