CLIVAR Pan American Climate Studies (PACS)

FY 2004 Information Sheet

CLIVAR PACS seeks to understand and predict seasonal-to-decadal climate variability over Pan America, with an emphasis on the mechanisms associated with warm season rainfall and its potential predictability. Proposals are invited to investigate the dynamical and physical processes responsible for the onset, demise and character of the continental scale monsoons and their variability. Proposed projects are encouraged to focus on the role of coupled ocean-land-atmosphere processes responsible for the variability of eastern Pacific climate and of the South American monsoon system. For the eastern Pacific program focus, priority is placed on investigations to understand and improve the simulation of the coupled ocean-atmosphere system in the eastern Pacific cold-tongue/intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) complex and the southeastern Pacific stratocumulus region. Projects utilizing NOAA-sponsored Eastern Pacific Investigations of Climate (EPIC) data sets are emphasized. The South American monsoon focus includes studies to describe, understand, and model key components of the seasonally varying climate over South America, including the response of the continental monsoon system to changes in sea surface temperatures and atmospheric circulation over the Pacific and Atlantic basins. Proposals to investigate North American summer climate are invited under the joint PACS/GAPP North American Warm Season Precipitation initiative, http://www.ogp.noaa.gov/grants/2004/pacsgapp_info.pdf.