

WCRP Secretariat Report: JSC 42

Under the terms of the Original Letter of Agreement between WCRP's co-sponsors (WMO, IOC-UNESCO and ISC) the function of the WCRP Secretariat is "...to assist the JSC [WCRP Joint Scientific Committee] in formulating the concept and organizing the implementation of the WCRP, and any other organizational or technical task, as the JSC may decide." and in particular "...taking actions and making arrangements, as appropriate, for the implementation of WCRP projects and the promotion of WCRP objectives..."

The core of the WCRP Secretariat is hosted at WMO. When WMO underwent its restructuring WCRP was subsumed into the new Science and Innovations Department, with the World Weather Research Programme and the Global Atmosphere Watch, and the WCRP Secretariat lead now being a "Head" rather than a "Director" (a lower level position consistent with the leads of the other programmes). This has had both advantages (e.g. closer cooperation with the other programmes) and disadvantages (e.g. fewer staff and additional responsibilities). The transition to the new structure has meant a lot of additional pressure on the WCRP Secretariat over the last year to 18 months, with one staff member going on long term sick leave and the recruitment process for the new staff taking some time.

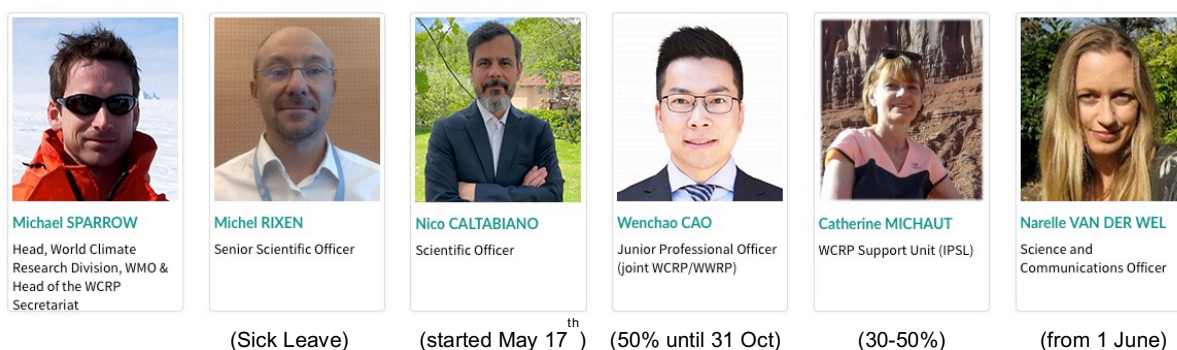


Figure 1: WCRP Secretariat Staff as of end June 2021. Note that Hindumathi Palanisamy will also join the Secretariat from 14th July.

During this difficult period the additional support provided by IPSL, France (who allow Catherine M to work part time with the WCRP Secretariat), Wenchao C (our Junior Professional Officer, who took on many of Michel R's tasks in the interim, despite only being part time with WCRP) and Narelle VdW. (our excellent long-term consultant who in theory was only at 70%) was crucial as was the dedication of WCRP's Chair (Detlef S) and Vice Chair (Helen C) who have put in a huge amount of their time. Added to this our International Project Offices all supported the WCRP Secretariat and each other, for which we are very grateful. WCRP would not be able to function without these dedicated offices: The support of the countries and institutions for these is crucial and much appreciated.

