

WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
Kick Off Meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)

4-5 March 2013
Buenos Aires, Argentina

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1. Introduction

The Kick Off meeting for the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) was held at the Ministry of Science and Technology and Productive Innovation (MinCyT), Buenos Aires, Argentina on 4-5 March 2013. The SSC wishes to thank the sponsors of the meeting, MinCyT, WCRP and CIMA, whose support has made this meeting possible.

The meeting agenda is presented in Appendix I and the list of participants is in Appendix II.

2. Goals of the SSC meeting and Terms of reference

The main aim of the SSC meeting is to organize the WCRP Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean . To accomplish this goal the following aspects should be addressed

- Define the overall goal of the WCRP Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as its specific objectives
- Discuss and define the expected outputs and outcomes from the conference
- Discuss and define the role of the participants, climate scientists, adaptation policy-makers, and users at regional, national and local levels
- Define a list of partners and institutions interested to fund and support the conference
- Define a list of targeted climate science, policy-makers, and end-users participants
- Establish the base to develop a White Paper on the WCRP Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean

The co-chairs of the SSC, Drs. Celeste Saulo and Walter Baethgen started the meeting reviewing the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Steering Committee and aims of the meeting. Appendix III contains the most recent version of the TORs discussed and agreed by the Committee, and Appendix IV includes the list of the SSC members.

3. Climate and applications research frontiers

During this section of the meeting every member of the SSC provided input about their view on climate and applications research frontiers for the region, including their expectation on the WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Carolina Vera introduced and discussed the WCRP Grand Challenge for Regional Climate and summarized the ideas for reformulating WCRP activities in Latin America. Dr. Hugo Berbery informed the group about CLIVAR/VAMOS panel activities and his perspective for the Conference, and Dr. Rene Garreaud summarized the GEWEX research priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Silvina Solman then provided information on the COordinated Regional Downscaling EXperiment (CORDEX) activities, referring to South America and in particular.

The other members of the Committee brought their view on different topics based on their personal expertise:

- Data bases for climate analysis and forecasting, links with WGSIP (Celeste Saulo)
- (a) Climate Services Partnership (CSP) perspective, and (b) information flow through knowledge networks/chains (Walter Baethgen)
- Expectations from Agriculture and Energy Generation (Pedro Leite Silva Dias)
- Bridging climate science and policy (Fernanda Zermoglio)
- Climate, land use and stakeholders: learning to act in a climate-change world (Sandro Schlindwein)
- Land use, land cover and ecotone shifts (Holm Tiessen)
- Climate Variability & Climate Change in Tropical South America, and diverse applied sectors, with emphasis on Human Health (Germán Poveda)
- The Caribbean: A Regional Approach to Climate (Michael Taylor)

All presentations are available at the meeting web site

<http://www.cima.fcen.uba.ar/WCRP/> (page under development)

4. Planning for WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

Based on the Climate & Applications research frontiers discussed in the previous section, the Concept Note previously distributed (Appendix V) and other documentation (e.g.: WMO – Global Framework for Climate Services web page: http://www.wmo.int/pages/themes/climate/climate_services.php), the group had a detailed discussion on an appropriate title, acronym, scope, mission and vision for the Conference.

Some key words were proposed to be considered in the extended title of the conference:

- Knowledge gap in basic and applied sciences and also how to integrate them.

- Shared knowledge / cooperation
- Social learning /cooperative learning
- Learning how to live with climate
- Learning to communicate climate knowledge to the society
- Towards constructing chains/networks of knowledge between basic climate-research and decision making at the regional level
- Bridging research and societal needs

The following general title was suggested:

WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
Developing, Linking, and Applying Climate Knowledge

4.1 Conference format

Considering some examples from previous “similar” events, as WCRP-OSC, and WCC-3, the group discussed ideas for the Conference agenda and format (presentations, discussions, and poster sessions)

A list of main themes was agreed, with the common view on climate services for:

- Water & Energy
- Agriculture and Ecosystems
- Human Health
- Coastal zones
- Urban environments

And a final wrap up general theme on:

- Climate prediction and predictability in LA&C

The five main themes will be developed during the first four days of the conference, with the following format (to be reviewed):

	Monday	Tuesday: Water & energy	Wednesday: Agriculture & ecosystems	Thursday: coastal & urban environments	Friday: Regional Climate monitoring and prediction in LA&C
9:00-10:30	Opening session: Welcome Conference vision Keynote speech: *1	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break				
11:00 – 12:30	Health: Key note speakers (35' each + Q&A 15')	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5 Invited talks (15' each)
	Lunch break				
14:00-15:15	5 Invited talks (15' each)	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call	5/6 talks selected from open call
15:15-16:00	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee	Poster sessions and coffee
16:00-18:00	Round table: health-climate	Round table: water-energy-climate	Round table: Agriculture-ecosystems-climate	Round table: coastal zones-urban environments-climate	Round table: Climate Services Challenges in LA&C Closing
	Welcome cocktail	Dinner?			

