



RIFS
Regional
Information
for Society

Regional Information for Society within the World Climate Research Programme



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CORDEX + GEP



CMIP



wcrp-rifs.org



What is RIfS?

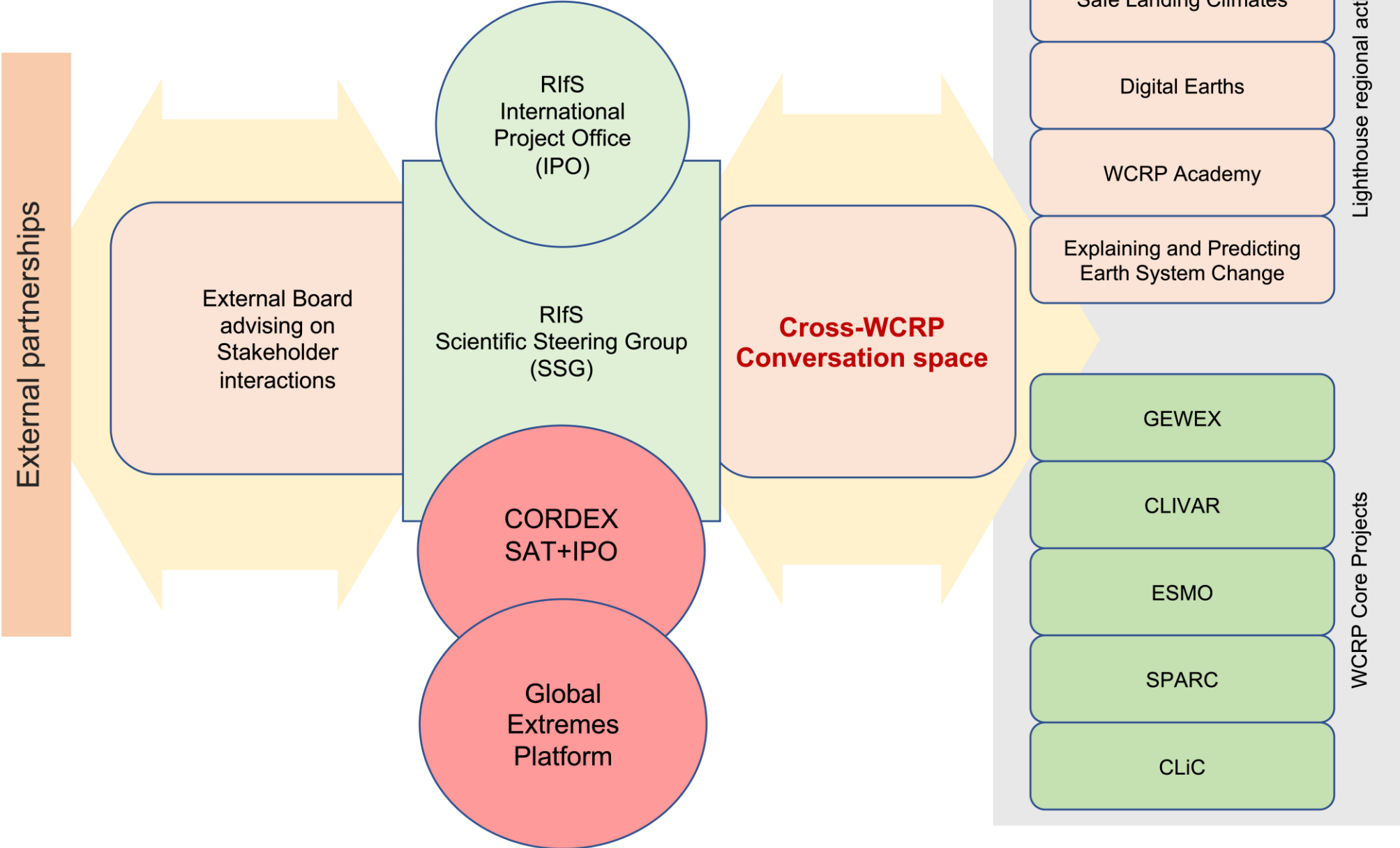
- A Core Project of WCRP, intended to help bridge the gap between the climate research enterprise and information used to make decisions.
- Pays special attention to researchers working in their own regional contexts
- Can coordinate activities to this end where there is community interest
 - Governed by a Scientific Steering Group (some members are here)
 - Has an International Project Office (some members are here)
 - **Can set up working groups, task teams, panels as needed (which you can help spearhead)**
 - Umbrella for CORDEX (participants are here), and GEP (also present)



The RIfS foci

1. How to optimally identify, understand, and model the relevant climate processes and their interactions which are most critical to manage the socio-ecological risks at the decision scales within regions.
2. How to optimally integrate multiple lines of evidence from observations, understanding of physical climate processes, and data from dynamical and statistical regional and global models to inform society's climate information needs.
3. How to best undertake engagement between stakeholders and the science community in different regional contexts to maximize the information benefit for the stakeholder and ensure that the user context is integrated into the design and execution of relevant climate research.

RfS as collaborative space



Expert Meeting on the Robustness of Climate Change Information for Decisions

April 22-24, 2024, European Commission, Brussels (Belgium)

Problem statement: *The absence of consensus or general agreement on how to address the non-congruence between climate information sources presents a significant barrier in the use of climate information to inform decisions*

DAY 2

Expert Meeting on the Robustness of Climate Change Information for Decisions

April 22-24, 2024, European Commission, Brussels (Belgium)

Thoughts about the term “Robustness” relative to “Fitness for purpose”

Some non-resolved debate on the value of the two terms, with different views about how this sits relative to colloquial stakeholder semantics, scientific pedanticism, and possible ambiguities.

One proposal is for this meeting to adopt a working definition of “*Fitness for purpose*” which is understood that:

- “*Fitness*” includes meaning defensibly and transparently aligned with the “real” world (as opposed to model world), and ethically justified / aligned with decision maker values
- “*Purpose*” is explicitly about decision making for actions with societal consequence

This speaks to the reliability of climate information for achieving a certain decision-making goal

It is both pragmatic and epistemic in terms of what is required of climate information



Expert Meeting on the Robustness of Climate Change Information for Decisions

April 22-24, 2024, European Commission, Brussels (Belgium)

Staying on track and advancing the frontiers of “Climate Change Information for Decisions”

Day 1 provided broad and wide-ranging discussions on perspectives about regional information. There was strong alignment across all perspective with nuances conditioned on which community is speaking.

The focus now shifts to moving forward to break out of the loop of generating more and more data that does not necessarily **resolve the dilemma of non-congruency: *i.e. choose your source, get a different outcome***

Recognizing the strong sense that “robustness” or “fitness for purpose” are deeply rooted in context, we need to think clearly about what transparency might look like, from who, and what is required to achieve transparency as we make decisions in constructing climate information for use in decision-making

The objectives are to explicitly and deliberately conceive and catalyse actionable and pragmatic initiatives.



Expert Meeting on the Robustness of Climate Change Information for Decisions

Programme

2.1 Panel: Developing new and necessary dialogues between communities on regional climate information

2.2 Break-out #2: Developing new and necessary dialogues between communities regarding regional climate information

2.3 Panel discussion: Lessons from the past on dealing with non-congruency of regional climate information

2.4 Report back on break-out #2

Lunch

2.5 Theory and Practice: Envisioning Ways Forward: balancing idealism with realism under the imperative to act.

2.6 Break-out #3: Brainstorming pragmatic opportunities for collaboration where the outcomes reflect “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts”

19.00 Meeting Dinner, Brasserie Signature, Place Jourdan 52, Brussels

