ES-DOC CMIP6 documentation beta testing review – phase 1 (due Feb 2018)

In order to ensure the best experience for all CMIP6 modelling groups, WGCM and the WIP have asked to collect feedbacks from the ES-DOC beta testing groups of phase 1. The following has been agreed between WGCM/WIP and ES-DOC.

Two aspects will be reviewed: the overall CMIP6 documentation presentation (keeping in mind some steps are not yet ready for testing, such as conformance to protocol) and the more specific model documentation process. A phase two of beta testing will include the rest of the documentation tools at a later date.

The primary tool to provide model documentation during the beta testing is via iPython notebooks (https://es-doc.org/cmip6-models-documenting-with-ipython/) although some groups use a different process (such as UKMO). As this is one of the main documentation tasks CMIP6 modelling groups will have to spend time on, the beta testing phase is organised to ensure best experience for all groups when the system is deployed operationally. The scope of this review does not include the science relevance of the questions (e.g. "specialisations"), as this was addressed by the community by a different process.

Points to report on by ES-DOC beta testing liaison people:

- General CMIP6 documentation process (for all steps/documents):
  - Clarity of overall process proposed (https://es-doc.org/cmip6)
  - Clarity of detailed steps and related instructions:
    - Liaison check list (https://es-doc.org/cmip6-liaison-checklist)
    - iPython model documentation instructions (link above)
    - ES-DOC/CMIP6 web site
  - Agility/modularity of process:
    - Combined use of github, spreadsheets and iPython notebooks
    - Capacity for modelling group to organise their CMIP6 documentation work following their own timeline
  - Quality of user support

- Model documentation specific questions:
  - Ease of use of iPython tool (login, look and feel, save/publish,…)
  - Seeding functionality (from CMIP5 and CMIP6, specification in model configuration file)
  - Tools to interact with home scientists to collect information (PDF, spreadsheets, html and mindmaps)
  - Clarity of instructions

Timeline:

Model documentation beta testing started in Nov 2017 and will be finished end of February 2018. We would like to provide this review to the CMIP panel and the WIP by Feb 28th 2018.

Beta testing groups and ES-DOC liaison people:

- BCC (Jin Ba)
- CCCMA (John Scinocca)
- CCCR-IITM (Mahesh Ramadoss)
- GFDL (Chris Blanton)
- IPSL (Thibaut Lurton and Guillaume Levavasseur)
- MIROC (Takahiro Inoue)
- UKMO (Mark Elkington)