4.2 Conference open call

It was agreed that the Conference open call will contain:

- Motivation – Conference Scope
- Expected participation – definition of attendees that may be supported
- Detailed list of conference themes
- Timeline of the Call for papers
- Format of the abstract and personal data required
- Web-place for submission
- Contact person for information

All the SSC members agreed to contribute to prepare the open call document with the lead of Fernanda Zermoglio, Pedro Silva Dias and Rene Garreaud.

The Conference open call will be ready to distribute by early June 2013 and deadline for submission of abstracts will be September 1st. Proposals in each sector session will be evaluated by the assigned SSC members, who will recommend on the pertinence/relevance/salience of the proposals.

4.3 Conference funding

The committee agreed on the need to initiate and develop a funding strategy for the conference. This includes:

- Assessment of conference funding needs

- Venue
- Secretary
- Side events
- Invited speakers
- Participants (students, others?)
- Identification of Stakeholders and Funding Bodies, such as
 - WCRP
 - IAI to fund participation of some IAI program scientists
 - US CLIVAR?
 - Regional Met services?
 - Science/other Ministries?
 - Professional organizations?
 - Agriculture, Water, Energy, Oil, and/or Reinsurance companies
 - IDB, The World Bank

The SSC will identify national points of contact and/or a funding committee.

The SSC agreed on the need to consider a registration fee with the aim of covering the catering costs for coffee breaks and lunches (in the meeting room), as well as a welcome cocktail and a social event dinner (in a different venue).

The funding strategy for the conference will be drafted and implemented by Walter Baethgen, Carolina Vera, Marcelo Barreiro, Pedro Silva Dias and Carlos Ereño.

4.4 Conference participation

The SSC discussed the following items:

- Define the size of the meeting and variety of participants (stakeholders, policy makers, academia, etc.)
It was agreed to limit the attendance to 200 participants
- Early career
To encourage the participation of around 50 early career scientists
- Identify/Define invited talks
To be addressed by the SSC, see action items
- List programs that should be invited to present or organize poster clusters
 - CORDEX
 - WGSIP (CMIP5 – CHFP/SHFP)
 - IPCC TGICA
 - PROVIA (<http://www.unep.org/provia/>)
 - Climate Services Partnership (<http://climate-services.org/>)
 - IGBP
 - Future Earth

- IAI
- ESSP Programme – Global Environmental Change and Human Health Other big international projects? (e.g. CHUVA?)

4.5 Preparation for the WCRP-Conference for LA&C

Marcelo Barreiro, will search different alternatives for the Conference Venue, according to the size of the conference agreed by the SSC. The location proposed venue (MERCOSUR building) may not be suitable for the conference expected size.

4.5.1 Organization and logistics

A group constituted initially by Marcelo Barreiro, Celeste Saulo and Carlos Ereño will take care of the local arrangements, logistics, and communications.

The SSC agreed to have periodic teleconferences to update of the progress of each group.

4.5.2 Deliverables and legacy

A document including the key note presentations and short white papers will be developed in advance to the conference. This document will be reviewed after the conference to include the recommendations and conclusions driven from the meeting.

After the conference (March-April 2014) a Conference report will be prepared by the SSC.

5. Action Items.

(See Timeline in Appendix VI)

The following action items were agreed upon by the committee:

1. Review the concept note in accordance with the input received during the Kick Off meeting (Walter Baethgen, Celeste Saulo and all)
2. Develop a draft agenda and a wiki page to be used in the organization of the Conference (Celeste Saulo)
3. Nomination to the SSC of key note speakers and invited talks for the following sectors (names in parentheses are the SSC members that will nominate the candidate speakers):

