

WCRP Working Group on Regional Climate

Mission: to coordinate regional climate research and science-based knowledge development for decision makers

Co-Chairs:

Clare Goodess, CRU UEA United Kingdom
Bruce Hewitson, CSAG UCT South Africa



11 members, including core project representatives:

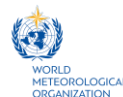
Simon Mason (CLIVAR), Jan Polcher (GEWEX), Annett Rinke (CLIC)...

Ex Officio:

CORDEX chairs -

Filippo Giorgi ITALY
Bill Gutowski USA

WGRC was active from 2013 to 2015/16 – three face-to-face meetings, last Dec 2015



International
Science Council



WGRC Terms of Reference

- Facilitate coordination of WCRP research activities relevant to the provision of regional climate information and related climate services.
- Integrate the regional user and decision maker context into the design and development of regional climate science through two-way communication and co-production activities.
- Facilitate, in co-operation with other relevant international organisations, the provision of good practice guidance for potential users on the identification, selection, processing, application and interpretation of regional climate information.
- Provide advice to the WCRP regarding research activities needed to support and improve regional climate science and prediction.
- Six more bullet points.....



International
Science Council

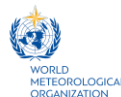
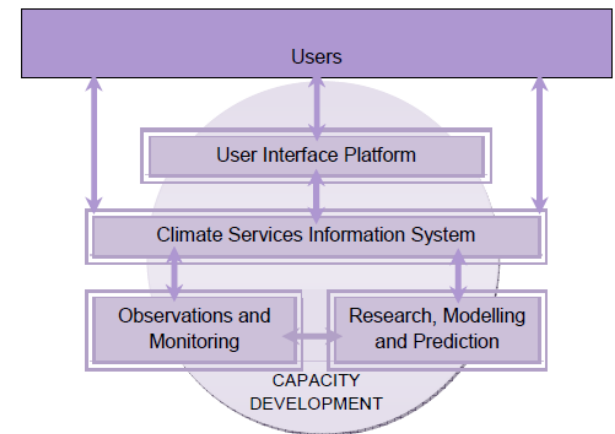


WGRC Terms of Reference

To oversee and promote specific WCRP regional climate research initiatives including the Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX)



To foster communication between the WCRP and the GFCS and Future Earth, and to serve as the point of contact between the WCRP and regional climate information/service entities (e.g. WMO Regional Climate Centres, the Climate Services Partnership (CSP) etc)

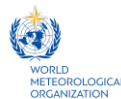


International
Science Council



Some activities in the WGRC portfolio

- Played a leading role in the Regional Climate Information Grand Challenge until discontinued at JSC 36 e.g. meetings and side events at Pan-CLIVAR/Pan-GEWEX meeting, July 2014; WCRP-IPCC Workshop, Sept. 2014; AGU, Dec. 2014
- Scoping of on-going WCRP regional activities & identifying their strength and weaknesses.
- Organization of WGRC “Distillery” expert meeting (October 2014, Santander).
- Catalyzing two papers: “The distillation dilemma”, and “Online climate services: an assessment”
- Participation in CORDEX Scientific Advisory Team (SAT) meetings and activities (including development of Flagship Pilot Studies).
- Participation in and assistance in organizing ICRC – CORDEX 2013 and 2016.
- Participation in major regional conferences in Latin America (LACC) and Africa (CR4D).
- Organization of a CORDEX side event at International Conference on Climate Services - ICCS3 (December 2013, Jamaica).
- Involvement in the founding, creation and continued membership of the CMIP6 Vulnerability, Impacts, Adaptation and Climate Services (VIACS) Advisory Board.
- Organisation and reporting of a VIA users survey to assess the accomplishments and gaps of CMIP5 and to inform CMIP6 – (with Richard Moss and Linda Mearns).
- Organising a survey of WCRP regional activities (undertaken for WGRC-3).
- Development of linkages with the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA) regarding, *inter alia*, a possible role in handling CORDEX output.



