

1. Scope of the Second Polar Data Forum

Background of Polar Data Management:

Governments, scientists, and society are more and more recognizing the importance of data and proper data management. The polar science community has been a leader in international, interdisciplinary data management with a history beginning with the International Polar Year (IPY) programs starting in 1881-1884. Advances in open, networked, and ubiquitous digital technologies come at the same time as unprecedented changes in the polar regions. Together, these shifts present an urgent opportunity for the polar science community, Arctic residents, and other stakeholders to establish a clear global vision, strategy, and action plan to ensure effective stewardship of and access to valuable Arctic and Antarctic data resources.

The Second Polar Data Forum (PDF II) will be held October 27 - 29, 2015 in Waterloo, Canada to build on successes of the first Polar Data Forum (PDF I) in Tokyo, Japan, October 2013. PDF I and a series of other international and national meetings have identified priority themes and key challenges in the domain of polar data management¹. PDF II will further refine these themes and priorities and will accelerate progress by establishing clear actions to address the target issues, including meeting the needs of society and science through promotion of open data and effective data stewardship, establishing sharing and interoperability of data at a variety of levels, developing trusted data management systems, and ensuring long-term data preservation. The Forum will be held in conjunction with the scheduled annual meetings of the Arctic Data Committee (ADC) of the International Arctic Science Committee and Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (IASC/SAON) and the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM) of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). This unprecedented co-location presents unique opportunities for coordination and is envisioned as the first international Polar Data Week

KEY THEMES

Interoperability
User Experience
Long-term preservation
Trust
Data Management Practices
Indigenous Perspectives

PDF II will provide a critically important venue for showcasing polar data initiatives, to learn from global partners and work collaboratively to continue developing an international vision and action plan. By the end of PDF II, we will have updated status and made progress on polar data management activities and outstanding issues, including international coordination of ongoing and future planned efforts across the Arctic and Antarctic data and scientific research communities.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration and Abstract Systems Open: 15 May 2015

Abstracts Due: 1 July 2015

Notification of abstract acceptance: 31 July 2015

Hotel block reservation deadline: 24 August 2015

Early bird registration deadline: 31 August 2015

Travel support application deadline: 31 August 2015

Online registration deadline: 30 September 2015

¹ see the PDF I *Communiqué* at http://www.polar-data-forum.org/International_Polar_Data_Forum_Communique.pdf for a brief listing and description of outcomes

ICSU World Data System

The ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS) builds on a strong and proven 50+ year legacy of its predecessor bodies—World Data Centres and Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data analysis Services—established by the International Council of Science (ICSU) to ensure long-term stewardship, curation, archiving, and dissemination of scientific research data generated by the International Geophysical Year (1957–1958). Experience during the International Polar Year (2007–2008) showed that these bodies were not able to respond fully to the expectations placed on them by ICSU. They were thus disbanded by the ICSU General Assembly in 2008 and replaced by the ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS) in 2009. The new system aims for better coordination and disciplinary coverage to respond efficiently to the needs of the new scientific research challenges under the ICSU umbrella.

The Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

The Arctic Data Committee (ADC) was established in 2014 through a partnership between IASC and SAON. The ADC is meant to facilitate free and easy access to data and information and provide integration and dissemination of data and information through a distributed, interoperable, and broad circum-Arctic Information System. The ADC is open to interested and engaged individuals and organizations in addition to the appointed national representatives. Under the current work plan, the ADC is focusing on identifying key Arctic information resources, developing recommendations on a common set of metadata elements relevant across Arctic research, to facilitate interoperability and sharing between Arctic data repositories and online portals, writing a report and guide on data publication and citation for Arctic researchers, and coordinating an interoperability experiment that brings together a number of data services under a single interface to address Societal/Science Priority Areas. The second ADC annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Polar Data Forum II.

The Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM)

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) established the Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) in 1997 to manage Antarctic data. The formal linkage with COMNAP ceased and JCADM became SC-ADM starting in January 2009. SC-ADM helps facilitate co-operation between scientists and nations with regard to scientific data. It advises on the development of the Antarctic Data Directory System and played a major role in the International Polar Year Data and Information Service (IPYDIS). Members of SC-ADM are usually managers of the National Antarctic Data Centres or a relevant national contact. SC-ADM meets annually, with every second meeting in conjunction with SCAR. SC-ADM's responsibilities include: promotion of Antarctic data management; providing guidance to the Antarctic Master Directory host; Establishing Antarctic data management policies and priorities; recruitment of National Antarctic Data Centres (NADCs); encouraging scientists to submit metadata to the Antarctic Master Directory; and reporting to SCAR on Antarctic data management issues. The 19th SC-ADM meeting will be held in conjunction with the Polar Data Forum II.