

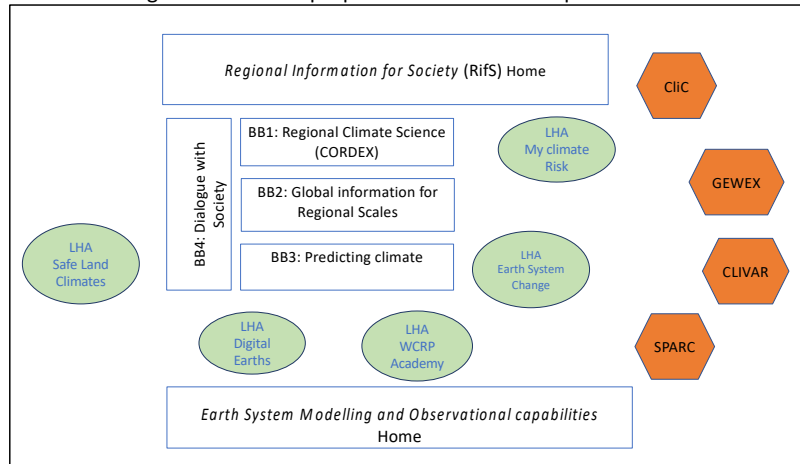
**First telecon to design the WCRP Home on Regional Information for Society (RifS)
6 November 2020, 15-16:30 UTC**

Participants: Daniela Jacob, Silvina Solman, Clare Goodess, Bruce Hewitson, Rupa Kumar Kolli, Bill Gutowski (left at 15:32), Seita Emori, Willem Landman, Kendra Gotangco, Tim Carter, Jens Hesselbjerg Christensen, Ken Takahashi, Narelle van der Wel, Anke Schluensen-Rico, Beatriz Balino (Note taker)

Apologies: Xuebin Zhang, Lisa Alexander, Sonia Seneviratne, Gaby Hegerl, Krishnan Raghavan, Fernanda Zermoglio, Igor Shkolnik, Simon Mason, Sam Dean, Jan Polcher, Annette Rinke,

Jacob chaired the meeting. She thanked all the participants for joining after such short notice, and invited them to present themselves.

Jacob explained the background of this initiative. The chair and co-chair of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC), Detlef Stammer and Helen Cleugh, asked Jacob, Solman, Goodess and Hewitson, co-chairs of the Task Team on Regional Information (TTRA), to come up with ideas about contents and structure of the new Home «Regional Information for Society» (RifS), and to present a preliminary skeleton of the new Home at the extraordinary JSC meeting in December (JSC-41b). Jacob and Solman then put together **at draft structure** of this new home (see figure below) and invited members of the TTRA and the Working Group on Regional Climate (WGRC) to a series of meetings to discuss the proposed structure and expertise needed for this Home.



Kommentiert [RK1]: Though I recognize that this is just a first draft and is very likely to be refined during the course of our discussions, I would suggest deleting CORDEX from BB1 box, as it does not uniquely characterize regional climate science. Almost all the core projects of WCRP have dedicated working structures to deal with regional climate science. We should also find some way of recognizing other flagship activities of WCRP such as CMIP, WGSIP, etc. which will inevitably feed into RifS (especially for BB2).

Discussion Highlights

- The reason for WCRP restructuring is to satisfy new needs and the proposed novel Lighthouse Activities contain the links to society in mind, which requires a co-development way of thinking. But for this to happen there must be a community within the WCRP interested in working this way. It is expected that this group could clarify how to establish the links to society and to avoid falling back into the silo way of working of the past. In this

regard, WCRP has recently incorporated new members ¹ with expertise in social sciences in order to bring unique and important perspectives to WCRP.

