



Application Guidelines and Criteria for CLIVAR Research Foci

PREMISE

In response to the rapid pace of scientific advances and recognizing the need for the project to be flexible and responsive to new ideas and challenges, CLIVAR has developed the concept of Research Foci (RF). These are focused research activities on topics (1) with high potential for significant progress in a 3-5 year time-scale, and (2) that would benefit from enhanced international coordination. RF have proven to be effective means to initiate new research through a bottom-up-process and invigorate progress in areas that are of high priority to the climate research community, thereby fostering cross-panel, pan-WCRP community collaboration, while providing opportunities to entrain new scientists into CLIVAR.

CRITERIA

Applicant groups should ensure that their proposal meets the following criteria:

- The topic should be aligned with the [CLIVAR Science Plan](#). In particular it should be focused in one of the following scientific priorities:
 1. Mechanisms of climate variability and change that require further investigation with the ultimate goal of better constraining the fluxes of energy and carbon in the climate system.
 2. Ocean processes that modulate climate variability and change for which open questions remain.
 3. Climate predictability challenges that exist over a broad range of space and time scales.
- The topic should be global in scope. Some past RF have focused on regional topics but, when they do, the regional topic has global consequences. An example is the [RF on ENSO](#).
- The topic should represent novel science or scientific activities that are unlikely to be supported through national efforts.
- The proposed activity should be urgent as a prominent topic or an enabling activity to remove barriers to research.
- The topic should be a priority for climate and ocean science and for WCRP.
- The proposal should not present activities that could just as easily be submitted as a research proposal to a research funding agency.



- The proposal should summarise the state of science and justify the need for the proposed work.
- The proposal should state terms of reference that include explicit deliverables beyond ‘hold a workshop’, ‘publish a paper’, etc. Each term of reference should be written as a single short sentence describing one overarching goal of the group. A timeline for activities should be presented. The terms of reference should be achievable in a 3- to 5-year period. CLIVAR expects at least some kind of product coming from each RF, aimed to lead to long-term advancement of the field of study and enhancement of international cooperation, beyond the term of the RF.
- The proposal should include a well thought out plan for capacity building.
- Cooperation and collaboration with other international projects and programs are encouraged.
- The proposed membership should take into account the scientific discipline spread, geographical spread and gender balance.
- The group will be asked each year about their progress in achieving terms of reference and funding for future meetings will depend on the group making progress toward meeting their terms of reference and a reasonable path for achievement for the ones that remain.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Step 1: Submission of completed RF proposal to the International CLIVAR Project Office (ICPO) via icpo@clivar.org no later than the deadline.

Step 2: ICPO provides preliminary assessment (application has been completed correctly and all information has been provided).

Step 3: Proposals to be reviewed by CLIVAR Scientific Steering Group (SSG).

Step 4: CLIVAR SSG makes a final decision.

Step 5: ICPO informs applicants of outcomes and provides assistance for beginning activities.