



**The Mission of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) is to facilitate analysis and prediction of Earth system variability and change for use in an increasing range of practical applications of direct relevance, benefit and value to society.** The WCRP was established over 30 years ago as an outcome of the First World Climate Conference. It is jointly sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. The overarching objectives, set for the WCRP at its inception and still valid today, are to determine the predictability of climate and the effect of human activities on climate.

To achieve these objectives, WCRP facilitates international cooperation and collaboration through the organization of large-scale, observational and modelling projects, each of which focuses on aspects of climate too large and complex to be addressed by any one nation or individual scientific discipline.

WCRP-coordinated research over the years has greatly improved understanding of key climate processes and a vigorous modelling programme has provided the basis for existing operational climate predictions as well as the climate projections that serve as the scientific underpinning for each of the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WCRP

WCRP provides an international framework that:

- Develops major international scientific initiatives in the area of climate science and observation;
- Enables priority setting through an internationally agreed agenda;
- Facilitates efficient and effective sharing of, and access to, resources, including computer resources and data;
- Stimulates and supports scientific networking;
- Develops common methodologies and experimental protocols for observations and modelling;
- Synthesizes and integrates individual research project results;
- Acts as a knowledge-base and think-tank for climate and global change assessments;
- Organizes relevant data and information management and model intercomparisons

WCRP is organized as a network of core and co-sponsored projects, working groups and cross-cutting initiatives. The current core projects of WCRP are:

- **Climate and Cryosphere (CliC):** mission is to assess and quantify the impacts of climatic variability and change on components of the cryosphere and their consequences for the climate system, and to determine the stability of the global cryosphere.
- **Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR):** mission is to observe, simulate, and predict the Earth's climate system with a focus on ocean-atmosphere interactions in order to better understand climate variability, predictability and change.
- **Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX):** mission is to observe, understand and model the hydrological cycle and energy fluxes in the Earth's atmosphere and at the surface.
- **Stratospheric Processes And their Role in Climate (SPARC):** focus is on the significant role of stratospheric processes in the Earth's climate, with a particular emphasis on the interaction between chemistry and climate.

## THE WCRP GOVERNANCE

**Scientific guidance for the WCRP is provided by the Joint Scientific Committee, consisting of 18 scientists selected by the three sponsoring organizations.** The World Climate Research Programme is supported by a small Secretariat, the Joint Planning Staff hosted by the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

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