THORPEX was established as a ten year WMO Programme with a closure date of December 2014. A decision must be made on how to build on the successes of THORPEX and what, if anything, should be proposed as a follow on Programme.

The following questions are open for discussion by the THORPEX EC, and the options presented later in this paper could form part of the answers:

- What elements of the existing THORPEX working structure should be incorporated into WMO business as usual structures e.g. WWRP, CAS, CBS and which should be wound down?
- Where is the new science that requires a coordinated international approach?
- What should happen to the research databases (e.g. TIGGE, YOTC) produced as part of THORPEX? Should they be archived, or should centres be encouraged to continue contributing data to them, how will they be funded?
- Should, and if so how would, GIFS be transitioned to an operational service?
- What further research needs to be carried out to support the use of targeted observations as part of an operational observing strategy?
- How can the THORPEX brand be used to leverage extra resources for weather research?
- What are the priorities of the THORPEX funders in terms of a future programme? What level of contributions to a Trust Fund can be expected?

**Options for THORPEX post 2014**

**Option A:** The THORPEX Programme formally ends in December 2014 but the DAOS WG continues within the framework of the WWRP - assuming there is sufficient funding from the WWRP core funds to support it. The RCs are disbanded.

The Trust Fund is closed and the IPO wound up.

WWRP is invited to consider the scope for including further activities e.g. PDP WG/TIGGE through rationalisation of WGs, meeting frequency, size etc and/or attracting additional funding.

Continuing cost: 30K CHF /annum (from the WWRP budget)

**Option B:** The THORPEX Programme is extended for a further 5-10 years and is restructured. The focus on high impact weather is sharpened. All three WGs remain. The RCs continue as at present.

The Trust Fund remains open for contributions and the IPO continues to the extent that it can be supported by the Trust Fund.

Continuing Cost: 300K CHF/annum (from the Trust Fund)
Option C: As a legacy of THORPEX a new 10 year programme (Environmental Prediction Initiative) is established jointly, where appropriate, with the WCRP with a focus on improving the predictability of high impact weather from hours to a season (seamless prediction) and within the framework of a changing climate. New projects are introduced; two such projects have already been identified (sub-seasonal to seasonal and polar prediction). Other examples might include QPF, the water cycle, etc. These projects may subsume some of the current activities carried out by the TIGGE and PDP WGs and the Regional Committees. In this Option the DAOS WG is transferred to the WWRP.

A new Trust Fund is opened and a Programme Office set up. The RCs are formally disbanded but could be replaced by new regional initiatives and/or projects.

The rationale for this ambitious initiative would be: marshalling global scientific resources to respond more effectively to the critical challenges in predicting weather from hours to a season for the benefit of the international community and to meet socio-economic needs. Continuing cost: c. 500-1000K CHF/annum (from a new Trust Fund).

The EC preferred option is Option C. The Chair was requested to implement a series of agreed steps to promote wider discussion of this option.