



PARTNERS AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON MEMBERSHIP AND MISSION FOR STAGE 2 OF IOCI

Indian Ocean Climate Initiative



On May 23, the new and former partners of IOCI met to reach broad agreement on future goals, management, and emphasis for Stage 2 of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative.

The meeting set the basis for contractual agreements to be finalised, defined the mission for Stage 2, set the scope for a Stage 2 Strategy, and reached in-principle agreement on themes for the core research component.

Agreement was postulated to go with support from the State Water Strategy to lift the partners' funding to a required program level. ❖

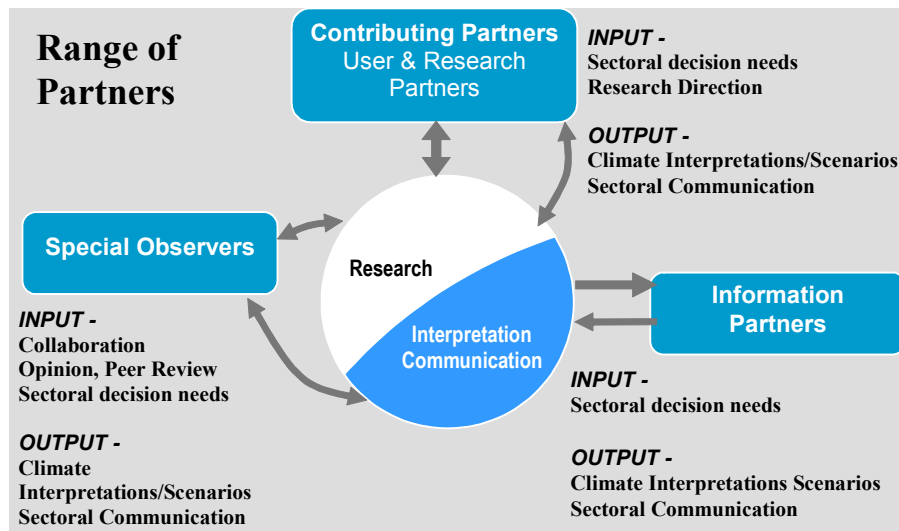
Stage 2 Mission

The partners agreed on the following Mission for Stage 2.

IOCI Mission

Particularly for the south-west of WA, but with some broad assistance for the remainder of the State –

Assist decision-making and adaptation in climate affected sectors, by developing and communicating knowledge, of regional climate variability and change.



Range of Partners

In the Second Stage of IOCI new partners have joined.

Contributing (User) Partners: are State agencies and WA Office of the Bureau of Meteorology that want and need climate research to support key facets of their operations and risk management and who contribute a level of funding that warrants full voice in deciding research priorities.

Contributing (Research) Partners: are research units of CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology who undertake core research under IOCI direction and who contribute resources matching those of State partners. These partners have a full voice in deciding research strategies and in guiding research.

Information Partners: are organisations who have clearly identified needs to acquire and communicate knowledge of climate variability, climate change and related risks within their business or sector. They make small contributions to funding and have a role and voice in communication strategies.

Special Observers: participate in IOCI, as appropriate, and offer collaborative links to other programs and science.

Identity of Partners

Contributing (User) Partners

- Dept of Environment
- Water Corporation
- Dept of Agriculture
- Dept of Planning an Infrastructure
- Dept of Conservation & Land Management
- Forest Products Commission
- Bureau of Meteorology WA Region [Dept of Premier & Cabinet, State Water Strategy]

Contributing (Research) Partners

- Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre
- CSIRO Atmospheric Research
- CSIRO Land and Water
- CSIRO Maths & Information Sciences

Information Partners

- Fire & Emergency Services Authority
- Dept of Health
- Dept of Fisheries
- Office of Water Regulation

Special Observers

- State Greenhouse Task Force
- SRFME-Research for Marine Environment
- Gascoyne Murchison Strategy
- Australian Greenhouse Office



A Strategy for Stage 2

For Stage 2 the IOCI Panel has set a broad strategy outline that will be filled out over coming months.

