

WCRP Implementation Plan: Task Teams and Next Steps

Teleconference minutes: 16-17 September 2019

Action Summary:

Action: JSC Chair, Vice-Chair and JPS to work on planning of “High-level Science Questions” and “Elements and Structure” workshops, including Doodle Poll for dates (Detlef, Helen, Pavel, Mike, Narelle et al.; ongoing)

Action: Send any suggested revisions to Task Team text by Sunday 22nd September (all; 22 September)

Action: Chair, Vice-chair and JPS to invite JSC representatives to the different Task Teams (Detlef, Helen, Mike, Narelle: end September)

Action: JPS to organize first emails and teleconferences for the Task Teams they are responsible for (Mike, Mich, Boram, Narelle: ASAP)

Action: Please provide JPS with WCRP material (e.g. photos, film footage) that could be used for the WCRP 40th Anniv. Film (all ASAP)

Meeting Discussion Summary:

This document summarizes the discussions from two WCRP community calls, held at separate times to accommodate different global time zones. The text in black is from the first call and the text in blue adds any additional points that were raised in the second call.

Call 1: 16 September 2019 - 21:00 CEST

Call 2: 17 September 2019 - 8:00 CEST

Call 1 present: Detlef Stammer, Helen Cleugh, Pavel Kabat, Jens H. Christensen, Jim Hurrell, Pascale Braconnot, Tercio Ambrizzi, Thomas Peter, Igor Shkolnik, Ken Takahashi, Huijun Wang, Andrew Roberts, James Renwick, Keith Williams, Bill Gutowski, Peter van Oevelen, Silvina Solman, Annalisa Bracco, Jan Polcher, Adam Scaife, Greg Flato, Xuebin Zhang, Jerry Meehl, Bill Merryfield, Susann Tegtmeier, Carolyn Reynolds, Judith Perlwitz, Cath Senior, Daniela Jacob, Iréne Lake, Wiebke Schubotz, Hans Volkert, Beatriz Balino, Boram Lee, Mike Sparrow, Gwen Hamon, Narelle van der Wel (Two unknown)
(39 total)

Call 2 present: Detlef Stammer, Pavel Kabat, Krishnan Raghavan, Neil Harris, Lisa Alexander, Pierre Friedlingstein, Masahide Kimoto, Robert Nicholls, Pedro Monteiro, Paul Bowyer, Paco Doblas-Reyes, Narelle van der Wel, Mike Sparrow
(13 total)

Overview of discussion:

1. Opening and overview of implementation progress since JSC-40

Detlef introduces the call. Since the last JSC meeting there have been some developments we wish to update you on. We are entering a busy phase. We want to bring everyone onto the same page in order to move forward. We have the AGU event before us - a big celebration of 40 years of WCRP success. We want to bring you up to speed on our preparations for this.

Progress since JSC-40. Pavel and Detlef will be in New York for the Climate Action Summit. Climate change is very big on the political and public agenda with a lot of media attention on climate information and action. Detlef asks Pavel to summarize the Climate Action Summit. There is a high demand from decision makers for climate information. This is important for WCRP.

Pavel - The UN Secretary General has convened the Climate Action Summit - 22-23 September in New York. 87 Head of States will be present. A science advisory group was put together across WMO - 11 members. A collaborative report is being produced (United voice of Science - WMO(WCRP), Future Earth, IPCC, Global Carbon Project, etc.) - high level synthesis report. Launched at a high-level event on the 22nd to frame the whole summit. Detlef will attend. We are providing an integrative approach. WCRP should be very prominent in this.

Detlef then moves to the restructuring of WCRP sponsors. WMO and ISC are restructuring. He asks Pavel to comment on the WMO reform.

Pavel - WMO is undergoing a reform to become an Earth system integrated organization. It was approved last June at WMO Congress in Geneva (193 Members). It has an Earth System approach - across weather, climate, water and environment (mainly atmospheric chemistry). There are two new research bodies:

- The Science Advisory Panel (SAP) - 15 prominent scientists who will advise WMO.
- The WMO Research Board - all WMO co-sponsored research programmes are included - Chairs of WCRP, WWRP, GAW etc. and also representatives from Future Earth, from the International Research Council, IOC-UNESCO, etc. This is currently being formed. Detlef is part of this core group.

This will result in better visibility and support for science. There was a full Research Day during Congress. CMIP was put up as a key supplier of data to IPCC and WMO members were asked to support CMIP activities - a concrete step forward.

2. Planning for the activities ahead during the next 12 months

In the last JSC meeting we discussed what kind of framework is necessary to implement the new WCRP Strategic Plan (see JSC-40 Report and Implementation and Transition Meeting Report). We discussed that it needs to be science questions that drive us. By next May or June, we want to discuss and agree on the structure of the new WCRP, followed by a two-year transition phase. The new WCRP will be very dynamic. It should be possible to adjust to

fast changes - 50% CO2 reduction in 10 years - society will need to change quickly and we will need to be flexible and responsive to deal with problems that will need to be addressed. It requires a community approach - which is why we want these calls.