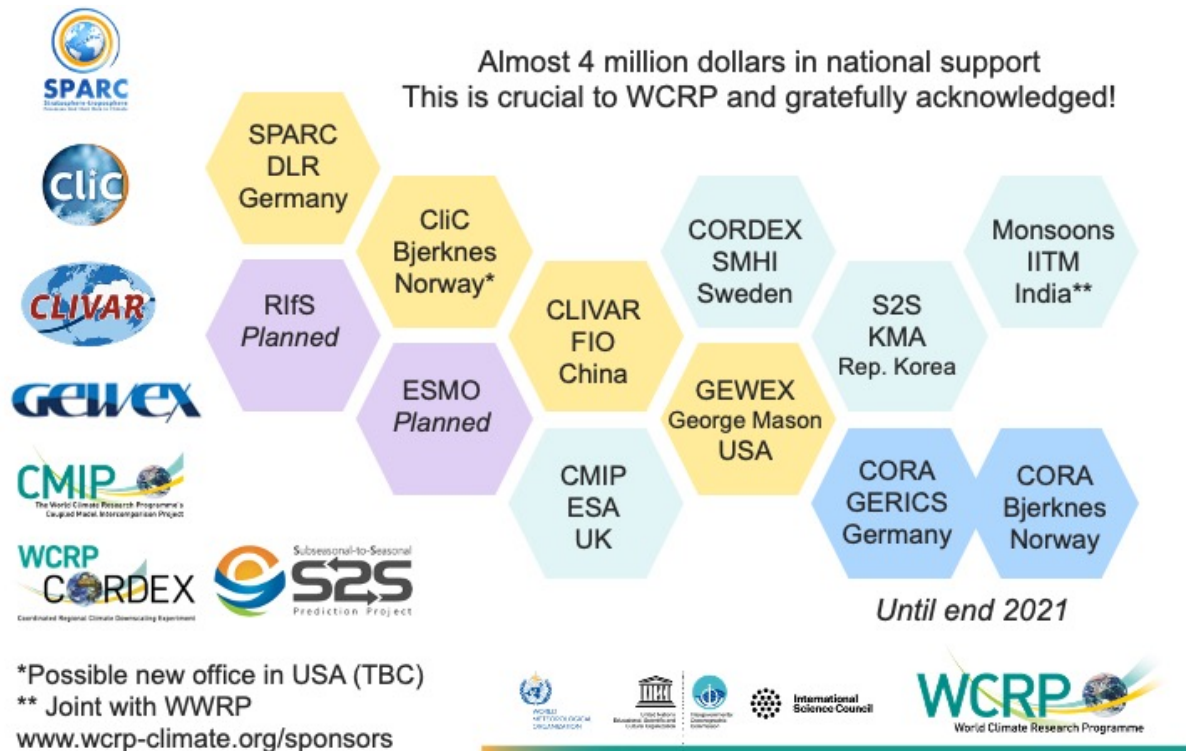


Figure 2: WCRP's International Project and Support Offices

Over the last year we have been hiring the new staff in Geneva. Narelle VdW was selected as the Science and Communications Officer, Nico C. as a Scientific Officer and Hindumathi P. also as a Scientific Officer (starting 14th July). As we move into this new phase the WCRP Secretariat will be much better able to provide the support to the JSC and WCRP. The new Secretariat has to be flexible in terms of being willing to take on tasks and assist each other as needed, which the Secretariat have already shown they are very happy to do. In terms of responsibilities most WCRP activities are aware who their main point of contact in the Secretariat is, which will be further confirmed once Hindumathi starts (see Figure 3, below).

One item to note is that the restructuring of WMO has meant, for example, that there are no longer dedicated administration staff for WCRP, but rather an (excellent) departmental coordinator and a "platform" consisting of a pool of administrative support. In most cases this is working well, though it should be noted that many tasks, especially around finances, now have to be done by the Head (Mike S) rather than a dedicated administration person. The Head of WCRP also has a dual role both as Head of the WCRP Secretariat and as Head of the World Climate Research Division of WMO. The latter means that the Head has a number of additional responsibilities, including support to the WMO Research Board, working with the WMO Operating Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation against the WMO Strategic Objectives, working with the external auditors, inputting to various UN fora, representing WMO at high-level meetings (e.g. leading the delegation to the Antarctic Treaty meetings) and taking part in a significant number of WMO meetings to improve interactions between WCRP, the Science and Innovation department and the Services and Infrastructure departments in WMO. All these are requirements to better integrate WMO infrastructure, science and services but come at a significant cost in terms of time.