The Strategy emphasises support to decision-making across the full range of climate-affected sectors in the WA community.

Stage 2 will have two main, inter-active avenues of action namely:

- knowledge building; and
- communication.

The knowledge building avenue comprises three separately driven sets of research and development owned by IOCI or IOCI partners. These will all be drawn upon by cross-cutting interpretive activity translating research findings to terms helpful to community and institutional users. These three sets of research are:

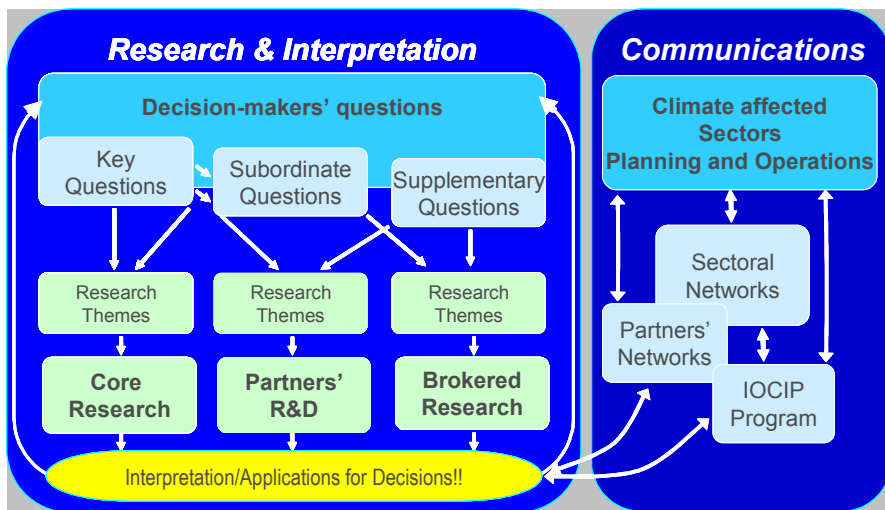
- core research;
- partners research; and
- brokered research.

The core research program is IOCI's main path of knowledge building, pursued by the Research Partners under direction of the Panel. The first priority of the May meeting was to agree on the main elements of the core program which will progress in 18 month phases.

Individual State and Research Partners also have their own programs which form part of IOCI's knowledge base and IOCI "brokers" research with third parties for mutual benefit.

Between the interests of the State and the research activity are a set of questions reflecting decision issues. The May meeting formed these questions into appropriate research themes as a basis for defining research strategy.

Activity will continue through May and June to finalise the research strategy and outline the other aspects of the strategy.



Decision-makers' Questions

Decision oriented questions arising from users cover a wide range of sectors and interests.

They reflect risk-structures and decision thresholds which vary between sectors. However, they tend to group into several key questions which are coloured by detail expressed in sub-ordinate questions.

Some unique and supplementary questions may arise which are important but perhaps more specific to particular groups.

Broadly speaking, the key questions will give the focus to IOCI's core research program.

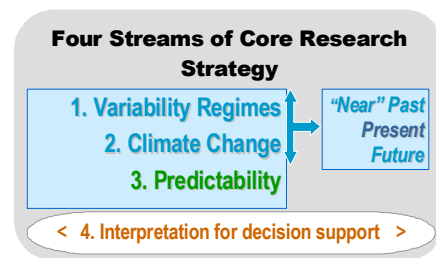


Key Questions/ Streams

The State Panel and Research Members have agreed on key questions helped by last year's IOCI2002 workshop and recent dialogue.

Three research streams embracing those questions are:

- Variability and climate regimes;
- Climate change (anthropogenic); and
- Predictability.



State Panel members stressed that their questions on variability and change were concerned with issues of defining near-past, present, and future predicted climate regimes.

Near-past climate has determined our environmental habitat and base-line. The present climate regime determines current tactical expectations and seasonal predictions. Predictions of future climate drive our planning.

Interpretation activity will be built into the program integrating the streams.



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Bulletin No. 2 will cover Research Themes