- Water & energy (Rene Garreaud, Pedro Silva Dias, Germán Poveda)
 - Agriculture and ecosystems (Sandro Schlindwein, Walter Baethgen, Hugo Berbery, Holm Tiessen)
 - Human Health (Germán Poveda, Carolina Vera)
 - Coastal zones (Michael Taylor, Marcelo Barreiro)
 - Urban environments – Cities (Pedro Silva Dias, Carolina Vera)
 - Climate prediction and predictability (Celeste Saulo, Carolina Vera)
4. Draft the call for abstracts (all with the lead of Fernanda Zermoglio, Pedro Silva Dias and René Garreaud)
 5. Draft and implement the funding strategy for the conference (Walter Baethgen, Carolina Vera, Marcelo Barreiro, Pedro Silva Dias and Carlos Ereño)
 6. Take care of the local arrangements, logistics, and communication (Marcelo Barreiro, Celeste Saulo, Carlos Ereño)
 7. Contact with the Reg. Climate Services (Carlos) and ICSU regional contact (Carlos Ereño and Holm Tiessen)
 8. List of programs to be contacted for poster cluster/presentations (Carlos Ereño with input from all)

Appendix I

Kick Off Meeting of the WCRP LA & C Conference
Scientific Steering Committee
Ministry of Science and Technology and Productive Innovation (MinCyT)
Buenos Aires, Argentina
4-5 March, 2013
Agenda

Monday 4 March

09:00 - 09:30 **Start of Meeting**

Welcome (Mónica Silenzi –MinCyt/Celeste Saulo-UBA)

Introduction (All)

ToRs of the SSC and Aims of the SSC meeting (Walter Baethgen/Celeste Saulo) (10 min)

09:30 - 10:30 **Climate& applications research frontiers**

Review of Climate & applications research frontiers (by every member of the SSC), including WCRP and GEWEX expectations for the *WCRP-CCS for LA&C*. This section is intended to provide input about the scope and expectations on this Conf, and will take advantage of each participant expertise.

09:30 WCRP Grand Challenge for Regional Climate (Carolina Vera WCRP-JSC)

09:45 VAMOS perspective (Hugo Berbery, VAMOS co-chair)

10:00 GEWEX research priorities in LA &C (Rene Garreaud GEWEX)

10:15 CORDEX S. America perspective (Silvina Solman)

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:30 **Climate & applications research frontiers (cont)**

11:00 Data bases for climate analysis and forecasting, links with WGSIP (Celeste Saulo)

11:15 Climate Services Partnership (CSP) perspective and knowledge flow through chains/networks of information (Walter Baethgen)

11:30 Can we meet expectations from Agriculture and Energy Generation users? (Pedro Leite Silva Días)

11:45 Bridging climate science and policy (Fernanda Zermoglio)

12:00 **Climate, land use and stakeholders: learning to act in a climate-change world** (Sandro Schlindwein)

12:15 Landuse, land cover and ecotone shifts (Holm Tiessen)

12:30 - 13:30 *lunch break*

13:30 - 15:00 **Climate & applications research frontiers (cont)**

13:30 Climate Variability & Climate Change in Tropical South America (German Poveda)

13:45 The Caribbean: A Regional Approach to Climate (Michael Taylor)

14:00 - 15:00 Discussion of "Climate & applications research frontiers" - towards a constructing a chain of knowledge between basic climate-research and decision-making at the regional level.

Conference Themes outline

15:00 - 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 - 17:30 **Conference format I**

- Agree on an appropriate title, scope, mission and vision for the *WCRP-Conf. for LA&C*
- Determine Conference format (presentations, discussions, poster sessions)
- Define actions to promote synergies across existing programs and emerging initiatives relevant to LA&C
- Draft call for papers for the *WCRP-Conf. for LA&C*

Tuesday 5 March

09:00 Brief review of accomplishments and pending issues from previous day

09:15 - 10:30 **Conference Funding**

- Develop and Initiate Funding Strategy
- Assessment of conference funding needs
- Identify Stakeholders and Funding Bodies, points of contact (and/or funding committee)
- Draft funding proposals

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:30 **Conference participation**

- Validate the prior mapping of existing climate research institutes and researchers
- Identify/Define invited talks
- List programs that should be invited to present or organize poster clusters

12:30 - 13:30 *lunch break*

13:30 - 15:00 Preparation for the WCRP-Conf. for LA&C: I) organization and logistics

- Website, registration, announcements, brochure, flyer
- Establish relevant organization task forces (Scientific boards, logistic board, local organization, etc)
- Establish timeline
- Local arrangements (venue, accommodation, catering, social events)
- Conference side events and meetings

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 - 17:30 Preparation for the WCRP-Conf. for LA&C: II) Deliverables and legacy

- Discuss conference deliverables (including proceedings, website for presentations, etc.)
- Develop mechanism for delivering conference outcomes to stakeholders
- Discuss involvement of Climate Services and other local institutions (intermediate?) in sustaining long-term dialogue between research-stakeholders-society (outreach activities?)
- Action Items for SSC

End of meeting

Appendix II

List of participants

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Appendix III

Terms of Reference for the SSC:

The main objective of this SSC is to Plan the ***Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean***, that will be held in Montevideo, 17-21 March, 2014.

