

New Regional Hydroclimate Project (RHP) Approval/Assessment Criteria

(September 2013)

1. Considerations

Some criteria are needed to ensure that a proposed RHP should be adopted by GHP. These criteria are for the benefit of GHP, GEWEX, and WCRP. The outcome of the process, whereby a prospective RHP submits a plan for review and endorsement by the GEWEX Scientific Steering Group (SSG), should be a viable, mutually beneficial, and synergistic Project.

The RHP is expected to adhere to the requirements in sections 2 and 3 below, providing regional level science and implementation that yields results and tools and making the scientific conclusions, products, and tools openly available.

The role of GHP/GEWEX is to:

- Provide a forum for fostering cross-collaboration between RHPs in terms of expertise, instrumentation development, modeling exercises, observational data exchange, etc.
- Increase visibility of RHPs by promoting sessions in international meetings and conferences.
- Promote the RHPs at the programmatic level: i.e., with WCRP and its international sponsors through the web, regular electronic and paper newsletters, mailing lists, etc., and representation at events such as the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee meeting.

Now, therefore:

It is envisioned that a RHP will be a 5-10 year project.

Some criteria may not be met at the outset, but an RHP can move towards delivering on those criteria as it matures. In some sense an RHP can be measured periodically on its progress towards these metrics.

When a project is first adopted as an RHP, it is considered to be in an initiation phase. As it matures and demonstrates progress towards fulfilling its science plan, it will be considered a full working RHP. A new RHP will be assessed after two years to see if it has moved beyond the initiation phase. If it has not, the status as an RHP will be reassessed, as RHPs are not intended to be in the initiation phase indefinitely.

Since all existing RHPs will need to reapply under the new organizational structure, part of their "renewal" process will require that they submit for review to GHP a science synthesis for the current phase of their work and material related to their future strategy that will constitute the basis of a new science plan.

2. RHP Criteria at the outset of a project

A science plan should state the central science and applications questions to be addressed by the RHP, and how they contribute to the GEWEX Science Imperatives that relate to such topics as data sets, analysis, processes, modeling, applications, technology transfer, and capacity building. Results are also meant to contribute to the important WCRP Grand Challenges and GEWEX Science Questions, such as the need to address terrestrial water storage changes and close the water budget over land and to better understand and predict variations and changes in precipitation.

The project plan should also include:

1. A science plan with an overall science and applications goal and proposed tasks to achieve it
2. A coordination mechanism (e.g., a Science Steering Group or equivalent) that includes a GEWEX contact (e.g., SSG chair, or project coordinator)
3. A end date and an exit plan that includes a science and applications synthesis and data archival procedure
4. Adequate resources and personnel with potential sources of funding or existing funding identified
5. A mechanism for collecting, managing, and providing access to hydroclimatological data sets with participation in the international exchange of scientific information and data

3. Requirements for a full working RHP

1. Demonstrate progress in implementation of the initial phase conditions
2. Continue to meet all RHP requirements
3. An up-to-date web presence
4. Demonstrate progress to contribute to the development and diagnosis of atmospheric-hydrologic-land surface models
5. Participate in joint RHP studies in cross-cut activities
6. Participate in other ESSP activities with other Panels and groups outside GEWEX if feasible
7. Share its new knowledge, experience, and models through the publication of scientific results, open science meetings, and relevant GHP meetings and activities

4. Reporting requirements for all RHPs

The main reporting requirement for RHPs, whether in the initiation or full working phase, will be annual reports on progress to the GHP as measured against the GEWEX Imperatives and detailed in the RHPs science and implementation plan.

RHPs transitioning from the initiation phase to full RHP status will be required to provide a report on progress and an updated science and implementation plan.

At the end of an RHP, a synthesis of the RHP's activities including the science, capacity building, and technology transfer achieved should be compiled and published.