The next step is to identify the elements required to implement the new WCRP and make it fit for purpose for the next 10 years. The JSC-41 Session will be in May 2020 and this requires preparation.

I propose two elements:

- (i) High-level Science Questions Workshop - Jan/Feb 2020 - To establish flagship questions for WCRP
- (ii) Elements and Structure Workshop - Feb/March 2020 - to establish the new structure of WCRP

Action: JSC Chair, Vice-Chair and JPS to work on planning of "High-level Science Questions" and "Elements and Structure" workshops, including Doodle Poll for dates (Detlef, Helen, Pavel, Mike, Narelle et al.; ongoing)

These workshops will include representatives for all WCRP activities, similar to the pre-JSC-40 workshop. The writing process would then follow. To start this process, we need suggestions and recommendations from the community, and this is the purpose of the task teams.

3. Next steps regarding implementation

(i) WCRP Task Teams: rationale, outlines, terms of reference and membership

Before the workshops outlined above, we need a few task teams (task forces). It is important that we understand what they are and what they are not. They are short term activities where we invite part of the WCRP family to address specific questions relevant to our work over the next years and the new structure of WCRP. They do not replace or overwrite anything but give us community-wide advice on how we can move forward in a seamless way. They can report on what currently works well and what could be done better. The most important Task Teams right now are on regional activities, modelling and data (see below). It is important to start on these task teams as soon as possible.

Key points:

- Leadership will be decided by the Task Team
- These are organizational - how to organize the work.
- It is important that the progress of these groups is reported on a relatively frequent basis to ensure that others are involved where needed and where interests arise.
- Next steps:
 - Revise text on the task teams ASAP
 - (At least) two JSC members will be invited to be involved with each Task Team
 - 15-20 members in each task team (but not prescribed, could be less)
 - The chairs and vice-chairs of the groups mentioned in the Task Team outlines will be the first points of contact, with contact initiated by the JPS. The full task team will be invited by these first points of contact.

- The JPS will organize the first teleconference of the task team. A Task Team Chair will be identified at that call.

Action: Send any suggested revisions to Task Teams text by Sunday 22nd September (all; 22 September)

Action: Chair, Vice-chair and JPS to invite JSC representatives to the different Task Teams (Detlef, Helen, Mike, Narelle: end September)

Action: JPS to organize first teleconferences for the Task Teams they are responsible for (Mike, Mich, Boram, Narelle: ASAP)

JSC liaisons:

Lisa and Jens have been invited to be liaisons for the Regional Activities Task Team

Ken is interested in joining the Regional Activities Task Team

Krishnan is interested in joining the Regional Activities Task Team but will not have much time until mid-January 2020 due to IPCC commitments.

Pierre is interested in joining the Model Development Task Team.

(ii) WCRP Task Team on Regional Activities

The Task Team of Regional Activities (regional climate information for society) is ready to go (see Regional Activities Task Team Outline in call documentation). The groups involved in this need to come together. It needs to be jointly discussed. It should come back by late November and most definitely before the AGU Meeting in San Francisco in December. This is related to the implementation discussion and to the work that we need to do now - how will CORA fit into the structure.

Key points:

- Membership: We have four groups working specifically on climate information. The Working Group on Regional Climate still exists, although inactive. We need to have a discussion on how to move forward with these four groups in the future WCRP. The Core Projects can be brought in as needed, possibly at a later stage. As there is not much time until December, it should not be a large group. Leadership of the Task Team will be decided by the group.
- The Task Team would provide recommendations (no decisions), especially on the structure of Objective Four of the Strategic Plan.
- It was pointed out that there have been past discussions, such as at the Workshop in October 2016, so the Task Team would not need to start from scratch. The recommendations from that workshop should be considered.
- The Town Halls at the AGU Fall Meeting: The town halls have community interaction and have a different purpose. It may feed into the Task Team discussion and the Task Team discussion may influence them. It is an opportunity for broader input from the AGU Community.

- Regional activities is a broad and potentially confusing term: the focus should not be on regional activities in general, which take place across the Programme, but on where WCRP can provide better climate information to decision makers and climate services - including stakeholder interaction and discussion. The focus should be on regional climate service or information activities. This is a new additional level of coordination.
- We should also consider how climate information will be used by regional or national decision makers and it is essential to build regional scientific capacity.
- Regional climate questions can be identified as part of this process. Different scales may need to be considered.

(iii) WCRP Task Team on Model Development and Computing Infrastructure

This Task Team will examine model activities in the new WCRP (see Task Team Outline in call documentation).