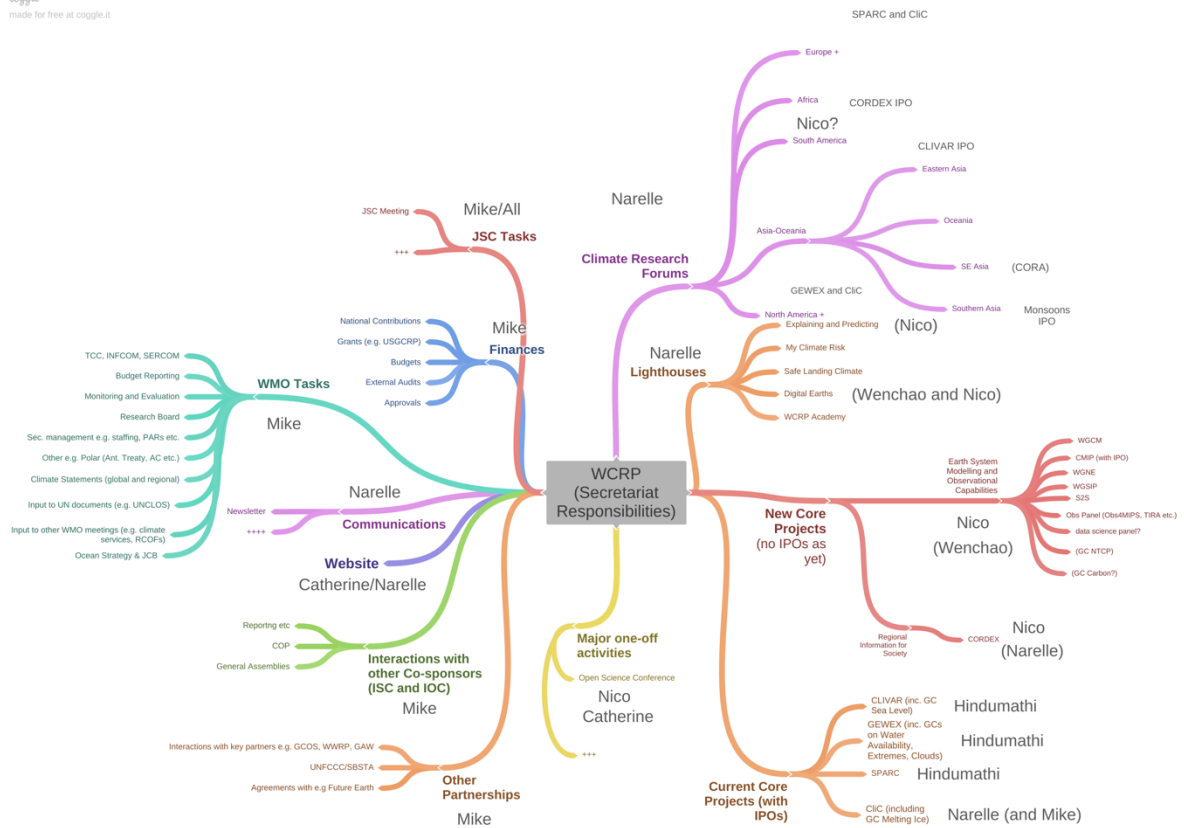


Figure 3: Living document outlining responsibilities within the WCRP Secretariat. See: <https://coggle.it/diagram/YIFDYdqHwkRuCBcD/t/wcrp-secretariat-responsibilities/6b27213c20c8a2164582d5e33681aabb9c1c37daaca56e520dac501fa5ce15dc>

Finally, despite a difficult year, I am optimistic. We have excellent new staff starting (or about to start), fantastic support from the International Project offices and, most importantly, dedicated volunteers from the science community without whom WCRP would simply not exist.

Mike Sparrow, Head WCRP Secretariat.