Over the past 18 years WCRP has dramatically increased its ability to understand past and future climate. Today, there is an unprecedented awareness and many socio-economic sectors for which climate information, GCMs, is today considered as a strategic asset. WCRP is built on the foundation of a community-driven foundation for investing this demand. WCRP provides the core institutional backbone needed to turn this understanding into practical applications.

WCRP has greatly enhanced the ability of humanity to understand and predict. WCP continues to improve the predictive skill of climate models from seasons to centuries, and to make this knowledge available to scientists and decision-makers around the world.

WCRP organizes workshops, conferences and seminars to coordinate and facilitate climate research. The Research Office (RO) does a great deal of individual work that is coordinated by WCRP projects. These projects are detailed efforts to conduct research on the basis of selected scientific questions, and are funded by the WCRP, and in some cases also by the WCRP community itself. The projects are coordinated by a lead scientist, and a steering committee, which meets at least biannually.

The WCRP modelling activities are coordinated by: the Working Group on Ocean Modelling (WGOM), which also organizes the Seismological Ocean Modelling and Assessment (SOMA) program; the Working Group on Observations and Modelling of Atmospheric and Oceanic Climate Variability (WGOMAOCV), which organizes the efforts of the Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR); and the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), which provided the first consistent picture of the global ocean circulation; the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), co-sponsored by the Scientific Committee on Atmospheric Sciences (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX), which studies the interactions between the atmosphere, oceans, land, and cryosphere; the Surface Ocean–Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) of biogeochemical interactions and their impacts on climate variability and change; and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), which studies the interactions among humanity and the climate system.

The WCRP observation activities include research on climate observations supported by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP); the WCRP Joint Planning Staff (JPS), which advises the WCRP on the scientific goals and priorities of the WCRP through various initiatives, experiments, and their respective scientific advisory committees and workshops.

The WCRP data and model archive activities include the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (ICRAF), which focuses on the use of tropical climates and ecosystems; the Tropical Atmosphere–Ocean (TAO) program, which studies the interactions between the atmosphere and the ocean; the World Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (WECC), which studies the interactions between the energy and water cycles; the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX), which studies the interactions between the energy and water cycles; the Surface Ocean–Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) of biogeochemical interactions and their impacts on climate variability and change; and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), which studies the interactions among humanity and the climate system.

The WCRP is a co-sponsor of the Hypotheses for driving climate variability and change clearinghouse program, which provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas on climate variability and change. The program is open to all scientists and organizations, and includes a database of climate variability and change hypotheses, and a repository of climate variability and change models.

WCRP is a joint initiative of the WMO, the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The main objectives of WCRP are to provide a framework for international cooperation in climate research; to coordinate and facilitate climate research; to improve the predictive skill of climate models from seasons to centuries; and to make this knowledge available to scientists and decision-makers around the world.

The ultimate objective of WCRP is to facilitate analysis and prediction of our Earth’s climate system. To achieve this, WCRP aims to: improve understanding of climate variability and change; support policy development and decision-making; and inform the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international agreements.

WCRP is an international, multi-disciplinary study involving oceanographers, glaciologists, biologists, physicists, chemists, and social scientists. It aims to improve the predictive skill of climate models from seasons to centuries, and to make this knowledge available to scientists and decision-makers around the world.
WCRP is sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

WORLD CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CLIMATE SCIENCE
KNOWLEDGE FOR
ADAPTATION, MITIGATION
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC
FOUNDATION TO:

UNDERSTAND
THE EARTH’S CLIMATE SYSTEM

OBSERVE AND ACCESS
CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE

PREVENT CLIMATE
FROM DECADES TO CENTURIES & FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL SCALES

DEVELOP
SOCIETALLY RELEVANT CLIMATE INFORMATION

WCRP
World Climate Research Programme

WCRP Joint Planning of Staff
Unit 199, Avenue des Paquis, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 22 730 80 36
E-mail: wcrp@wmo.int
Web: http://wcrp.wmo.int