(iv) WCRP Task Team on Seamless Data and Data Management

This Task Team will examine data activities in the new WCRP (see Task Team Outline in call documentation).

Key points on both the modelling and data task teams:

- The councils will be involved in the discussions of the task teams.
- The Task Teams are short term and give recommendations and advice across WCRP which should include the future elements and structure of the modelling or data activities should be done. For example, what is an ideal organization for WCRP data activities? These recommendations can then lead into the Workshop discussions.
- We should think about and focus our resources on where WCRP adds value, such as the coordination activities of CMIP that address specific aims or questions that feed into national and international assessments. The science and structure are both important.
- Community points of view are important to this discussion.
- We should think about identifying the missing processes that still need to be solved. We also need to consider how the future may look in terms of new technology.
- The Task Teams may come with recommendations and they also may come with a summary of options that we have. There may not be a final recommendation. There may also be a set of principles, such as "focus on where WCRP can add value."

(v) WCRP Task Team on Engagement and Consultation

There is so much going on right now on the engagement side, that we have decided to postpone this this task team until after we have done the next workshops (around April 2020) We are already actively talking with Future Earth, WMO Research Board, WWRP, GAW and other groups and many things are moving quite fast at present. We think it is more important to prepare for the WCRP workshops at this stage and that it will be more efficient to look at forming this group after those workshops have taken place when we will have a better idea of the way forward.

4. Update on the Climate Science Week at the AGU Fall Meeting

The Climate Science Week at the AGU Fall Meeting will take place from 7-13 December 2019 in San Francisco, USA. The main elements are listed below:

- **WCRP 40th Anniversary Symposium**

The symposium will take place on 8 December from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

The venue should be allocated in the next week or so.

It has three main sessions on:

- Celebrating 40 years of WCRP in Service to Society
- Understanding the Climate System Components and their Interactions
- The Launch of WCRP's Future

The program and speaker list are near finalization. Invitations will go out this week.

We also have a call for any WCRP material that we could use as part of a film we are producing for the event. Film footage is at the top of the list of what we are looking for, but also images and personal recollections would be much appreciated.

Action: Please provide JPS with WCRP material (e.g. photos, film footage) that could be used for the WCRP 40th Anniv. Film (all ASAP)

- **WCRP-AGU Joint Early Career Researcher Workshop: Water Cycle in a 1.5° Warmer World: Interdisciplinary Approaches**

This will take place 7 December from 1pm to 5 or 6pm

The venue should be allocated in the next week or so.

Applications close on 21 September - so far we have nearly 70 applications

- **Union Session: Climate Research for the 21st Century: from Challenges and Opportunities to Implementation**

This will take place on Friday 13 December, 10:20-12:20

The session will include a brief summary of WCRP's success by Guy Brasseur, introduce the new WCRP strategic plan and current thinking regarding its implementation, and conclude with a panel discussion with the audience thereby answering questions from the floor regarding WCRPs future.

- **Town Halls**

There are four town halls, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday PM time slot and Wednesday at lunch time. The 4 town halls mirror the 4 Strategic Plan objectives. Each has 4 conveners and a number of other contributors. Martin and Jim are working with the conveners of each of the town halls to finalize the speakers and program.

- **Science Sessions**

There are over 30 proposed science sessions were tagged as WCRP sponsored. At the AGU Program Committee meeting on September 4-6, attended by Jens, the abstracts to these sessions were examined and the final program determined. Once we know the outcome of that process, we will be looking at additional sessions that would fit into the WCRP Climate Science Week and discuss the option of WCRP tagging with the respective conveners.

- **Agency lunch**

Representatives from a number of agencies and key partner organizations will be invited for a working lunch to discuss the future of WCRP

- **WCRP Booth**

There will be a WCRP exhibition booth again this year. This is a community booth and we welcome any ideas that you might have concerning its use. We will also be asking members of the community to come and join us at the booth for an hour during the week to talk to people about their own work and about WCRP.

We need to consider how to use the AGU week to gather views on the WCRP Implementation Plan, also after the event.

5. Any other business

Pavel - Our work continues. Ongoing activities should include implementation discussions - such as the upcoming WGNE meeting and CORDEX conference. We should use these opportunities.

It was agreed that the community calls are useful and should be done about every three months.

Neil - who is responsible for making sure that we consult widely on the Implementation Plan?

Detlef - It is clear that this needs to take place. We need to think about the mechanisms.

Pavel - We can also ensure that there is engagement prior to the upcoming workshops.

Paco - Can I have an opportunity to comment on the Task Team Terms of Reference? Will send this through to Narelle.

Pierre - We need to consider how WCRP will continue to do its important work while at the same time can set a good example throughout the Programme for reducing our carbon footprint. The JPS is producing a report on scenarios on the transitional and final phase. Pierre offers his help with this. Neil suggested setting up a Task Team on this. Detlef suggests that this could happen after the Workshops early next year.