

**Task Team on Regional Activities**  
**Telecon 13 November 2019, 14:00-15:30**  
**UTC FINAL MINUTES (Nov 25, 2019)**

Participants: Bill Gutowski, Silvina Solman & Irene Lake (CORDEX), Clare Goodess (WGRC), Xuebin Zhang (GC Extremes), Ken Takahashi & Jens H. Christensen (JSC), Jiwon Kim & Beatriz Balino (CORA), Gwen Hammon (CliC), Peter van Oevelen (GEWEX),

Apologies: Paco Roblas-Reyes (JSC), Lisa Alexander, Gabi Hegerl & Sonia Seneviratne (GC Extremes), Boram Li (JPS), Wiebke Schubotz (CORA), Narelle van der Wel (JPS), Krishnan Raghavan (JSC)

Goodess chaired the meeting. Gutowski left at 15:05

**1. Climate services consultation: report** Balino summarized the report prepared by CORA on the interview with Celeste Saulo, WMO and the revision of relevant documents provided by Goodess from her involvement in WMO expert groups at the Commission of Climatology. The consultation was meant to provide views and recommendations on how to build strategic partnerships with the WCRP for the co-production of climate research and information for regions.

*Discussion points:*

- General agreement that although Saulo's recommendations are too descriptive they are a good starting point and they indicate a direction.
- The main issue is how to improve the connections to the wide variety of regional science being done. GFCS is a good interface for WCRP regarding climate science so connections here need improving. Not necessarily through a common regional agenda, but maybe through regional science agendas developed by WMO Regional Associations.
- GFCS has conducted a lot of regional consultations in the past although it was not well connected to the science agenda. It was agreed to review existing GFCS documents/reports in order to assess what has been done. This will fit into the long-term implementation plan to be proposed to JSC in May.
- There are clear dependencies between NMHSs and academia, and international partners which vary across regions. On the one hand, need to make sense of what is there and on the other hand, on work out how to improve the coordination and communication between WCRP and all the international partners, including WMO.

- WCRP should not deviate from its main task which is to conduct climate research and not to provide services to Climate Service entities. To this end, it was noted that climate information for regions should be based on user-oriented research in order to produce “actionable knowledge” to, e.g. climate services. This WCRP “service” should be the interface that targets objective 4: *Bridging science and society*.
- The report to the JSC should include a specific recommendation about the cooperation of WCRP with social scientists.
- Regarding funding and resource management: Rather than finding new sources of funding, at this stage it will be more a matter of aligning resources that are already available that will fit into the new structure. Seed money to get activities off the

1

ground. For the longer term, the TT should indicate how it might shape research agendas and the funding programmes in Europe, etc.

Action: CORA and GFCS to work together to identify relevant documents/reports with the goal to review and assess existing information. For this, key overarching principles must be defined (e.g. what will be explored) in order to get a coherent outcome.

## **2. Implementation of the Frontier of Climate Information (FoCI):**

Goodess has made comments to the original document from 2016 and suggested updates to bring it up to the new WCRP situation.

### *Discussion points:*

- General consensus that an updated concept of FoCI is a potential way forward for regional activities as it expands the current WCRP climate research towards objective 4, by including translational science as a vehicle for cooperation with stakeholders, social sciences etc. which will be essential in the future.
- It was advised to review the recommendations from the Hamburg workshop as well.
- Suggestion to adapt the topics raised by the Core Project Initiative into FoCIs, which has the advantage to link the two activities together. The stocktake carried out by CORA can also be used to identify FoCI projects. In this regard, CORDEX notes that a new FPS in the Arctic has just kicked-off.

- It was recommended to review existing activities in WCRP and specifically to have a look at existing activities and to learn from them, e.g. the Global Water Futures Programme in Canada. This shows how things can be done and how they can be adapted to our purposes.
- Proposal to get the CP initiative into a portfolio of FoCI.
- The FoCI concept is based on translational science which means involvement with stakeholders, e.g. climate services, social sciences, etc.

Action: everybody is asked to contribute to further comments, edits to the FoCI document and suggestions of specific activities for FoCI projects or how FoCI might work. Send to CORA by November 20. Note (Nov 25): No feedback was received.

### **3. Report to JSC: Strawman**

Points of discussion

- Change “stakeholder” to “service partners”
- Structures and elements:
  - Some confusion about what is meant by elements and structures.

2

- For some, elements are lines of thoughts about activities that need to be done, while the structure is more on how to organise those; the two are complementary.
- Not appropriate to discuss structure at this time as we do not know what is coming up in 2 years. It will be more important to come up with a good definition of the elements that need to be done, what we want to see happening, and that these elements can then become a separated new structure or integrated in others in the new organisation.
- General agreement not to add a new layer of bureaucracy but instead to find new mechanisms to identify areas where we can work together across the horizontal activities regarding regional research. The TT should consider the structure of IPCC AR6, regarding the regional chapters at the end of the WGI report. The production of these chapters could be a learning process for

WCRP, and might eventually be reflected in the structures and elements put forward by the TT. ○ The chapters, once finalised, may identify research gaps, questions and elements for the WCRP regional activities for the years to come (to be included in the 2 year working plan). To be included in the strawman. ○ Thus the TT could propose a review of these chapters once published with this

aim, as part of the two-year plan for the IP.

Action: Goodess, Solman, Gutwoski and CORA to work on the strawman, prepare a first draft of the short report for JSC (due end November) and send it to the TT for revision and approval. Discussion either by email or telecom (TBD). CORA volunteers to review the IPCC AR6 regional chapters.

#### **4. AoB:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Climate Services: participation of CORA and organisation of a side event. The TT endorses. The WCRP presentation should include input from the WCRP science week (AGU). To be discussed at AGU with members from the TT that are present.
- Stocktake: Irene will amend the information on CORDEX and the GCF.