



WORLD CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Co-sponsors' Review and Recommendations

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(on behalf of ICSU-WMO-IOC)
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Nanjing, China



ICSU
International Council for Science

The Review Process

- ICSU-WMO-IOC Review Panel: **Julia Slingo (Chairperson), Mark New, Alan Thorpe, Steven Zebiak, Fumiko Kasuga, Sergey Gulev, Neville Smith**
- Ascertain the effectiveness of WCRP in delivering its mandate, how well it **partners with other organizations**, and to advise on the **future structure, governance and resourcing** of the programme.
- Conducted between February and October 2017, met twice and took **oral and written evidence** from a broad range of participants, partners and stakeholders of the WCRP.
- It also took evidence from the **co-sponsors, the JSC and the JPS** on the governance, operational structure, management and resourcing of WCRP.
- Some recommendations are to the co-sponsors and others to WCRP
- To be **approved formally by ICSU-WMO-IOC in June 2018**.



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Recommendation 1: Science Strategy

A new 10-year WCRP science strategy and related 5-year implementation plan must be developed as soon as possible in discussion with the sponsors and with wide consultation and community buy-in.



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Recommendation 1: Science Strategy

- (i) It should identify the **key societal needs for fundamental climate research** to tackle 21st century problems across **climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation**;
- (ii) It should focus on the scientific priorities where WCRP can make a **unique contribution** through its **international, coordinated and integrative activities**;
- (iii) It should reflect the recommendations regarding the structure of WCRP;
- (iv) It should show where recommendations regarding **partnerships** will add value to WCRP;
- (v) Although the focus should be on providing the **bedrock climate science**, the strategy should demonstrate a **clear pathway to applications, i.e., climate services**;
- (vi) A **short synthesis** of the new WCRP strategy should be produced to enable the WCRP community to engage with potential **new sponsors and funders and to act as advocates for fundamental climate research**.



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Recommendations 2-3

Recommendation 2: Governance and the MoU

The Review Panel recommends that a formal high-level Governing Board for WCRP.

A new MoU should be put in place to reflect changes in governance, operations and structure.

Recommendation 3: Scientific Leadership

The Review Panel recommends that the JSC should be re-invigorated to focus on providing science leadership, setting the science strategy and overseeing its implementation.



Recommendations 4-6

Recommendation 4: Operations

The Review Panel recommends that clarity be provided in the terms of reference, structure and functions of the Joint Planning Staff

Recommendation 5: Structure

A new structure for the WCRP research effort that best serves its new strategy and involves a simplified set of delivery mechanisms.

Recommendation 6: Financing

Co-sponsors should re-double their efforts to support WCRP financially at a higher level of enabling funding so that it can operate more effectively.



Recommendation 7: Science to Service

WCRP should take action to ensure its knowledge is brought to the service of society, especially in supporting the development of climate services.



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Recommendation 7: Science to Service

- (i) WCRP should pursue, in particular, partnering with **Future Earth** and its **Knowledge Action Networks**. There are positive signs emerging of opportunities for productive research partnerships and these should be pro-actively developed by WCRP.
- (ii) WCRP should build a pro-active bridge to the WMO's **Global Framework for Climate Services** and other science-to-service initiatives, such as the **Copernicus Climate Change Service** and the **Climate Services Partnership**, by implementing a formal activity on Climate Information for Regions.
- (iii) A variety of other mechanisms for programme engagement should be explored. One option is through representation on the recommended Governing Board of WCRP. A second is to establish a (cross-cutting) working group that serves as liaison to the partner programmes.
- (iv) In engaging with climate services, WCRP should explore, and as appropriate, pursue opportunities this may offer for obtaining additional funding for its fundamental science.



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Recommendation 8: Partnerships

WCRP should seek to develop strategic and strong partnerships with other WMO research programmes (specifically WWRP and GAW), with GCOS, and with Future Earth.



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Recommendation 8: Partnerships

- (i) WCRP urgently explores the option of the **co-design and co-production** of projects that address key scientific challenges of common interest to WCRP, **WWRP, GAW and Future Earth**.
- (ii) **Future Earth** should be brought in as a high-level partner.
- (iii) WCRP should be open and dynamic for future opportunities to develop collaboration with new partners.



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