

**Terms of Reference for the
WGCM Infrastructure Panel (WIP)
12 March 2014**

1. Serve the interests of the WGCM in establishing and maintaining standards and policies for sharing climate model output and derived products.
2. Encourage, when needed, proposals for extensions or modifications of established standards to meet new needs for sharing climate data. Review proposals and suggest modifications to achieve better consistency with existing standards and to minimize disruption of existing infrastructure. Endorse proposed changes that serve the interests of the WGCM.
3. Review for consistency with existing standards and infrastructure all specifications defined by model intercomparison projects and related efforts; endorse specifications that qualify.
4. Review and provide guidance on requirements of the infrastructure (e.g. level of service, accessibility, level of security);
5. Encourage development of and compose content for a website providing information on standards, policies, infrastructure, and controlled vocabularies endorsed by the WIP; provide clear guidance on infrastructure requirements for creating new community modeling efforts.
6. Collaborate with and rely on the ideas and leadership of other groups with interests in standards and infrastructure for climate data (e.g., CMIP, obs4MIPs, CORDEX, ESGF, ES-DOC, CF conventions), with the understanding that the WGCM expects the WIP to provide oversight.
7. Include in the scope of WIP oversight: a) file formats, structure and metadata, b) controlled vocabularies, name spaces, and naming conventions, c) protocols for interfacing components of the infrastructure, d) URL and catalog standards making data accessible regardless of local storage format, e) protocols for data publication (including version identification), node management and data harvesting, f) standardized descriptions of models and simulations, g) security protocol for authentication and authorization, and (h) query formats.
8. Report to the WGCM and seek their input as needed.