

3RD GCOS JOINT PANELS MEETING, ECMWF, BONN, GERMANY, 26-30 JUNE 2023

Cross Panel Group "ECVs Rationalization"

Session 1: Tuesday 27 June - 09:00-10:30

Session 2: Thursday 29 June - 11:00-13:00

Lead(s): Peter Thorne

Secretariat Support: Belén Martín Míguez (GCOS) and Tim Oakley (GCOS)

Background

Address Decision GCOS SC-30/3: GCOS should implement a workplan to attempt the rationalization of the ECVs, meaning a grouping of ECVs that would lead to a simplification of the list and to a clearer and more transparent framework, and improved consistency.

Background Material:

- Information Document 1 → CPG Rationalization InfDoc 1
- Information Document 2 → GCOS SC-30 Report

Importance of cross-panel work

Many of the components of this work require of a discussion and agreement between the panels: from the clarification of definition (ECV and ECV product concept) to the identification of redundancies and inconsistencies across domains, leading to a refined list of ECVs and ECV products. This is just the start of the journey, which will require of broad consultation with users of the ECVs.

Expected Outcomes

In Bonn:

- Agreement on the ECV and ECV product concept
- List of variables repeated across domains
- List of variables repeated within domains
- List of inconsistencies (same variables with different names, same name with different definitions)
- List of potential ECV products which are not considered essential anymore
- Better awareness of the ECVs from the other domains

Longer term (tentative – to be discussed in Bonn):

- Refined list of ECVs and ECV products by domain
- Proposal of grouping of ECVs products under a reduced number of ECVs
- Roadmap to publicize/discuss the proposal with stakeholders
- Paper describing the updated list of ECV/ECV products/groups including a submission process.

Running of the session

30': why are we doing this

- Discussion on the objectives of the exercise: simplification, improved consistency, strengthen collaboration (see Inf Document). This is just the start of the process.

30' : definitions

→ Do we have the same understanding of ECV and ECV product?

30' : discovery

→ Participants will have access to the list of ECV and ECV products from the other domains and will have access to the tokens.

1h30 : work on identifying

- (1) cross-panel overlaps. Result = list of variables that are repeated accros the three domains;
- (2) in-panel overlaps. Result = a list of variables which are repeated within the same domain
- (3) inconsistencies (are we calling the same variables with different names? Are we giving different definitions for the same variables? Result = list of inconsistencies
- (4) More meaningful groupings: can we group the ECV products under a new ECV with more connection to climate processes, or the earth cycles, or.Result= proposed new groups