

Minutes from Extpar session, WG3b meeting, ICCARUS 2021

Katie Osterried gave a brief status overview of Extpar (see slides). She also announced that, pending approval by the COSMO consortium steering committee, Jonas Jucker from C2SM at ETH Zurich will be taking over the source code administration of Extpar effective in spring 2021.

The discussion centered around the future of the WebPEP and PAMORE Extpar web interfaces. WebPEP is a web interface for COSMO administrated by Burkhardt Rockel at the Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht. As Burkhardt will retire at the end of 2022, WebPEP will either need to be retired at that time, or someone else will need to take over the responsibility of providing an interface for COSMO users. The PAMORE web interface is used for generation of grid and Extpar files for ICON users, and is administrated by Florian Prill and Christian Koziar at DWD. The PAMORE administrators are happy to continue to do so, and to service the people who are switching to ICON from the COSMO and COSMO-CLM communities. However, they do not have unlimited resources, and it would be useful for someone to help them with the technical administration of PAMORE. They plan to keep PAMORE up to date with the latest releases of Extpar. Additionally, users from the climate community may wish for more features from PAMORE (i.e. the ability to choose the input dataset), and resources would also need to be provided for this.

It makes sense to phase out WebPEP, and migrate people over to PAMORE over the next few years. In order to get a better sense of how many people will need to use WebPEP in the future, Christian Steger suggested the idea of surveying the CLM community. It is probably not feasible that WebPEP can simply be stopped when Burkhardt retires, as there will still be too many COSMO users. The main problem is that resources are needed both to keep WebPEP going for the next several years, and to support the PAMORE administrators with their growing number of users and requests. These issues are still open, but now that the situation is clarified between the involved parties (WebPEP and PAMORE administrators and Extpar source code administrator), solutions can start to be considered and put in place before WebPEP is deactivated.