



WCRP Open Science Conference 2023

Advancing climate science for a sustainable future

Call for Expressions of Interest to host the 2023 World Climate Research Programme Open Science Conference

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) will hold an Open Science Conference (OSC) during the first half of 2023. We are soliciting Expressions of Interest from qualified institutions to host the conference and act as a local organizer. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The WCRP Open Science Conference (OSC)

The WCRP OSC 2023 will bring together diverse research communities, programmes and partners to discuss the latest developments in climate science, with an emphasis on science-based information for decision-making. The WCRP OSC will bring forward innovative approaches to bridge science and society and to foster future climate science leadership through workshops, public exhibits, forums, and other associated events. A first concept note for the conference is provided as an Appendix. The conference will be attractive to early career climate scientists and users of climate information and will stimulate climate research in countries where it is not well represented.

The week long conference is being planned for the first half of 2023. The exact dates are open but will depend on the location and should ideally be scheduled to maximize participation.

Conference format

The Conference will have both in-person and state-of-the-art remote participation options to ensure inclusion and engagement whilst minimizing our carbon footprint. The *in-person* component of the OSC will run for five days. We estimate a maximum of 1500 in-person participants with a similar number joining remotely.

General requirements for the event are as follows:

1. A venue large enough to accommodate the anticipated maximum number of attendees for plenary sessions.
2. For parallel sessions, the venue should offer several meeting rooms of different sizes for large meetings, smaller workshops and breakout sessions.
3. A large, dedicated space for poster sessions.
4. A space for registration and to welcome participants, as well as an area for coffee breaks, lunches (if held in the venue) and a “cybercafé”
5. Several smaller meetings and workshops, including the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) meeting, will take place before or after the OSC. Thus, the venue should have 5-6 smaller meeting rooms available (20 – 60 persons) for 2-3 days both before and after the OSC.

Expressions of interest for a less conventional conference format or a joint conference proposal between two or more venues can also be considered.

World Climate Research Programme
c/o World Meteorological Organization
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Case Postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2 - Switzerland



Submitting an Expression of Interest

The bidding process will take place in two stages with initial Letters of Intent due 1 July 2021. The WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) will subsequently invite a shortlist of selected potential hosts to submit a full bid by 15 August 2021. Decisions will be made by 1 Oct 2021.

To submit an Expression of Interest, please outline (maximum four pages) how your institution meets the requirements listed on the following page. At this point it is not necessary to answer everything in detail but rather to provide enough information required for the JSC to identify full invitations. Indications as to how the preparation of the conference can be assisted by a local team would be helpful.

Please email your expression of interest as a single PDF to Nico Caltabiano (avazcaltabiano@wmo.int) **by 1 July 2021.**

Questions?

For further information please contact Valery Detemmerman (valery.detemmerman@gmail.com)

Suggested items for Expression of Interest applications

Venue

- Meeting venue details, including the name of the city, location, size, cost, details of auditorium, poster hall, meeting rooms for parallel sessions, Audio-Visual facilities (including streaming and recording), and any other information you wish to provide regarding the venue.
- Possible dates in 2023 when the venue would be available.
- Options for workshops and meetings before/after the Conference (location, size, cost, facilities), including a dedicated Early Career Workshop.
- Travel access (proximity to airport, trains, etc.)
- Accommodation options, such as capacities, prices, distance to venue, details of transport options to the venue, hostels or student accommodation
- Social events such as an icebreaker reception, outreach event for general public (e.g., evening panel, media interviews, etc.)
- Meeting catering options for lunches/breaks, and restaurants/cafés near the venue

People

- Potential contributors to a Local Organizing Committee
- Potential for getting administrative staff support and on-site helpers (e.g. students)
- Chief Local Organizer/Coordinator's contact details (name, affiliation, email, phone)
- Potential benefit to the national and local climate science community
- Potential for outreach activities and products

Finances

- Estimate of meeting costs for attendees (in-person and remote rates)
- Expected local support and funding (including indirect support)
- Potential to raise additional local sponsoring or support/funding

Marketing / Advertising / Publicity

- Outline any marketing services you can provide, such as advertising, web pages, social media, assistance with media and communications, etc.

