

The WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean,  
Developing, linking, and applying climate knowledge

Montevideo, Uruguay on 17-21 March, 2014.



# Motivation for a WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

During the last WCRP-Open Science Conference it was made clear that *the climate research community is facing a complex challenge that involves:*

- Improving our knowledge on the climate system, the interactions among its components and the limits of predictability,
- (but also!) Enhancing our ability to interact with other disciplines, particularly decision makers and social scientists in order to translate basic climate knowledge into actionable information.

In this context, the JSC has recommended VAMOS, with full engagement of CLIVAR-GEWEX and the JSC, to organize a ***Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Climate*** with the objective of identifying new priorities for the region in line with the new WCRP structure.

# Conference Goals

***Identify gaps and ways to overcome limitations in the chain of knowledge going from basic to applied climate science and to informing policy and decisions that are particularly relevant for LAC.***

***Build interdisciplinary capacity, fostering the participation of decision and policy makers, climate and social scientists and key intermediary institutions.***

***Contribute to the discussion on the emerging provision of regional Climate Services.***

# WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

*Developing, Linking, and Applying Climate Knowledge*

	Social Sci/Applications
	Boundary
	Physical Sci

<b>Celeste Saulo</b>	Argentina	<b>Co-chair</b>	Surface-atmosphere interactions and short to medium range predictability over South America
<b>Walter Baethgen</b>	Uruguay/ USA	<b>Co-chair</b>	Improve climate risk assessment and risk management in agriculture, health, water resources, and natural ecosystems
<b>Carlos Ereño</b>	Argentina	<b>Coordinator</b>	
<b>Fernanda Zermoglio</b>	Chile	<b>WG on Regional Climate liaison</b>	Climate change adaptation and <b>communications</b> ; development and deployment of pragmatic <b>tools that will aid decision-makers</b> in evaluating the impacts of climate change on <b>vulnerable systems</b>
<b>Sandro Schlindwein</b>	Brazil		Dynamics of land use change and the evaluation of the quality of land use, adaptation to climate change
<b>Holm Tiessen</b>	IAI-Int		Nutrient availability and cycling in natural and agricultural ecosystems. Carbon cycling, and soil organic matter turnover and stabilization
<b>Carolina Vera</b>	Argentina	<b>JSC liaison</b>	Climate variability and change over South America
<b>Hugo Berbery</b>	USA	<b>Int. CLIVAR liaison</b>	Regional climate modeling, land surface-atmosphere interactions, influences of land cover changes on regional climate and extreme events
<b>René Garreaud</b>	Chile	<b>GEWEX liaison</b>	Climate Dynamics and Meteorology, with emphasis on the western coast of South America, Atmosphere-Andes interactions, and extratropical synoptic meteorology
<b>Marcelo Barreiro</b>	Uruguay	<b>Local organizing committee</b>	Ocean-Atmosphere interactions. Coupled GCM. Atmospheric and Ocean dynamics.
<b>Michael Taylor</b>	Jamaica		Mechanisms that drive climate variability within the Caribbean, and climate change
<b>Germán Poveda</b>	Colombia		Diagnostics, modeling and prediction studies of hydro-climatic variability and climate change in tropical South America, and their effects on diverse sectors including human health, water resources, hydrological extremes, agriculture, and hydropower generation
<b>Pedro Silva Dias</b>	Brazil		Dynamics of the atmospheric tropical/extratropical interaction; numerical modeling of the atmosphere/biosphere interaction

# Concept document

The *LAC Conference* should aid in **defining the research agenda needed to contribute to the provision of effective, problem-oriented and demand-driven climate services.**

This will necessarily require a balance between

- (i) **research focused on improving climate monitoring and predictions** at regional and local scales; ✓ *Developing*
- (ii) **research oriented by the demands of socio-economic sectors** sensitive to climate, and ✓ *Applying*
- (iii) **research on the process of informing policy and decision-making** in the different socioeconomic sectors. ✓ *Linking*

Specific Objective	Expected outcome
Identify research themes critical to improve our <b>understanding of sources and intrinsic levels of predictability</b> on intraseasonal, interannual, decadal and longer time scales	<b>Define research priorities</b> undertaking themes that constrain predictability in LAC, with especial emphasis on those more relevant to provide effective climate services.
Improve overall understanding and assess predictability of <b>climate extreme events</b> and their impacts on key environmental services and on society	Identification of <b>limitations in their prediction</b> and <b>definition of priorities</b> to reduce their impact on society
Identify strategies to narrow the gap between current predictive capabilities in the region and <b>estimated limits of predictability</b>	Develop combined strategies of statistical and/or dynamical models based on currently available global coupled model forecasts, and regional predictability levels associated to ENSO/MJO/SAM in order to <b>provide skilful predictions at the regional level</b>

**Climate Monitoring...** (comments received from Kevin T.)

## Research on Climate Applications and Communication

Specific Objective	Expected outcome
Discuss and plan how to establish a <b>research framework oriented to identify climate-related information, products and tools needed in the different socioeconomic sectors</b> , and to explore communication strategies to improve the flow of knowledge throughout the information chains	<b>Improved interactions</b> between the climate science community, intermediary institutions/individuals, and decision makers (including policy makers) <b>Definition of lines of research</b> underpinning improved communication and effective incorporation of climate knowledge into policy
<b>✓ Linking</b>	
Promote discussions across <b>WCRP emerging initiatives relevant to LAC</b> such as grand challenge on regional climate, grand challenge on water availability, and CLIVAR Monsoon activities	<b>Better synergy</b> between WCRP global initiatives and regional activities
<b>✓ Applying</b>	
Contribute to the identification of knowledge needed to establish relevant <b>regional climate services</b>	<b>Leverage climate and social researchers participation</b> in developing regional climate services

