

The WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean,  
Developing, linking, and applying climate knowledge

Venue: LATU – Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay, Carrasco  
Montevideo, Uruguay on 17-21 March, 2014.

<http://www.cima.fcen.uba.ar/WCRP/>



# The steering of the steering committee

## **Co-chairs:**

Celeste Saulo y Walter Baethgen

## **Chair of Local Organizing committee:**

Marcelo Barreiro

## **ICPO Support and more**

Carlos Ereño

# Motivation for a WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

During the last WCRP-Open Science Conference it was acknowledged that *the climate research community is facing a complex challenge that involves:*

- 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 basic climate knowledge into actionable science.

In this context, the JSC asked VAMOS to initiate actions towards organizing a ***Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Climate and Society*** with the objective of identifying new priorities for a **new regional group** within the WCRP structure.

# Goals

*Identify gaps and ways to overcome limitations in the chain of knowledge going from basic to applied climate science and to inform policy and decisions that are particularly relevant for LA&C.*

*Build interdisciplinary capacity, fostering the participation of decision and policy makers, climate and social scientists and key intermediary institutions.*

*Contribute to further develop the emerging provision of regional Climate Services.*

# WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

## *Developing, Linking, and Applying Climate Knowledge*

	Social Sci/Applications
	Boundary
	Physical Sci

<b>Celeste Saulo</b>	Argentina	<b>Co-chair</b>	Surface-atmosphere interactions and short to medium range predictability over South America
<b>Walter Baethgen</b>	Uruguay/ USA	<b>Co-chair</b>	Improve climate risk assessment and risk management in agriculture, health, water resources, and natural ecosystems
<b>Carlos Ereño</b>	Argentina	<b>Coordinator</b>	
<b>Fernanda Zermoglio</b>	Chile		Climate change adaptation and <b>communications</b> ; development and deployment of pragmatic <b>tools that will aid decision-makers</b> in evaluating the impacts of climate change on <b>vulnerable systems</b>
<b>Sandro Schlindwein</b>	Brazil		Dynamics of land use change and the evaluation of the quality of land use, adaptation to climate change
<b>Holm Tiessen</b>	IAI-Int		Nutrient availability and cycling in natural and agricultural ecosystems. Carbon cycling, and soil organic matter turnover and stabilization
<b>Carolina Vera</b>	Argentina	<b>JSC liaison</b>	Climate variability and change over South America
<b>Hugo Berbery</b>	USA	<b>Int. CLIVAR liaison</b>	Regional climate modeling, land surface-atmosphere interactions, influences of land cover changes on regional climate and extreme events
<b>René Garreaud</b>	Chile	<b>GEWEX liaison</b>	Climate Dynamics and Meteorology, with emphasis on the western coast of South America, Atmosphere-Andes interactions, and extratropical synoptic meteorology
<b>Michael Taylor</b>	Jamaica		Mechanisms that drive climate variability within the Caribbean, and climate change
<b>Germán Poveda</b>	Colombia		Hydro-climatic variability and change in tropical South America, and their effects on diverse sectors including human health, water resources, hydrological extremes, agriculture, and hydropower generation
<b>Pedro Silva Dias</b>	Brazil		Dynamics of the atmospheric tropical/extratropical interaction; numerical modeling of the atmosphere/biosphere interaction
<b>Marcelo Barreiro</b>	Uruguay		Ocean – Atmospheric Interactions and Climate Variability

# Concept document

The *LAC 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 on 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.

## Climate Research

Specific Objective	Expected outcome
Identify research themes critical to improve our <b>understanding of sources and intrinsic levels of predictability</b> on intraseasonal, interannual, decadal and longer time scales	Better understanding of the <b>role of local and remote forcings</b> in driving regional climate and its variability
Improve overall understanding and prediction of <b>climate extreme events</b> and their impacts on key environmental services and on society	Identify <b>limits in their prediction</b> and <b>define priorities</b> to reduce their impact on society
Identify strategies to narrow the gap between current predictive capabilities in the region and <b>estimated limits of predictability</b>	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 <b>provide skilful predictions at the regional level</b>

## Research on Climate Applications and Communication

Specific Objective	Expected outcome
<p>Discuss and plan how to establish a <b>research framework oriented to identify climate-related information, products and tools needed in the different socioeconomic sectors</b>, and to explore communication strategies to improve the flow of knowledge throughout the information chains</p>	<p><b>Improved interactions</b> between the climate science community, intermediary institutions/individuals, and decision makers (including policy makers)</p>
<p>Promote discussions across <b>WCRP emerging initiatives relevant to LA&amp;C</b> such as grand challenge on regional climate, grand challenge on water availability, and CLIVAR Monsoon activities</p>	<p>Better synergy between WCRP global initiatives and regional activities</p>
<p>Advance in the foundation of <b>regional climate services</b></p>	<p><b>Leverage climate and social researchers participation</b> in developing regional climate services</p>



**Kick Off Meeting of the  
Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the LAC Conf  
4-5 March 2013, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

The kick off meeting identified four thematic areas prioritized by the Global Framework for Climate Services: **water, disaster risk reduction, food security/agriculture and health.**

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**

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

# Financial support / sponsors

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST U\$S 45,000

Requests of support are being negotiated (*in progress*) with:

- **WCRP**
- **NSF**
- **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**
- **IAI**
- **ICSU-ROLAC**
- **INTERCIENCIA**
- **FAPESP**
- **USAID** (*to be initiated*)
- **World Bank** (*to be initiated*)
- **CCCCC\*** (*to be initiated*)

*For most of these cases, the process involves writing proposals for funding.*

# Deliverables and legacy

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

A Conference report will be prepared with suggested future actions.

The report will be submitted to the WG on Regional Climate with a proposal and ToR for a new panel that will be charged with executing the plan.