Organizational support

- Briefly discuss local services that may be available for printing posters, filming and distribution of video material, broadband internet services.
- Describe your ability to organize the on-line registration and/or hotel reservation process

Engaging External Stakeholders

- WCRP aims to engage relevant stakeholders in its activities wherever possible. List any potential national, regional, or local stakeholders that may influence or be influenced by WCRP's work that we could consider inviting to the meeting.

Other Information

- Information about the practice of sustainability; i.e., capabilities to recycle; videoconference options; other ways to reduce or offset carbon emissions.
- Any other information relevant to your application.

WCRP Open Science Conference 2023: Advancing climate science for a sustainable future

Conference Objective

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) leads the way in addressing frontier scientific questions related to the coupled climate system — problems that are too large and too complex to be tackled by a single nation, agency or scientific discipline. Through international science coordination and partnerships, WCRP contributes to advancing our understanding of the multi-scale dynamic interactions between natural and social systems that affect climate and are affected by changes in climate.

Through the Open Science Conference 2023, WCRP will bring together diverse research communities, programmes and partners to discuss the latest developments in climate science, with an emphasis on science-based information for decision-making. The conference will bring forward innovative ways to bridge science and society and to foster future climate science leadership to help society address challenges created by climate change, through workshops, public exhibits, forums, and other associated events.

The Conference will demonstrate the relevance and importance of the role that the WCRP plays, in terms of advancing climate science, supporting the infrastructure and scientific capacity of our workforce and assisting society to respond to climate challenges. WCRP science underpins evidence-based decision-making and policies and supports global agreements and objectives such as the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Conference will advance exciting research on all aspects of the climate system and the use of climate information for a wide range of applications. It will feature sessions on Earth system modeling and observations and the development of climate information for society. There will be a strong focus on climate risk, including the consequences, likelihoods and responses to the impacts of climate change, as well as the innovations needed to ensure that climate science information, data, and training are accessible to all those who seek them.

Purpose of the Conference

- i) Build partnerships and strengthen the global climate research community;
- ii) Celebrate the scientific progress made in the last decade;
- iii) Mark the transition to the new WCRP;
- iv) Expand WCRP linkages with society

The main goal of the Conference will be **to consolidate existing and build new partnerships in climate science that will lead to new ideas and new understanding, and opportunities to expand its benefits for society**. It will provide opportunities for early and mid-career scientists to meet one another and senior scientists to exchange information, develop new ideas, inspire one another, and to find new ways to work together. The conference will provide a forum for those who use climate information to co-create innovative climate science activities that serve their purpose even better. The Conference will have both in-person and remote participation options to ensure inclusion and engagement. There will be a focus on entraining, engaging with and inspiring our core community, as well as scientists from other disciplines and regions, early career researchers, and, especially, those in less developed nations.

The Conference will celebrate achievements in the last decade, including those of the WCRP Grand Challenges and other successful WCRP activities. Through this synthesis of research findings and knowledge, WCRP will better inform assessments and decision-making on the state of climate research, describe the challenges of the future, and chart pathways forward for WCRP.

The Conference will introduce and showcase the new WCRP structure and highlight advances and challenges in research on the coupled Earth System, including modelling, observations and the development of relevant and accessible climate information for society. Regional climate extremes and near-term risks will have a strong focus, as that impacts of climate change are already pronounced across the world.

The Conference will highlight the importance of partnerships and co-design in meeting the climate challenges that the global society faces. Our co-sponsors and key partners will help to design the

conference, its sessions, and wider activities. With respect to WCRP's fourth scientific objective ("bridging climate science and society"), the Conference will help to make WCRP's research relevant and accessible to users and practitioners of climate knowledge and information.

The timing of the Conference is such that it will have a measurable impact on reaching the Paris Goals and the SDGs. It will also be an essential preparation for the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report. It is anticipated the Conference will take precedence over many other WCRP events that would normally occur in this timeframe.

