

Summary of the telephone conference of the Task Team for Regional Activities (TT4RA)

1 October 2019, 14:00 CEST

Participants:

Silvina Solman, CORDEX – Chaired the meeting

Lisa Alexander, GC-Extremes

Beatriz Balino, CORA

Jens Hesselbjerg Christensen, JSC

F.J. Doblas-Reyes, JSC

Pavel Kabat, JPS

Irène Lake, CORDEX

Boram Lee, JPS

Andrew Robertson, S2S

Wiebke Schubotz, CORA

Ken Takahashi, JSC

Claas Teichmann, EURO-CORDEX

Narelle van der Wel, JPS

Peter van Oevelen, GEWEX

Xuebin Zhang, GC-Extremes

Apologies

Gabi Hegerl & Sonia Seneviratne (GC-Extremes), Bill Gutowski (CORDEX), Krishnan Raghavan, Helen Cleugh & Detlef Stammer (JSC), Bruce Hewitson & Clare Goodess (WGRC), Adam Scaife (GC-Near-Time Prediction), Gwen Hamon (CliC), Neil Harris (SPARC)

1. Appointment of a Task Team leader

It was suggested that CORDEX takes the lead of TT4RA and appoints its leader. It is important that the leader commits to the role, i.e. is able to dedicate enough time to the task. Moreover, the TT leader should facilitate the work and be inclusive to other groups. This is especially important, as also other initiatives, e.g. the core projects, have regional interests. Because the WGRC was not represented at the telecon, and their input will be important (for historical reasons), they should be invited to co-lead the TT4RA.

It was agreed that the Coordination Office for WCRP Regional Activities (CORA) will provide support to the coordination of the TT4AR.

Decision/Action 1: CORDEX takes the leadership of the TT4RA and invites the WGRC to be co-leader.

Decision/Action 2: CORA provides coordinating support for the TT4RA co-leader(s) and activities.

2. Terms of Reference (ToR, see below)

The ToR (version of 30 September 2019) and general description of the TT4RA origin and timeline, prepared by the JSC leadership and JPS, was discussed. While the general expectation to the TT4RA was commonly understood, some important points were raised as well as different views on how far this task group should work on the issue of climate services. It was emphasized that the focus of WCRP should be maintained within the research (i.e. climate science), that leads to the climate information for regions. The TT4RA should communicate how the generated research can be used to bridge the gap between climate science and society (Point 4 of the Strategic Plan). Science questions that arise during this process should be noted and brought to the discussion at WCRP's February workshop on the science questions for the future.

It is also important that this process addresses all time scales, so the various groups can be involved (e.g. S2S). Regarding ToR (2), it was mentioned that there are already existing documents for CORA, but that the planned tasks should be changed if this seems necessary for the future regional activities. There was a suggestion on editing ToR (1) that found general agreement (see Decision/Action 3).

It was agreed to keep the ToR largely as is, i.e. rather general (except for the clarification on the general intent), in order to avoid delays in the work progress, while being flexible enough to accommodate recommendations along the timeline of the TT4RA. It is up to the course of the TT4RA (and comments are welcome) to decide further on the issue of climate services vs. climate science and to address this in the recommendations.

Decision/Action 3: The ToR is slightly edited as such:

(1) Through consultation, make recommendations or suggestions with regard to research that enhances on the relevance and use of climate science and information for climate services and decision-making at the regional and national levels.

(2) Co-develop, with the existing WCRP regional climate information activities, a concrete work plan for the next two years, including that for CORA.

(3) Co-develop required structures and elements for the WCRP implementation plan that will empower the WCRP to address its research priorities on climate information for regions.

(4) Report back to the JSC with findings and possible options at its 41st session (May 2020), with recommendations on the relevant components within the WCRP Implementation Plan.

3. First face-to-face meeting in Beijing

We want to take advantage of the ICRC-CORDEX 2019 conference and hold a face-to-face meeting with those TT4RA members participating at the event. Even though not all the regional aspects of WCRP will be present in Beijing, it will be possible for members to participate remote or to send their input before hand.

Decision/Action 4: CORA will prepare a doodle poll to organize a face-to-face meeting of the TT4RA during the CORDEX conference in Beijing.

4. Other points for clarification and further consideration

Membership

In principle the TT4RA is open to anyone although it should be kept to a manageable size, e.g. max 20 people (as suggested by the JSC). The JSC recommended to invite CP leaders as needed.

Issue/Question to all: Are there any other parties that should be invited?

Meetings schedule

It was suggested to hold regular teleconferences (e.g., every 3 weeks). Progress status of the TT4RA shall be communicated to other TTs and related initiatives, and vice versa.

Decision/Action 5: CORA, in consultation with the TT4AR leader(s) and JPS, will organize the next telecon, tentatively in the week of October 21.

Core Project's initiative

The initiative of the core projects on finding a common region of future research should be considered by the TT4RA.