



WORLD CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

42nd Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC42)

Regional information for Society (RifS)

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WCRP Core Project: RifS

1. Overview

Brief history

May 2019, following JSC 41: Task Team on Regional Activities (**TTRA**)

- To propose structures and develop a concrete work plan
- Initial dialogue of the TTRA + WGRC + CORDEX members

Dec 2020, JSC-41b

- TTRA recommends new Home “**RifS**”

Early 2021

- Interim Coordinating Group (**ICG**), 3 co-chairs (1 from CORDEX)
- Working Group on Building Blocks (**WGBB**)
- Governance planning committee

Excellent global participation

- Planning meeting in March had over 50 participants
- 11 RifS virtual planning meetings held since the end of April
- More than 10 science plan virtual meetings by the WGBB



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1. Overview

Strategic goals and outcomes

Objective: Enhance societal value of regional climate information

Core principles: Facilitate and catalyze research for actionable information.

Undertake this through research on:

- Integrating the best available science
- Incorporating decision contexts
- Engaging within a co-creation/co-production framework

Science foci: Research questions relevant to regional information about the physical climate system, co-production, social sciences, communication, ethics and values.

Foci include:

- Understanding climate drivers of regional climate variability and change related to impacts
- How to better integrate across the approaches to producing climate information
- Learning from society's decision makers, policy communities, and other stakeholders to enhance physical climate science research agendas and activities



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1. Overview

Science plan and desired outcomes

The science plan seeks to advance:

- Understanding of the stakeholder and climate services landscape
- Dialogue with stakeholders on context-relevant climate information
- Assessment and articulation of skill and uncertainty in regional predictions/projections.
- Approaches to the integration and construction of regional information
- Identification and understanding of multi-scale climate drivers of regional risk

Desired outcomes include:

- Enhanced reduction of systemic risk to climate change and variability
- Clear and sustained dialogue with major users that is regionally context relevant
- Improved understanding to develop and deliver context-dependent climate science
- Increased collaboration within and beyond the WCRP in relevant knowledge co-production.

RifS is NOT:

- A replacement for existing regionally relevant activities within WCRP
- A climate service

