

CHARTER of the U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM'S INTERAGENCY GROUP on INTEGRATIVE MODELING

A. Official Designation

The Interagency Group on Integrative Modeling (IGIM) is one of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Interagency Working Groups (IWGs). IGIM facilitates the coordination of modeling research and capabilities as part of climate, earth system, and global change analyses within agencies of USGCRP.

B. Scope of IGIM

The IGIM acts as a forum for discussion, coordination, and implementation of integrative modeling, i.e., that combines climate, earth, and human systems, and advances both global change science as well as capabilities that predict future impacts on society. The scope of IGIM coordination involves all existing and anticipated modeling capabilities, including model development, analysis, validation, and predictions. IGIM scope encompasses the atmospheric, oceanic, cryospheric, and terrestrial domains; human systems are treated as an integral component of each domain. The IGIM serves as the major interagency mechanism for implementing the modeling-related objectives of the *National Global Change Research Plan: 2012-2021*. In addition, through a phased approach to implementation, the IGIM also serves to evaluate and represent the relevant capabilities of agencies and non-federal organizations not currently within USGCRP.

C. Functions and Responsibilities

- Coordination of existing activities: The IGIM provides a mechanism for regular interagency discussion, with a responsibility to advance USGCRP activities in an efficient and effective manner. Metrics for success include interagency participation in program reviews, interagency involvement in workshops.
- Producing detailed interagency coordination and collaboration plans and future activities: The IGIM recognizes that modeling capabilities in support of any given agency's mission is strengthened by institutionalizing multi-agency collaboration actions and instruments. Metrics for success include e.g. jointly organized workshops to assess current modeling weaknesses and gaps with respect to long term goals for model development and analysis; joint calls for research that involve multiple agencies; IGIM supported workshops to simplify strategic directions that maximize scientific return on investment; and coordination of agency priorities that support USGCRP strategic goals.

- Evaluating progress to assure sustained preeminence of USGCRP modeling activities: The IGIM assesses the extent to which improved model capabilities support the strategic goals of the 2012-2021 USGCRP strategic plan, including research strategies to enhance progress in support of annual priorities submitted from USGCRP to OSTP.
- Interactions: The IGIM interacts with international climate modeling working groups such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Climate Research Program on topics related to integrative modeling, and the IGIM assesses the competitiveness of the US global change modeling enterprise with respect to agendas and strategies of non-U.S. modeling centers in order to evaluate opportunities for future USGCRP budget priorities.
- Reporting: Provide relevant contributions to the USGCRP annual reporting process (e.g., the USGCRP Annual Report to Congress Our Changing Planet), including documentation of progress and future goals and objectives.

D. Membership

1. Leadership

Leadership for the IGIM is based on a chair and two vice-chairs. The three individuals comprising the chair and two vice-chairs should provide sufficient representation of agencies engaged in earth system model development, global change analysis, and impacts on society. The chair and vice-chairs are to be approved by the SGCR.

The duties of the IGIM chair and vice-chairs are: convening and leading regularly scheduled meetings (preferably monthly); identifying and engaging with non-traditional partners (including international, non-governmental, academia, etc.); and serving as liaisons to the National Climate Assessment and other USGCRP program functions, the strategic planning process, and other relevant Federal Government efforts where appropriate. In addition to the chair and vice-chairs, IGIM management includes an IGIM Coordinator, who serves as the focal point for interagency communication, coordination, and information exchange between the IGIM members as well as between the various working groups and the USGCRP NCO.

The IGIM chair, the two vice-chairs, and the coordinator, will serve on a rotating basis. They may be reappointed, with consensus of the IGIM members and with approval of the USGCRP principals.

2. Participants

Membership in IGIM is open to all USGCRP departments and agencies, and individual representatives from any given agency must be approved by the USGCRP principal of the given agency; membership in IGIM from organizations not currently represented by a USGCRP principal must receive prior approval by the USGCRP group of principals.

The responsibility of IGIM members is to freely participate in IGIM discussions and initiatives, actively promote an interagency approach to global change modeling, and engage in discussions and actions that further the agenda of IGIM and USGCRP. In most cases, agency representatives to IGIM either control major funding resources for global change research or they serve as in a strategic advisory capacity on behalf of global change modeling within their home agency.

E. Termination

The IGIM will exist until deemed no longer necessary by the USGCRP Principals.