- The group should come up with clear aims and objectives for this new Home as well as what the expected outcomes will be. It is crucial that something of substance comes out of this endeavour and also how to move forward.
- A challenge for this new Home is to establish connections among all WCRP structures (old and new) to ensure the cross-cutting nature of the work. E.g. the LHA My Climate Risk, which has a strong regional component, is now developing their science plan and it is key that their work connects to the science plan of the RifS Home.
- Avoid duplication of efforts in all the pillars of this home. Be aware of existing activities and structures outside WCRP, and try to build upon and add value. A mapping of the landscape is essential. Earlier discussions of the TTRA were recalled, where one would take advantage and learn from existing projects/case studies doing this type of work so as not to start from scratch.
- About pillar BB4: *Dialogue with society*
 - Establishing a dialogue with society will require knowledge of the regional and local actors and their needs which vary widely among regions and cultures. Bridging Science with Society becomes possible only when long-term and thematic partnerships are established, i.e. independent of who is involved at any one time.
 - The boundaries around pillar “Dialogue with Society” need definition. For instance: is it (i) research on dialogue with society, or (ii) the dialogue with society about the regional information needs, or (iii) activities that generate co-production on regional information, or (iv) informed dialogues with society by scientific information? Either one or all of them, these boundaries must be defined, and they shall be formulated in such a way that they make sense - and become of interest – to the rest of the WCRP community. Only then this activity will become fully integrated within WCRP.
 - How to define the target audience? If we talk about predictions, then we are in the domain of climate information at the local scale. And where does research end and operational side start?
- About the expertise needed in the group:
 - If WCRP involves in dialogue with society then this group needs expertise in social sciences who actually do research on this field. Words and concepts must also be clarified/defined.
 - Expertise valuable for this group is that of coordinating the provision of climate information to risk assessment projects and that sits at the interface between the providers of the information and the ones using it, commonly referred to as end-users.
 - The scientific community on climate change impacts and adaptation, won’t necessarily reach out or connect to WCRP for support. It would thus be beneficial for WCRP to coordinate with, or at least identify, scientists doing impact and assessments studies,

Kommentiert [RK2]: Not necessarily. We may need to reframe this thought. If this is based on my intervention, my question was whether we are addressing the regional stakeholders or national/local stakeholders. This is because high-resolution regional information spans across all scales, and external regional climate information sources can directly come into conflict with the mandates of the national service providers. This is why WMO stipulates that its Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) should not directly address the national/local users.

¹ <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/about-wcrp/governance/jsc-2019/88-maria-ivanova>
<https://www.wcrp-climate.org/about-wcrp/governance/jsc-2019/89-roberto-sanchez-rodriguez>

such as the Impact modelling MIPs² (e.g. Alex Ruane and others) since they are connected to stakeholders and policy makers.

- WMO has been making concerted efforts to strengthen the operationalization of the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) on sub-regional scales in support of delivering tailored products and services addressing national and sub-regional priorities, with emphasis on priority sectors including water, agriculture, health, energy, etc. They can also assist in the mapping of existing infrastructures and activities in the regional domain.

Kommentiert [RK3]: Repeated.

Jacob brought the issue about WCRP's role in delivering solid science to better inform the impact and assessment scientific community, and posed the following questions:

1. *Is WCRP delivering the solid science to inform the impact and assessment studies/projects? If so,*
2. *Is WCRP fulfilling their needs and demands for data, information and knowledge?*
3. *What are the scientific open gaps - from the WCRP side - that these projects/scientific communities would like to see closed?*
4. *Where, within WCRP, is this science -to better inform those projects - being carried out? Is it in the Core Projects? Or should this global and regional research sit in the RifS Home?*

Discussion Highlights

- WCRP lays the scientific foundation for climate information for regions. The research gap in WCRP would then be: how the regional information is constructed into "actionable packages". This type of research would fit nicely in the pillars 1-3 of this Home. But it must also link to the pillar "Dialogue with Society", so this actionable information package and the research around it must be put into the context of the different stakeholders, e.g. the climate service providers, policy makers, end-users, etc.
- A challenge is that we cannot figure it out what is the best way or the right format to communicate with the stakeholders. This is complicated and not a question of structure. If this is a big research task then it must be formulated as a research agenda.

Final comments from the chair:

Jacob thanked all participants for a fruitful exchange of ideas and discussions. She then asked the group to focus on which expertise shall be invited to the next telecon **from within the WCRP community**.

Topics for the 2nd telecon on November 13th:

- The scientific strategy of the Home: discuss aims, objectives and needs of the Home, based on the collection of ideas and comments of today.
- Discuss co-chairing the group in order to share the ownership of this endeavour

Action: Send an information package for the WGRC members about the new WCRP (Van der Wel and Balino).

² For instance: the Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Model -ISI-MIP