CORDEX is a core partner for achieving the RifS agenda

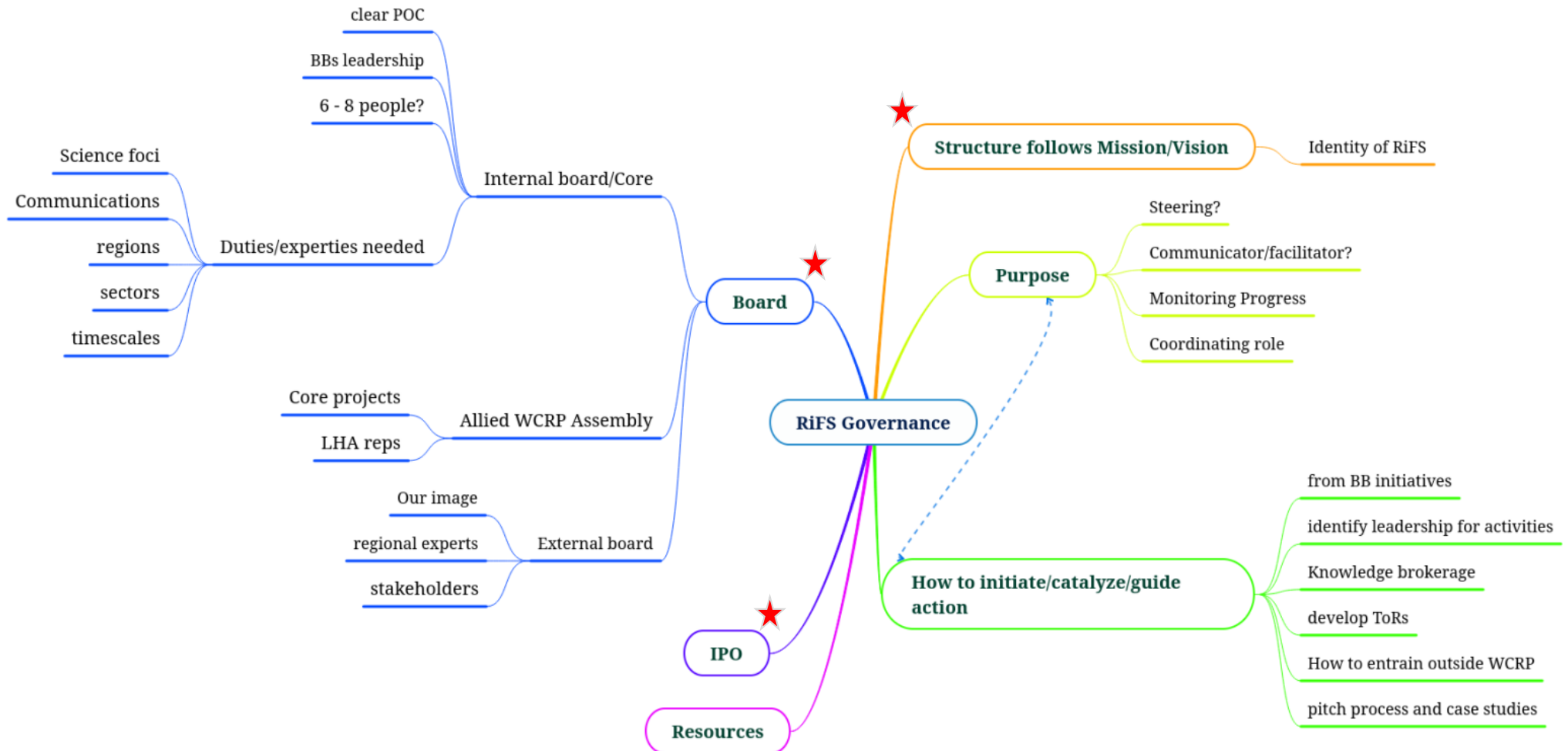


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WCRP Core Project: RiFS

2. Structure



- Three elements to governance: Internal board, WCRP Assembly, External Board
- RiFS International Project Office
- JSC reporting in parallel with CORDEX

WCRP Core Project: RifS

2. Structure

See submitted RifS document for full details

1. RiFS Internal Board (IB) *(Includes the role of a scientific steering committee (SSC))*

- Selected from nominations to ensure of:
 - Geographic, gender and age balance
 - Expertise spanning the RifS core themes
- ~15 members with additional ex-officio attendance by partners
- 3 co-chairs with expertise to span the full RifS agenda. Co-chairs nominated by the RifS internal board for approval by the JSC (1 co-chair must be from CORDEX community)

2. Assembly of allied WCRP Core and Lighthouse representatives *(established by IB)*

- Focused on enabling cross-cutting collaboration around regional climate information
- Point of communication from RifS engagement with external partners
- 2 Nominated members from each WCRP core project or LHA

3. External board with regional representatives and stakeholders *(established by IB)*

- Applications to join the external board will be solicited using the widest possible network of external organizations



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WCRP Core Project: RifS

3. Partnerships

To meet our overarching goals RifS will

- Include social scientist and communication specialists
- Proactively engage with both the climate service and VIA communities
- Target initial pilot regions to catalyze joint activities and develop community interfaces
- Open discussion with appropriate regional activities and organizations

4. Requirements

RifS is exploring ideas for external resources (e.g. Bezos Earth Fund, Belmont Forum).

Nonetheless, RifS depends on two key developments:

- The establishment of a new International Project Office (IPO)
- Adequate budget to enable the establishment activities (we request Euro 80 000)

5. Other

The establishment of the RifS internal board and the IPO should happen together.

We seek urgent assistance from the JSC on these matters.



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