

## **WCRP Implementation Plan 2010-2013**

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In 2008 the sponsors of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) (the International Council for Science (ICSU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) commissioned an independent review of WCRP. They appointed an international panel of experts to evaluate the extent to which the international global change research programmes such as WCRP add value to their respective areas of research and to the national programmes that contribute to them. They asked the Panel to answer the question “What do scientists, sponsors and the end-users get out of participating in and supporting these international programmes that they would not have gained if the international programmes did not exist?”. The Panel has completed its review and the final report can be found at <http://www.icsu.org>.

The major recommendations resulting from the independent review together with the internal discussions among the WCRP leadership (including the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) that has the overall responsibility for defining, overseeing, and evaluating the scientific and technical activities of the Programme, the Chairs and Directors of WCRP Core Projects, and Chairs of the Working Groups and Panels who implement the programme activities), resulted in an overall programme assessment and planning activity that is currently continuing. The WCRP team decided to focus their deliberations on two time horizons: an intermediate period (2010-2015), and a long-term period (post 2015). The outline of the intermediate-term plan has been published recently and is available for download at [http://wcrp.wmo.int/documents/WCRP\\_IP.pdf](http://wcrp.wmo.int/documents/WCRP_IP.pdf).

The document describes the major research activities and initiatives that WCRP will promote and undertake during the next several years. These activities/initiatives are based on the scientific challenges and opportunities of interest identified by the scientists involved in the Programme, as well as on the national and international scientific priorities that would most benefit from WCRP coordination. In addition to the interdisciplinary research and modelling initiatives identified, the themes of regional climate assessments and climate information for decision-makers also emerged from these discussions as requiring special emphasis by WCRP in the intermediate- and long-term. Indeed, there were considerable discussions on the means and modes for delivery of climate information to decision-makers, and the role that WCRP can and should play in this process. The major issue debated was how best WCRP should spend its limited resources and make use of its network of volunteers in the continuum that begins with observation, research, analysis, modelling and prediction and ends with synthesis and assessment and delivery of the climate information and knowledge to decision-makers. The general view is that WCRP must continue to support and enable excellence in climate observations and research, but also promote and enable a comprehensive climate information system for timely and efficient delivery of the resulting knowledge to decision-makers. Partnerships are essential to WCRP success in both areas.

The document provides some specific examples of activities and initiatives to be taken by WCRP and its Core Projects, it is not a comprehensive compendium of WCRP activities. It tries to convey the solid scientific foundation that WCRP has established during the first 30 years of its research on climate variability and change and that forms the basis for future challenges and opportunities in delivering the resulting information and knowledge to decisionmakers for developing strategies and options for climate adaptation, mitigation and risk management across the major social and economic sectors and regions of the globe.

To implement these activities and initiatives, the WCRP functions and organizational structure will continue to evolve during the ensuing decade(s). A companion document entitled “WCRP Long-Term Strategy: Functions and Structure” is currently under preparation and it will describe in detail areas of scientific focus and organizational structure for the Programme, beyond the next decade.