

Strategic Plan of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research

Prelude

This strategic plan is a statement of goals and principles which will guide the future long term development and organization of the Bolin Centre. It covers the period 2018-2020, and is decided upon by the Bolin Centre Board. The Strategic Plan is complemented by a Communication Strategy (2018-2020, also decided upon by the Bolin Centre Board). This can be found in Appendix 1. The by-laws and a brief history of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.

Introduction

The Bolin Centre is an intra- and inter-disciplinary, synergetic collaboration of over 300 scientists in Sweden affiliated with six Departments¹ at Stockholm University, SMHI and KTH. The Bolin Centre focuses on extending and disseminating knowledge about the Earth's natural climate system, climate variations, climate impacting processes, climate modelling, human impact on the climate and climate impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and human conditions as well as how society can minimize negative impacts. The Bolin Centre is recognized for excellence in research, graduate education, and outreach, and contributes to the knowledge-base for climate mitigation and adaption policies nationally and internationally.

The Bolin Centre for Climate Research is named in honour of Professor Bert Bolin of Stockholm University, a leader in climate and carbon cycle research and one of the founders of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Vision

Our vision is the Bolin Centre as the nationally leading and internationally recognized centre for interdisciplinary climate research and a primary Swedish contact point for scientists, media and the public on issues relating to the past, present and future climate.

¹ Department of Geological Sciences (IGV) <http://www.geo.su.se/>; Department of Physical Geography (NG) <http://www.natgeo.su.se/>; Department of Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry (ACES) <http://www.itm.su.se/>; Department of Meteorology (MISU) <http://www.misu.su.se/>; Department of Zoology (ZI) <http://www.zoology.su.se/>; Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences (DEEP) <http://www.su.se/deep/>.

Mission

The mission of the **Bolin Centre** is to create and communicate fundamental knowledge about climate and the Earth system as part of an evolving global effort to understand and adapt to the Earth's changing climate.

The ideas which guide our actions

The Bolin Centre exists for the production and communication of interdisciplinary climate and Earth system science. Furthermore, the Bolin Centre builds, through research, graduate education and outreach, the next generation of expertise and knowledge on past, present and future climates and climate-influencing processes, over a range of time scales, spatial scales and subsystems while addressing related societal issues. At its core are over three hundred scientists, spread across multiple disciplines. They are united by a common desire to understand climate and by the conviction that new directions in science result from the meeting of research excellence across natural science disciplines. Our operational philosophy is one of mutual respect and trust.

Strategic goals

To fulfil our mission, we outline the following strategic goals for the Bolin Centre. The goals listed in this plan are for the purpose of guiding our actions so as to ensure a future for the Bolin Centre as a **nationally leading** and **internationally recognised** centre engaged in creating and communicating fundamental climate science to scientists, educators, policy makers and society.

The strategic goals of the **Bolin Centre** are listed below. Goals i – iii are prioritised. All other goals have equal priority:

- i. carry out research that promotes further understanding of our climate.
- ii. communicate research findings generated by its members.
- iii. provide society with expertise on climate that is founded in scientific research.
- iv. encourage and support research training and undergraduate education in climate science.
- v. promote open access to scientific data.
- vi. create a network which is beneficial to and built by its members.

- vii. create a dynamic research environment that encourages collaboration between researchers.
- viii. encourage and support cross-faculty research initiatives focusing on climate.
- ix. encourage and support collaboration between SU, KTH and SMHI focusing on climate.
- x. create links with related national and international research and education endeavours.
- xi. create an environment for scientists to become scientific leaders.
- xii. promote shared leadership.
- xiii. promote equal opportunities in climate science.
- xiv. mentor young climate scientists.