Conference Participants:

The Conference will host up to 1500 participants in person and an additional 1500 or more virtually. The audience will include members of the WCRP community and climate scientists across all career stages and regions of the world. WCRP's commitment to inclusion and sustainability means that the conference will work with experts, and nations and regions around the world, to ensure that the virtual components are accessible and engaging.

General Conference Outcomes and Local Impacts

- **Conference document**, e.g., a documentary movie, Journal Special Issue, that captures the achievements and impact of the science coordinated by the WCRP over the last decade.
- **Awareness of the priority science** needed to support global climate assessments (IPCC, State of the Climate) and agreements that underpin agreements on climate adaptation and mitigation.
- **Identification of new ways to strengthen the relevance** and impact of climate science, to policy-makers and decision-makers.
- **Frameworks and approaches** to co-design research with other scientific disciplines to improve the usefulness and useability of climate information.
- **Strengthen or identify new partnerships and new ideas to advance climate science:** The Conference represents a unique opportunity for the cross-fertilization of ideas across different research communities within WCRP, as well as with other international research programmes such as Future Earth, Belmont Forum, and the World Weather Research Programme. Specifically, it will facilitate an active dialogue and discussion among the international climate change research community and will identify how WCRP, together with its partners, can maximize progress toward urgently required answers. This opportunity must be viewed in the context of the growing need for climate information in support of adaptation, mitigation and risk management measures at the national, regional and global level.
- **Opportunities for early career researchers to have a leadership role in planning the future of climate science.** The conference will provide a unique opportunity for early career scientists to be involved in climate science as equal and important members of WCRP science activities. We recognise that the COVID-19 epidemic has placed a strain on early- and mid-career scientists who rely on conferences and workshops to form collaborations and secure future positions. As WCRP launches its new Lighthouse Activities, there will be new opportunities for the next generation of scientists to engage, get involved, and learn how to lead WCRP science activities.

Expected Beneficial Local Impacts:

- Communication with scientists, practitioners and decision-makers in the region
- Interaction with early career researchers from the region
- Highlighting and advancing climate science in the region

Program Planning

To plan and deliver the Conference, a Science Organizing Committee, Local Organizing Committee, and a Fundraising Committee will be established. Communications and marketing will be organized through the WCRP Secretariat with partners.

The members of the Science Organizing Committee will lead the development of the overall agenda, identify keynote speakers, solicit poster presentations, select parallel session topics, and conduct similar duties. They will invite community leaders to actively develop the programs for the parallel sessions.

The Local Organizing Committee will be responsible for the organization of the venue and logistics, including hotels, transportations and social events.

The Fundraising Committees have responsibility for obtaining financial support.

Initial Program Description

The Conference Program will be designed by the Science Organizing Committee. Initial thinking suggests that each day will have a daily theme that reflects one integrative aspect of WCRP. The conference will include plenary sessions, ample opportunities for discussion, and poster sessions, etc. It sounds like the format is pre-determined, even before a SOC is formed. It is also anticipated that workshops, public exhibits, forums, and other associated events will accompany the conference.

The organizers will aim to (i) integrate a virtual component seamlessly into the program, including satellite events; (ii) involve Early Career Scientists in all aspects of the programme and the planning; (iii) build in workshops, public exhibits, forums, and other associated events as integral elements of the conference.

Conference Costs and Funding Sources

A complete budget for the WCRP Open Science Conference is under development. We will advance the process of estimating costs together with the conference host.

A fund-raising committee will be formed to leverage local host support and to garner international support.

Potential Sources of funding include:

- Registration fees (one third to one half of funding)
- National and international funding
 - National research agencies as well as well as observational programs (e.g. NOAA, NASA, NSF, EUMETSAT, ESA, etc.)
 - START, APN, etc. (for support of early career scientists)
 - WCRP and its sponsors (WMO, ICSU and UNESCO/IOC)
 - Institutional funding (up to one quarter of funding) ^[1]_{SEP}
 - Local institutions, laboratories, and private sector (for receptions, special events, etc). ^[1]_{SEP}
 - Private sector and NGOs