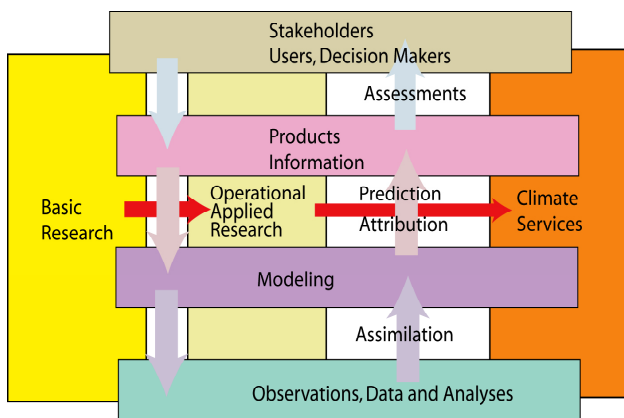




The **WCRP Observation and Assimilation Panel (WOAP)**, co-sponsored by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), is the expert panel for all aspects of global observations, their analysis and assimilation and development of climate products. Members of WOAP are representatives from all WCRP and GCOS activities including the WCRP projects CLIVAR, SPARC, GEWEX, CliC, and joint working groups such as the Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate (AOPC), the Ocean Observation Panel for Climate (OOPC), the Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate (TOPC), and WCRP modelling groups. WOAP identifies requirements of climate researchers for in situ and space-based observation networks and systems for use in analysis, diagnosis, modelling and prediction. Research on improving analysis and assimilation of observations to initialize models for prediction is also a key objective of WOAP. Other tasks of WOAP are to support the community in the collection and reanalysis of climate observations, and to explore mechanisms for the management, stewardship and access of data (WCRP's Data Management). WOAP exploits observations and re-analyses in its input to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports and other wide-ranging policy fora. In addition, WOAP interacts and represents WCRP on observational issues with the Global Earth Observing System of Systems.



A view of how a climate information system may be structured to result in climate services. Source: Trenberth 2008, WMO Bulletin.

WOAP activities:

- Identifies climate observational requirements;
- Promotes optimizing observations;
- Provides a forum and focal point for WCRP observational issues;
- Promotes and coordinates analysis, reprocessing, reanalysis and assimilation;
- Promotes and coordinates information and data management activities.

More at: http://wcrp.wmo.int/AP_WOAP.html.

Examples of WOAP accomplishments:

WCRP places very high priority on obtaining and using the highest possible quality observations and derived products, with continuity over time to ensure their use in climate change assessments and climate research. This includes promoting reprocessing of observations, especially those from space-based platforms, as well as reanalysis of the observations into global gridded physically consistent fields. WCRP has led re-analysis efforts since they started for the atmosphere in 1988, and WOAP now provides ongoing leadership in promoting reanalysis and expanding it to embrace ocean re-analysis and even whole Earth system re-analysis. A series of three WCRP reanalysis conferences has been held, with the first in 1997 at NOAA, USA; the second in 1999 in Reading, UK; and the Third WCRP International Conference on Reanalysis held in January/February 2008 in Tokyo, Japan.