

Third WCRP Observations and Assimilation Panel (WOAP) Meeting

**NCAR, Boulder, CO, 29 September – 1 October 2008
Mesa Lab., Damon Room**

Sessions 12 and 13: Climate information and reflection on WCRP observation strategy

The need to frame WCRP activities in new ways arose from JSC 29 which reviewed WCRP progress to date and decided that in order for WCRP to remain relevant and well-funded, there would need to be an evolution, or “transition” in its activities that would reflect changing science priorities and societal needs. This programme development was seen to take place on two time horizons – to 2013 and beyond. For the intermediate term perspective the general consensus was that the strategy outlined in the so-called COPES (Coordinated Observation and Prediction of the Earth System) document is the desirable way forward. Consequently the JSC recommended that in the near term, crosscuts should be fully integrated in the projects’ work; all aspects of WCRP work should be measured against the COPES strategy.

To focus the way forward in terms of the implementation of the COPES strategy for the intermediate term and to lead the way for planning post COPES, the JSC requested that the projects and modelling groups develop an **implementation plan** for the intermediate term. In this context, all of the core projects are asked to assess and identify what activities need to be further emphasised and which can be de-emphasised in the intermediate term.

JSC also decided to prepare a document summarising **achievements** of WCRP to date in implementing the COPES strategy. The aim is to have first draft of the Implementation plan and accomplishments document prepared in time for the next JSC meeting in first quarter of 2009. Material is due at the end of the year.

Part I: Project science objectives

1. What will be the key science issues your project aims to address over the coming years to 2013?
2. What elements of this science do you see as needing to be taken forward beyond next decade?
3. What new science do you see WCRP needing to address beyond 2013 in the context of your project?

Part II: Unifying COPES themes

4. How is your project addressing/provide focus to the following unifying themes across WCRP. Please indicate where you project interacts with other WCRP projects/activities in delivering to these.
5. What will be the legacy datasets emerging from these activities. How are the data management aspects implemented?
6. How are these feeding into operational systems/applications and what legacy will this leave for the project and WCRP?
7. What other legacy contributions will there be from the engagement of your project in these areas, including capacity building/training?

Observations

- Global sustained observations
- Enhanced monitoring
- Process study observations
- Improved historical data

Climate system analysis

- Integration of models and observations, data assimilation
- Reanalysis
- Paleoclimate data and modelling
- Empirical studies

Part III: Implementing the cross-cuts

8. For each of the relevant cross-cuts, how is your project addressing these (recognising that not all projects will engage in all)?
9. What key science questions are you seeking to address in the context of each of the cross cuts?
10. What are/will be your key contributions in each of those in which you are active?
11. What scope is there for rationalization of your overall project programme to bring more emphasis to bear on the cross-cuts?
12. What will be your key legacy outputs/outcomes that contributes to the cross cuts as a whole?
13. How do you see the overall legacy of each cross cut in the context of your project including links to applications, capacity building and training?

Part IV: General

14. What will be the major key legacy items of your project by 2001, and beyond?