

Recommendations on a Framework for WCRP Regional Activities

1. Background

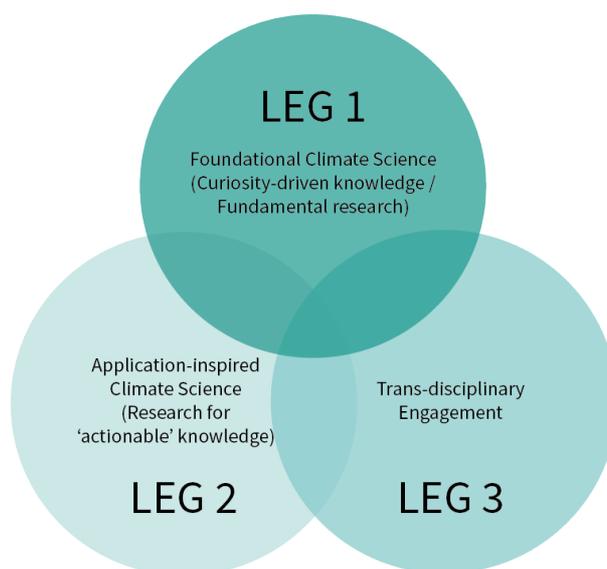
The JSC at its 37th session (2016) assigned a small group of JSC members and invited experts to develop a set of recommendations to JSC on WCRP’s regionally-focused activities including guidelines, partnerships and overall structure as appropriate, taking into account current capabilities and financial restrictions.

Accordingly, the meeting of a scoping group was held in Hamburg, Germany, from 10 to 11 October 2016, at the generous support by the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA. The JPS provided partial support for participants in addition to the organization of the meeting, assistance for pre-meeting / in-session discussions and reporting.

The ad hoc team discussed on the status and issues of WCRP activities in the regional context, and came up with a converged vision on “climate information for regions” in the WCRP context. Finally the meeting produced a set of recommendations to WCRP including its Core Projects, all Groups and Activities, and propose a way forward.

The [final report of the meeting \(WCRP Report No. 23/2016\)](#) summarizes the discussion including the agreed vision and recommendations to JSC, which is also provided to JSC-38 as information document.

During a consultation prior to the 38th session, the JSC members requested to produce a brief list of on-going and planned activities within the WCRP Core-Projects and other groups, adding to the general direction described in the report and recommendations. The initial list is now available online at: <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/wcrp-regional-activities>.



2. Recommendations to JSC

JSC is invited to; 1) review the recommendations from the above-noted meeting; 2) endorse them with necessary modification where needed, and; 3) advise on clear timeline and identify and resolve follow-on or side-effect issues that might affect WCRP.

Recommendations for “Leg 1”

WCRP will build on past and ongoing studies by the climate research community to advance knowledge on climate change and variability, and project trajectories of associated changes in different regions of the world.

- 1.1 WCRP will facilitate research on and application of methodologies to integrate the knowledge produced by its different projects (e.g., Core Projects, Grand Challenges, CORDEX, CMIP) for enhanced understanding of the regional climate system.
- 1.2 CORDEX will be an integral part of the process to develop the WCRP research portfolio on regional studies, including the development of a range of CORDEX Flagship Pilot Studies (FPSs) that explore key regional processes.

Recommendations for “Leg 2”

WCRP will seek to advance fundamental understanding of the climate system relevant to regional socio-ecological challenges, by working with experts from different natural science disciplines.

- 2.1 WCRP will endorse, promote and develop the evolving areas of research that integrate the user and decision maker context into the co-design and development of regional climate-system science.
- 2.2 WCRP will facilitate the development of the Frontiers of Climate Information (FOCI) initiative. A Working Group on Information for Regions (WGIR) will take the lead on developing this portfolio. (see Recommendations for a way forward.)

Recommendations for “Leg 3”

WCRP will work with multi-disciplinary communities to engage in a dialogue with high-level boundary organizations that need climate and related information. The purpose of the engagement is to strengthen awareness and dialogue about WCRP science in the regional context; to empower research opportunities; and to enhance WCRP’s awareness of the regional climate information needs of services and users. The proposed coordinator of the regional activities and WGIR (see Recommendations for a way forward) will take responsibilities to coordinate efforts to develop appropriate modes of engagement, and the construction of information for regions.

- 3.1 WCRP will develop key messages on fundamental climate science in the regional context, and proactively seek outreach opportunities in partnership with high-level boundary organizations.
- 3.2 WCRP will organize and participate in fora and gatherings on specific topics in order to identify potential synergies and opportunities for joint studies, and to develop bridges/interactions between climate science, policy and decision-making.
- 3.3 WCRP will promote its visibility (primarily through key messages on fundamental climate science) of regionally relevant WCRP research activities, for example, by highlighting these in outreach materials and the websites, to demonstrate WCRP leadership in this domain.
- 3.4 WCRP will publish periodic reports on the state of the climate-related science of relevance for society.

Recommendations for Way Forward

- 4.1 WCRP will organize an international call to appoint a coordinator for WCRP regional activities, as soon as possible. The incumbent will lead coordination of scientific activities of WCRP for regions under the guidance of JSC, and working closely with all WCRP groups, project offices and JPS. Main duties should include;
 - stimulating, supporting and seeking synergies among different regional initiatives conducted under Legs 1, 2 and 3;

- support developing clear WCRP messages on regional climate science, and;
 - communicating these messages to various strategic directions and plans of relevant fields.
- 4.2 WCRP will engage with existing regional infrastructure on the development of WCRP's regional efforts.
- 4.3 WCRP will promote the work of the groups and panels of WCRP on information for regions, through adequate financial resources for their meetings and workshops.
- 4.4 CORDEX will extend its linkage and seek opportunities for collaboration with WCRP Core Projects, Grand Challenges, CMIP and other activities in promoting regional coordination for climate science, with the direction and guidance of JSC.
- 4.5 WCRP will sharpen the focus and scope of the WGRC deemed appropriate, by re-formulating a Working Group on Information for Regions (WGIR) from the WGRC, to lead facilitation of regional research activities addressing Leg 2. A new WGIR can take the lead on the development of Leg 2 portfolio, in part by continuously developing a FOCI framework, developing and organizing calls for FOCI projects. It also can continue efforts to;
- facilitate coordination of WCRP research activities relevant to the provision of regional climate information in support of climate services, and;
 - integrate the user and decision maker context into the design and development of regional climate science through two-way communication and co-production activities;
 - contribute to WCRP's activities related to Leg 3.
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