

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #10

Teleconference #10 was held on Monday, 01 August 2016 at 13:00 UTC

Summary:

Review of Action items

- A WDS Webinar on the Common Requirement will take place on 31 August. The Data Seal of Approval (DSA) and ICSU-WDS are still making minor revisions to the Common Requirements based on the testbed.
- A session on Future Earth's data challenges has been secured at SciDataCon 2016. The Japanese Hub of the Future Earth Secretariat is very interested in supporting the Data Task Force, and is providing some travel support for International Data Week (IDW) 2016 through its host, the Science Council of Japan.
- WDC-Geomagnetism, Edinburgh/INTERMAGNET is creating the metadata catalogue for magnetic data for the European Plate Observing System (EPOS). Since this is in the conceptual stages, they can incorporate WDS-requirements in connection with the Metadata Catalogue, and there might be other synergies.
- There is a possibility to arrange a side-event between the International Conference on Research Infrastructures in early October and International Long-term Ecological Research Network meeting the following week to promote WDS certification and to share information about global research infrastructure standards. The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) will poll WDS Members on who will be attending these meetings.

WDS Bylaws

- The WDS Bylaws have been amended to account for changes that ICSU-WDS is making to its certification. These revisions were confirmed by the WDS-SC in preparation for the WDS Members' Forum.
- The main revisions of note are:
 - The WDS Data Policy has been replaced with the Data Sharing Principles. Moreover, since the DSA–WDS Certification does not include the Data Sharing Principles, abiding by them now comes after certification.
 - 'Accreditation' now is the combination of being certified and adhering to WDS' membership requirements.
 - WDS membership will remain the prerogative of the WDS-SC, but in the future the certification procedure will be delegated to the joint DSA–WDS Certification Authority.
 - A new paragraph introduces conducting of reviews by Regular and Network Members.
 - The Activity Report is a general requirement for Regular and Network Members as part of the recertification process every three years.
- The WDS-SC was requested to send feedback on the Bylaws so that they can be finalized in time for the Forum. The WDS-IPO will also run the revisions by the DSA Board to ensure there is no divergence.

Activity Report Template

- The ad hoc Subcommittee on Review and Accreditation created a list of changes from comments received on the previous Biennial Report. A first draft of the new template has thus been generated according to that list.
- Some WDS Members produce elaborate reports every year, but these do not cover everything required by the WDS-SC and it cannot make an arbitrary decision on when a report is adequate. To avoid concerns about increased bureaucracy, the new template will be beta-tested after the Members' Forum.
- The updated process will be discussed at the WDS Members' Forum, and the WDS-SC was set a deadline before this to send comments to the WDS-IPO.

Reminders

- ICSU-WDS is convening a session at the upcoming American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in December. The WDS-SC was reminded of the deadline for contributions and was encouraged to publicize the session; it is proving popular, but more contributions are needed to ensure it has oral presentations.
- The Implementation Plan of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) is out for review. ICSU has urged WDS to examine the section on data management, and responses from the WDS-SC will be consolidated and sent to the GCOS Secretariat.

WDS International Technology Office

- A second draft of the concept note was presented that incorporates comments provided by SC members and the WDS-IPO. ICSU-WDS will be in a position to move ahead once the implementation steps are refined.
- SC members were given a week to review the concept note and make additional inputs. The document will then be finalized.

WDS Training

- An idea is to come up with content-based concepts for a WDS training call that could be added to an ICSU Grant proposal. The overall proposal could be on a component of Future Earth occurring in different regions, and to hold three workshops in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (in collaboration the ICSU Regional Offices), and maybe a fourth in Europe.
- The WDS training could be a series of case examples emphasizing the integration of common ontologies; the structure, reliability, and consistency of data; and so on to highlight key elements. The emphasis would be on data systems, their use, and the importance of structuring them to answer the questions faced. This would then give visibility to what ICSU-WDS is doing to solve these issues, and might result in further funding opportunities.
- The WDS-SC can help by connecting with a number of disciplinary Union-clusters. A 1–2 page prospectus will be circulated within the WDS-SC to highlight the conceptual aspects such that it can crystalize its thinking before starting to talk with others. The proposal will be discussed again at the next teleconference, and an opportunity will be found at the face-to-face Meeting to finalize it.
- A revised version of the document circulated at the previous teleconference was presented, taking into account the feedback of SC members, and the resources shared by the WDS-SC and WDS Members. The WDS-SC was asked to look at the list of resources and who is offering them, and to give comments—as well as any other resources—to the WDS-IPO. Time will be given at the face-to-face Meeting to make progress on this.
- The ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) is extensively involved in training and ICSU-WDS will coordinate with them once the WDS-SC has matured its thinking. Training is not a main focus of ICSU-WDS, but it will offer this when invited to, or when it is deemed necessary.

IDW and SciDataCon 2016

- a) Members' Forum
 - Around 100 people are expected to attend the Members' Forum, with greater than 40 posters presented. The draft agenda has been updated based upon the survey conducted by the WDS-IPO. Potential speakers for oral presentations have been added, as well as a topic for general discussion. The slight concern is that the oral contributions offered are only from specific disciplines, and the WDS-IPO will try to address this.
- b) SciDataCon 2016 Draft Programme
 - The programme is still being refined to avoid clashes. The latest draft has been published on the SciDataCon website and contains the papers under each session. There will also be a strong poster session in which each poster will be linked to one of the oral sessions.
 - The International Data Forum programme is also online. Finalizing the keynotes is still an issue, and other options are being explored.
 - IDW registrations are peaking. Most people are attending all events, which is highly satisfying for the three partner organizations.
 - The sponsorship target is yet to be met, although the figures are within what is deemed sustainable.
- c) WDS Delegate for CODATA General Assembly (GA)
 - ICSU-WDS is required to nominate a delegate for the CODATA GA, which runs in parallel with the WDS Members' Forum. Bernard will be in Denver at that time, and agreed to step in on behalf of ICSU-WDS.

Membership Management Update

- Neotoma Paleocology Database sent an Expression of Interest (EoI) for WDS Regular membership. Because it was originally approached by ICSU-WDS, the WDS-SC asked that the WDS-IPO immediately send out the cover letter and application link.

Any Other Business

- ICSU-WDS had a constructive discussion with ORCID about exchanging memberships. A Memorandum of Agreement is underway, and the two organizations hope to formally declare their support for each other soon.