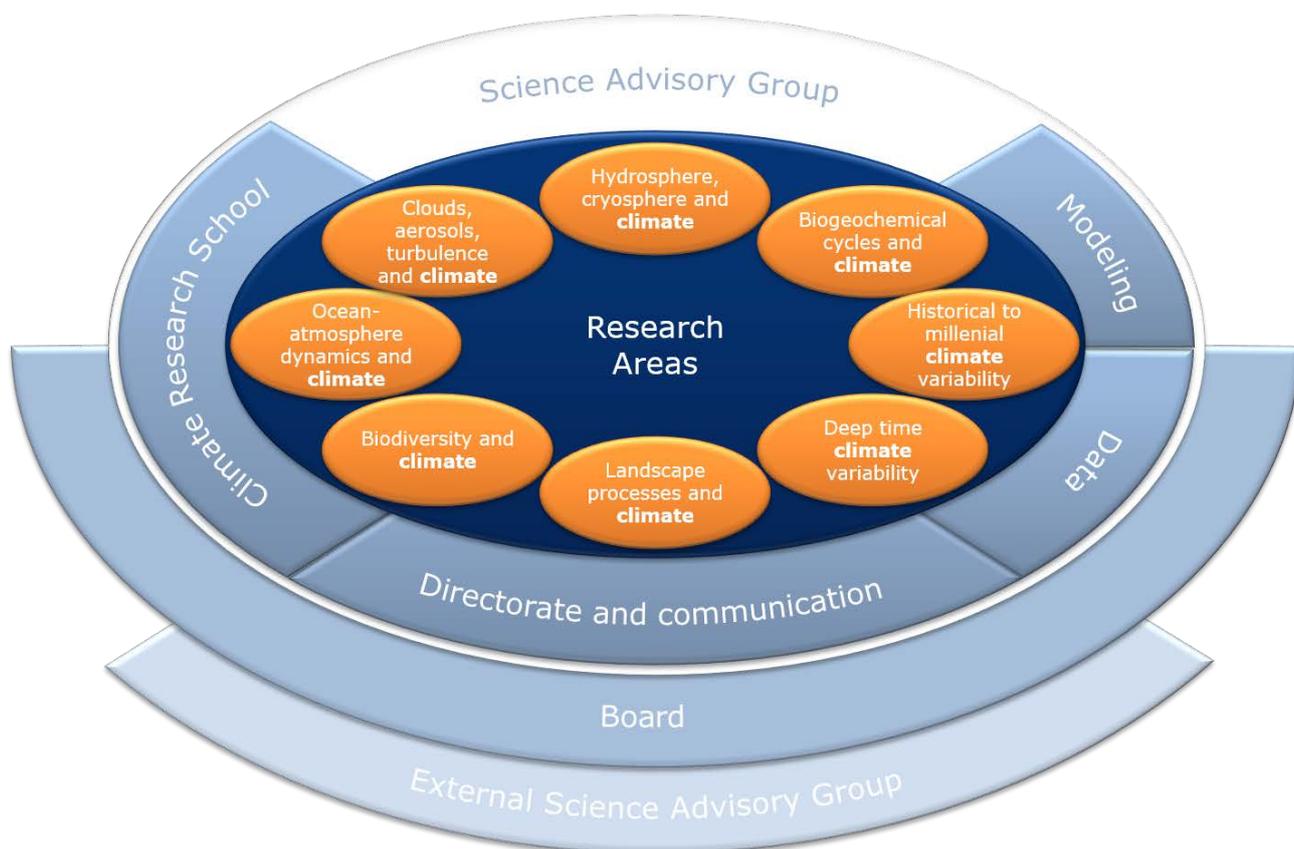


Figure 1: Structure of the Bolin Centre

Structure

The Bolin Centre is structured (Figure 1) as follows:

- A **Board** which is comprised of a Chair, the Head of each Department at SU that participates in the Bolin Centre, representatives of the partner organizations KTH and SMHI, one external member and a student representative.
- A **Directorate**, comprised of the Directors and Communicators, which together operatively lead the Bolin Centre, support the Board and are guided by the Science Advisory Group and the External Science Advisory Group (see below)
- Coordinator of **open access data**
- Coordinator of **modelling** activities
- Eight **research areas** (RAs) engaged in fundamental climate research, each of which is led by 2 or 3 co-leaders
- A **Science Advisory Group** (SAG) comprised of the RA co-leaders
- An **External Science Advisory Group** (ESAG) comprised of national and international experts on climate and Earth system science
- A **Climate Research School** (CRS)

Ensuring the future of the Bolin Centre

The structure of the Bolin Centre is optimised to create and communicate climate science. Its governance is designed to fulfil its mission (see above) while maintaining the Bolin Centre as Sweden's strongest centre for inter- and multidisciplinary climate research. The mandate and modus operandi of the entities of the Bolin Centre are defined in appendix 1. This contains the Bylaws of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research (by decision of the Vice-chancellor of Stockholm University on 2007-11-22 with revisions on 2012-12-20 and 2017-02-16). This strategic plan is supplemented by the communication strategy which comprises appendix 2 (by decision of the Board of the Bolin Centre on 2017-12-18). The history of the Bolin Centre is presented in appendix 3.

Ensuring the future of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research secures Stockholm University, SMHI and KTH as a joint focal point for climate science in Sweden and internationally. This requires a combination of internal and external funding to create excellent climate research, to maintain a structure that supports and promotes science and science education, and that ensures collaboration across disciplines and between Stockholm University and its partners. The Board, the Departments, SMHI and KTH are strongly committed to the continuation of the Bolin Centre and will continue to use the strategic (SFO) funds to finance the Centre in order to ensure its future.

Appendix 1

Communication Strategy of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research

(by decision of the Board of the Bolin Centre on 2017-12-18)

Appendix 2

Bylaws of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research

(by decision of the Vice-chancellor of Stockholm University on 2007-11-22 with revisions on 2012-12-20 and 2017-02-16)

Appendix 3

History of the Bolin Centre for Climate Research