**Kick Off Meeting of the  
Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the LAC Conf  
4-5 March 2013, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

The kick off meeting identified five themes to focus WCRP-LAC conference:

- **Water & Energy**
- **Agriculture and Ecosystems**
- **Human Health**
- **Coastal zones**
- **Urban environments**

And a final wrap up general theme on:

- **Climate monitoring, prediction and predictability in LAC**



	<b>Monday: Opening . Health</b>	<b>Tuesday: Water &amp; energy</b>	<b>Wednesday: Agriculture &amp; ecosystems</b>	<b>Thursday: coastal &amp; urban environments</b>	<b>Friday: Climate monitoring and prediction in LAC</b>
<b>9:00-10:30</b>	Opening session: Welcome Conference vision Key note speaker	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	Coffee break				
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	Health: Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)
	Lunch break				
<b>14:00-15:15</b>	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call
<b>15:15-16:00</b>	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee
<b>16:00:18:00</b>	Round table: health-climate	Round table: water-energy- climate	Round table: Agriculture- ecosystems- climate	Round table: coastal zones- urban environments- climate	Round table: Climate Services Challenges in LAC - Closing

# General structure

- 2 key note speakers → climate leading scientist
  - sectorial scientist or stakeholder
  - Has to show the challenges and provide a vision (how to follow) for the particular theme
  - Both have to provide a short paper (2-3 pages) in advance so that the talks “work together”
  - Needs a coordinator to lead the session and moderate the Questions&Answers (someone from the SSC)
  - Needs rapporteur
- Invited talks: they will be selected to provide complementary views to the main theme. They will all provide a brief paper in advance (2-3 pages)
  - Needs rapporteur

# General structure

- Afternoon talks: will be selected after call for papers.
- Poster session
- *Both poster and afternoon talks will be the primary means for conference participants to present their research findings*

- Round table:

social scientist+stakeholder+climate scientist+ ¿?

- will be coordinated by a member of the SSC and will be based on a position-paper contributed by all the participants of the round table, including the coordinator
- will have open discussion afterwards
- Needs rapporteur

## Financial support / sponsors

- A registration fee will be charged (~200 u\$s, to be discussed in the SSC). Expected number of participants: ~200
- A group of SSC members is developing a strategy for funding which includes request of support to:
  - **WCRP** - contacts initiated
  - **NSF** - contacts initiated
  - **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** - contacts initiated
  - **IAI** - contacts initiated
  - **USAID**
  - **World Bank**
  - **CCCCC\***
  - **Private sector**
- ***For most of these cases, the process involves writing proposals for funding.***

# Action Items

## **Concept note**

Concept note in final version

## **First announcement**

A preliminary announcement of the date and place of the Conference will be distributed in June. A list of IMPORTANT DATES will be included. The call for abstracts will be distributed by the end of June

## **Define & contact invited talks**

Nomination to the SSC of keynote speakers and invited talks for each of the sectors. SSC members and key speakers will prepare white papers on each subject

## **Logistics and organization**

A request to get the MERCOSUR building available for the Conference was presented to the Uruguayan Government through the Secretary of Environment.



# Timeline of activities

	March 2013	April/ May	June/ July	Aug/ Sep	Oct/ Nov	Dec/ Jan	Feb	March 2014
<b><i>Concept note and web/ 1st announcement</i></b>	X	X						
<b><i>Financial support –sponsors</i></b>	X	X	X	X				
<b><i>Define &amp; contact invited talks etc.</i></b>	X	X	X					
<b><i>Short white papers</i></b>			X	X	X			
<b><i>Call for abstracts</i></b>			X					
<b><i>Abstracts deadline</i></b>				15 Aug				
<b><i>Registration</i></b>			Pre-reg	X	X	X	X	
<b><i>Progress Assessment</i></b>				X				
<b><i>Abstracts Evaluation</i></b>				X	Comm.			
<b><i>Papers-posters final version sub.</i></b>							X	X
<b><i>Conf. agenda</i></b>				X	X	X	X	
<b><i>Logistics and organization</i></b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Deliverables and legacy

A document including the **keynote presentations** and **short white papers** will be developed in advance of the conference. This document will be reviewed after the conference to include the **recommendations and conclusions driven from the meeting**.

**A Conference report will be prepared with suggested future actions. This report should contribute to define WCRP priorities for the region.**

 **WCRP Conference on Climate and Society  
for Latin America and the Caribbean** 

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**Montevideo, Uruguay  
March 17-21, 2014**



Hosted by  
**Unidad de Ciencias de la Atmósfera  
Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República**

The climate research community is facing a complex challenge that involves not only improving its knowledge on the climate system, the interactions among its components and the limits of predictability, but also enhancing its ability to interact with other disciplines, particularly decision makers and social scientists in order to translate basic climate knowledge into actionable science. This challenge exhibits important regional characteristics, including different socio-economic levels of exposition, vulnerability and adaptability to a changing climate.

In view of that, the WCRP Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCS-LAC) is aimed at identifying gaps and ways to overcome limitations in the chain of knowledge going from basic to applied climate science and to informing policy and decisions that are particularly relevant for LA&C. This will involve building interdisciplinary capacity, fostering the participation of