The project DEPARTURE (Decadal Prediction of African Rainfall and Atlantic Hurricane Activity) is dedicated to investigate West African climate and Atlantic Hurricane Activity and its predictability on a decadal scale. Long-term oscillations in Northern Hemisphere oceans, i.e. the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation, as well as land-cover characteristics, greenhouse-gas and aerosol concentrations control African climate and are promising candidates in the context of decadal predictability. The decadal scale aims at closing the gap between nowcasting efforts and long-term climate change projections. The assessment of decadal predictability is done by multi-decadal model simulation using three different regional climate models (REMO, CCLM and WRF) on the basis of SST-driven ECHAM6/MPIOM data. Within the subproject DEPARTURE-WRF, KIT / IMK-IFU is responsible for performing the dynamical downscaling using WRF.