International
Science Council



What we learnt

The topic of information for regions is complex, nuanced, and poorly addressed by the conventional approach of generating and delivery of data from and by the physical climate sciences to the exceptionally diverse decision making community

WGRC expertise and experience is embodied in two areas of recommendation to WCRP which are timely to revisit:

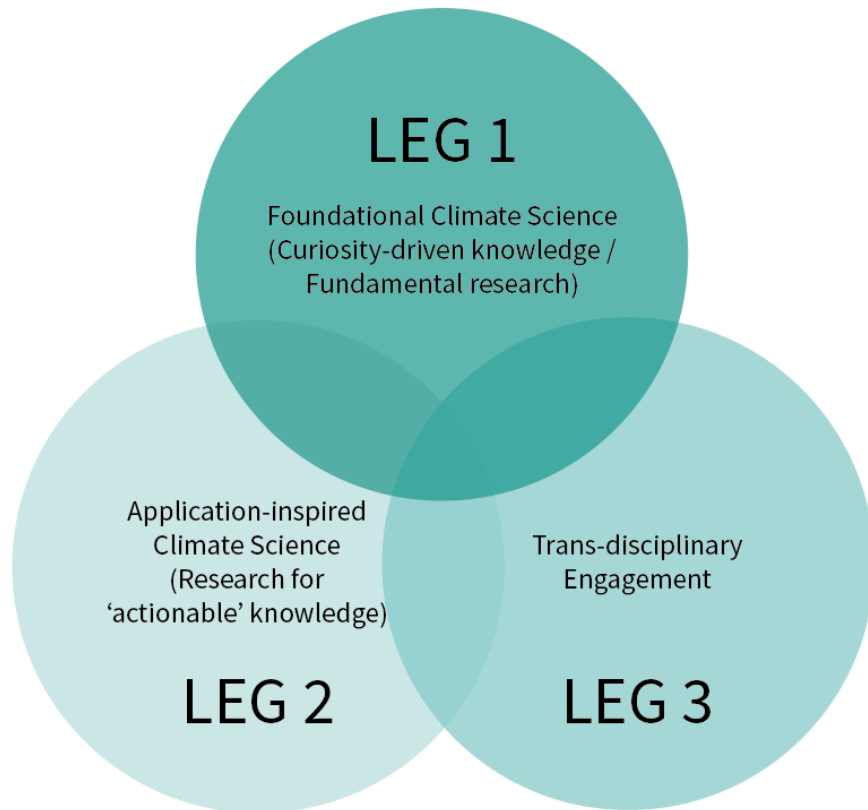
- Recommendations on a Framework for WCRP Regional Activities (JSC 38)
- Implementation Framework for Frontiers of Climate Information (FoCI) Projects (JSC 37)



International
Science Council



Recommendations on a Framework for WCRP Regional Activities to JSC38 from Hamburg meeting October 2016



How do these three legs proposed to support regional activities fit with the four objectives of the WCRP Strategic Plan?

FoCI Projects seen as part of Leg 2 – development to be led by WGRC/WGIR

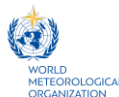
FoCI Projects

climate information for regions, framed by relevance to regional stakeholders, & approached through innovation in analysis & methods

Concept and Primary objectives:

- Added value of WCRP activities related to regional information
- Appropriate spatial/temporal scales for decision-relevant issues
- Distillation of climate system information from varied sources
- Integrating/linking climate information into the context of risk management of natural and human systems
- Developing/sustaining research capacity
- Cross-cutting, trans-disciplinary & translational science

Implementation Framework also covers project management (modelled on GEWEX RHPs), framework, selection criteria, monitoring and success metrics



International
Science Council



In summary

In order for WCRP to sustain a visibility and relevance in the changing landscape of climate research, and especially in light of the substantial acceleration in linking science to society and developing knowledge for decision needs, it is imperative that the WCRP proactively engages with and supports an explicit effort on regional research and information.



International
Science Council