In order to achieve its goal, the SSC has accepted the following Terms of Reference that were discussed and advanced during its Kick off meeting (Buenos Aires, 4-5 March 2013):

- Agree on an appropriate title –acronym-, scope, mission and vision for the Conference, in accordance with WCRP future plans
- Define Conference Themes
- Determine Conference agenda
 - Type of presentations:
 - key note speeches and white papers,
 - plenary discussions,
 - parallel,
 - round tables,
 - poster sessions,
 - back-to-back meetings
 - Draft call for papers for the WCRP-Conf. for LA&C
 - Design the program and allocate time and speakers
- Determine Conference Participation
 - Define the size of the meeting and variety of participants (stakeholders, policy makers, academia, etc.)
 - List programs that should be invited to present or organize poster clusters
 - Define invited talks
 - Validate the prior mapping of existing climate research institutes, researchers, intermediary institutions to publicize the Conference
- Secure synergies across existing programs and emerging initiatives (of WCRP and others) relevant to LA&C
- Develop and Initiate Funding Strategy
 - Assessment of conference funding needs
 - Identify Stakeholders and Funding Bodies, points of contact (and/or funding committee)
 - Draft funding proposals
- Define Conference Deliverables/outcomes :
 - Provide the basis for future WCRP program for the region
 - Contribute to Climate Services development
 - Define research priorities in LA&C
 - Deliver conference outcomes to stakeholders

- Discuss other conference deliverables (proceedings, website for presentations, etc.)
- Define Conference organization and logistics
 - Establish timeline
 - Decide on Conference Website, registration, announcements, brochure, flyer
 - Establish relevant organization task forces (Scientific boards, logistic board, local organization, etc)
 - Decide on Local arrangements (venue, accommodation, catering, social events)
 - Organize Conference side events and meetings

Appendix IV

List of member of the Scientific Steering Committee

Celeste Saulo	Argentina	Co-chair
Walter E. Baethgen	USA	Co-chair
Hugo Berbery	USA	Int. CLIVAR liaison
René Garreaud	Chile	GEWEX liaison
Germán Poveda	Colombia	
Sandro Schlindwein	Brazil	
Pedro Silva Dias	Brazil	
Michael Taylor	Jamaica	
Holm Tiessen	IAI-Int	
Carolina Vera	Argentina	JSC liaison
Fernanda Zermoglio	Chile	
Carlos Ereño	Argentina	Coordinator

Appendix V

WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014:

Towards constructing a chain of knowledge between basic climate-research and decision-making at the regional level

Concept note

During the last WCRP-Open Science Conference it has been made clear that the climate research community is facing a complex challenge that involves not only improving our knowledge on the climate system, the interactions among its components and the limits of predictability, but also enhancing our ability to interact with other disciplines, particularly decision makers and social scientists in order to translate climate science into actionable knowledge.

This challenge exhibits important regional and sectorial characteristics, including different socio-economic levels of exposition, vulnerability and adaptability to a changing climate. These peculiarities should be clearly identified to effectively accomplish the goal of promoting the research needed to underpin the generation of relevant climate information and skilful climate predictions, thus providing the rationale for the *WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

The main goal of this Conference is to identify gaps and ways to overcome constraints in the chain of knowledge going from basic to applied climate science and to informing policy and decisions that are particularly relevant for LA&C. This will imply building interdisciplinary capacity, fostering the participation of decision and policy makers, climate and social scientists and key intermediary institutions. Moreover, it is also expected that the *Conference* could contribute to further develop the emerging provision of regional Climate Services.

Objectives

The *Conference* should aid in defining the research agenda needed to support the provision of effective, problem-oriented and demand-driven climate services. This will necessarily require a balance between (i) research focused in improving climate monitoring and predictions at regional and local scales; (ii) research oriented by the demands of socio-economic sectors sensitive to climate, and (iii) research on the process of informing policy and decision-making in the different socioeconomic sectors.

