

Open Call for membership of the Scientific Steering Group (SSG) for the WCRP Regional Information for Society (RIfS) Core Project

The WCRP Regional Information for Society (RIfS) Core Project focuses on research that builds understanding, develops, coordinates and enhances collaboration among scientists, decision makers and society to amplify the scientific value of regional climate information in policy and decision contexts.

The Scientific Steering Group (SSG) is responsible for high-level strategic planning and advisement, the oversight of activities including working groups and task teams, contributing to committee work on an organizational level, and leveraging their networks to find opportunities for cross-regional collaborations, working with other activities inside and outside of WCRP where appropriate.

The SSG collectively brings expertise that spans the breadth of issues from adoption of climate information in society's decision and policy, through to the fundamental data that underpins climate information of relevance to society.

RIfS seeks to appoint 4 new SSG members. This call invites the community to nominate candidates (including self-nomination) to strengthen the SSG's equitable representation of region, expertise, gender, and all career stage. RIfS has particular interest in filling some of these positions with applicants, with a preference for those from regions not currently well-represented by the [SSG](#) and with expertise in stakeholder engagement.

As an SSG member you will be expected to be a thought leader contributing to the coordination and development of innovative research at the knowledge frontiers. Involvement in the RIfS SSG brings a range of benefits for participants. As a SSG member you will be involved in the core of the international community on climate science, with opportunities that include:

- Personal career development through exposure to frontier research activities and collaboration with other leading climate scientists.
- Develop and participate in collaborations on regional climate research.
- Be a representative voice for your region's research activities and interests, and benefiting from linking and aligning these with the international community's activities.
- Developing and expanding your network of scientific collaborators within the international research community.

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- Having a voice to help strategic planning of WCRP activities that actively lead at the frontiers of climate science.
- Contributing to the professional development of the next generation of scientists and scholars.
- Helping to enable global climate-change readiness and societal resilience.

Full details of the RfS vision, science plan, management structure is available on the RfS website: www.wcrp-rifs.org.

RfS Overview

RfS envisions a world where deepened systemic understanding and integration of different knowledge systems enhances the value of climate science for stakeholders in policy and adaptation decisions.

This is accomplished through:

- Targeted research on the development and construction of regional climate information
- Close integration and collaboration with complementary activities of other WCRP activities and initiatives
- Strong external partnerships that include both the climate science community and stakeholders

RfS has its own operating budget and support from a dedicated International Project Office (IPO). RfS reports to the Joint Scientific Committee of the WCRP. RfS is the home within WCRP of the Co-ordinated Experiment on Regional Downscaling (CORDEX [<https://cordex.org/>]) and the Global weather and climate Extremes Platform (GEP).

The RfS Scientific Steering Group (SSG)

The vision and [science plan](#) of RfS are implemented through actions approved and guided by the Scientific Steering Group (SSG) under the leadership of three co-chairs, and with the dedicated support of the IPO.

The SSG is composed of 15 members who will be appointed for an initial term of 4 years with two possible extensions of two years each, following the WCRP membership guidelines

SSG Responsibilities

1. To contribute scientific knowledge, experience and energy in designing, developing and implementing RfS activities to achieve the overall goals.

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2. To proactively invest in evolving, guiding, and sustaining the RIfS activities to serve the overarching goals of the core project. (For example, engaging with relevant regional hubs, organising workshops or helping develop training materials).

SSG members are expected to help in implementing the RIfS science plan, including organising various activities with a focus on underpinning actionable information for society in response to climate variability and change. Examples may include: developing regional workshops, conferences, training activities; designing joint activities with other WCRP groups; engaging in dialogue with external partners; designing guidance documents for the community; developing research proposals for regional activities, etc.

Time commitment

SSG meetings are expected to take place regularly, typically of 1.5 hours duration every month or at the discretion of the SSG co-chairs, with a longer annual meeting. There may be times when there is more or less work, depending on the activities undertaken (e.g., more intensive time demand may be needed with, for example, a workshop or publishing a RIfS paper). SSG meetings are expected to be online, with some face-to-face meetings if it is possible to leverage suitable opportunities. Some out-of-hours work may be required due to time zones.

Typical activities that a SSG member would engage in could include:

- Attending a RIfS-related workshop (virtually or in person)
- Additional virtual meetings for dialogue with other parts of WCRP and external stakeholders (5-10 1 hour virtual meetings / year)
- Document preparation such as a white paper, or guidance document
- Developing networks and communities of practice with your local regional community
- Proposal conceptualization and development
- Presentation about RIfS to other organisations / conferences / meetings
- Participating in new research activities (if desired)
- Serving as a liaison on a working group under the RIfS umbrella to represent the SSG

Remuneration

SSG members are not paid. Financial support to travel and participate in person in regional and global activities may be available on a case-by-case basis.

The SSG Selection process and criteria

We seek nominations that ensure broad diversity of regional representation, gender, career stage, research discipline & expertise, and equitable representation of the global north and south.

Additional selection criteria could include having connections with research activities and projects in your region, or links with related activities of the WCRP. Nominees should have demonstrable experience in one or more of the following areas:

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- Expertise that fits one or more of the RIfS themes in their relation to contributing to information for society decision makers and policy development. These include:
 - Regional climate understanding for climate projections (multi-decadal)
 - Regional climate understanding for predictions (seasonal to decadal)
 - Weather and climate extremes
 - Communication and Societal Engagement
- Humanities and Social Science engaged with climate;
- Climate services, knowledge brokers and decision support and/or stakeholder/user engagement;
- Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (VIA) research;
- Emergency management, disaster reduction, risk assessment communities
- Climate policy, climate funding research and adaptation decision making

The RIfS co-chairs and current members of the SSG will undertake the shortlisting from the submitted nominations. If you are shortlisted, you may be contacted to further discuss your interest in contributing. The identified names will then be submitted to the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee for final approval in late 2026.

How to apply

If you are interested in joining the SSG, please **submit your application via the [online form](#) by 12:00UTC on Friday 16 Oct 2026**. Self-nominations are welcomed. Please circulate and distribute this call among your communities and networks.

Please direct inquiries about the nomination and selection process to Naomi Goldenson (ipo_director@wcrp-rifs.org) at the RIfS IPO.