The specific objectives underlying these main research strategies are to:

1. Identify research themes critical to improve our understanding of sources and intrinsic levels of predictability on intraseasonal, interannual, decadal and longer time scales
2. Identify strategies to narrow the gap between current predictive capabilities in the region and estimated limits of predictability
3. Improve overall understanding and prediction of climate extreme events and their impacts on key environmental services and on society

4. Discuss and plan how to establish a research framework oriented to identify climate-related information, products and tools needed in the different socioeconomic sectors, and to explore communication strategies to improve the flow of knowledge throughout the information chains
5. Promote discussions across WCRP emerging initiatives relevant to LA&C such as the grand challenge on regional climate, grand challenge on water availability, and CLIVAR Monsoon activities
6. Advance in the foundation of regional climate services

It is evident that there is a diverse range of socio-economic sectors sensitive to climate in Latin America and the Caribbean. The *Conference* activities will be focused in the four thematic areas prioritized by the Global Framework for Climate Services: water, disaster risk reduction, food security/agriculture and health. In LA&C there are national, regional and international experiences in integrated studies focused on water resources and agriculture. The WCRP Conference should provide an opportunity to initiate and/or expand the dialog with the stakeholders of those specific socio-economic sectors in order to plan new relevant research activities.

The *Conference* objectives matched with expected outcomes are listed below

Specific Objective	Expected outcome
1. Identify research themes critical to improve our understanding of sources and intrinsic levels of predictability on intraseasonal, interannual, decadal and longer time scales	Better understanding of the role of local and remote forcings in driving regional climate and its variability, including land-sea-ice-atmosphere interactions, stratosphere-troposphere interactions, solar activity, volcano activity and varying GHGs concentrations.
2. Identify strategies to narrow the gap between current predictive capabilities in the region and estimated limits of predictability	Develop combined strategies of statistical and/or dynamical models based on currently available global coupled model forecasts, and regional predictability levels associated to ENSO/MJO/SAM in order to provide skilful predictions at the regional level.
3. Improve overall understanding and prediction of climate extreme events and their impacts on key environmental services and on society	Identification of limitations in their prediction and definition of priorities to reduce their impact on society
4. Discuss and plan how to establish a research framework oriented to identify climate-related information, products and tools needed in the different socioeconomic sectors, and to explore communication strategies to improve the flow of knowledge throughout the information	Improved interactions between the climate science community, intermediary institutions/individuals, and decision makers (including policy makers)

chains/networks	
5. Promote discussions across WCRP emerging initiatives relevant to LA&C such as grand challenge on regional climate, grand challenge on water availability, and CLIVAR Monsoon activities	Better synergy between WCRP global initiatives and regional activities
6. Advance in the foundation of regional climate services	Leverage climate and social researchers participation in developing regional climate services

Appendix VI

Timeline of activities

	March 2013	April/ May	June/ July	Aug/ Sep	Oct/ Nov	Dec/ Jan	Feb	March 2014
<i>Concept note and web/ 1st announcement</i>	X	X						
<i>Financial support –sponsors</i>	X	X	X	X				
<i>Define & contact invited talks etc.</i>	X	X	X					
<i>Short white papers</i>			X	X	X			
<i>Call for abstracts</i>			X					
<i>Abstracts deadline</i>				15 Aug				
<i>Registration</i>			Pre- reg	X	X	X	X	
<i>Progress Assessment</i>				X				
<i>Abstracts Evaluation</i>				X	Comm.			
<i>Papers-posters final version sub.</i>								
<i>Conf. agenda</i>				X	X	X	X	
<i>Logistics and organization</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Appendix VII

Conference Committees

- Concept Note reviewer committee
Walter Baethgen, Celeste Saulo and all the SSC
- Draft Agenda and Wiki Page or Google Docs exchange of documents
Celeste Saulo
- Propose nomination of key note speakers and invited talks
 - Water & energy
Rene Garreaud, Pedro Silva Dias, Germán Poveda
 - Agriculture and ecosystem
Sandro Schlindwein, Walter Baethgen, Hugo Berbery, Holm Tiessen
 - Health
Germán Poveda, Carolina Vera
 - Coastal zones
Michael Taylor, Marcelo Barreiro
 - Urban environments – Cities
Pedro Silva Dias, Carolina Vera
 - Climate prediction and predictability
Celeste Saulo, Carolina Vera
- Draft the call for abstracts
All SSC with the lead of Fernanda Zermoglio, Pedro Silva Dias and René Garreaud
- Draft and implement the funding strategy
Walter Baethgen, Carolina Vera, Marcelo Barreiro, Pedro Silva Dias and Carlos Ereño
- Local arrangements, logistics& communication
Marcelo Barreiro, Celeste Saulo, Carlos Ereno
- Contacts with the Regional Climate Services, ICSU and other regional offices
Carlos Ereño and Holm Tiessen
- Contact programs for poster cluster/presentations
Carlos Ereño with input from all SSC

Appendix VIII

Conference Venue (proposed)



Edificio MERCOSUR
Dr. Luis Piera 1992
Montevideo, Uruguay.