

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #13

Teleconference #13 was held on Wednesday, 07 December 2016 at 13:00 UTC

Summary:

Review of Action items

- The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) has consulted with ICSU on the concept note for the WDS International Technology Office, and will share the feedback with the WDS-SC.
- SC members were urged to comment on the Membership Maturity document so that it can be fleshed out.
- Following the success of International Data Week (IDW), discussions are taking place about holding a second one in 2018. Agreement on the potential and practicalities of IDW 2 is expected before the end of the year.
- The WDS-IPO is using the carousel on the WDS homepage to publicize WDS Members' activities. It is also working on highlighting data products in Members' Profiles, and this will be available once the Membership Management Tool is updated early next year.

WDS Subcommittees & WGs

- a. Road Mapping Exercise Subcommittee
 - The Subcommittee had two teleconferences. In the first, it started laying out an approach for identifying key people making policy and funding decisions on data systems. In the second, it thought about this from a project-specific basis alongside representatives from Pan-Arctic Options. This project has a slightly different focus to the WDS exercise; in particular, it is looking at ontologies to support its work and how to interface with stakeholders. The Subcommittee will have a follow-up strategy meeting on Tuesday, 13 December to discuss the outcomes of the second teleconference.
 - A Call for Proposals expected in the early 2017 from the Belmont Forum might be able to support the WDS exercise. It will become clearer once the Call is out, but discussions suggest that if a number of research activities that are looking at similar types of mappings all coordinate, then each might be able to get its exercise partly funded and also gain some visibility.
- b. CODATA–WDS Citizen Science Task Group (TG)
 - This TG will look at the universe of citizen science, crowdsourcing, and volunteered geographic information, and create a typology of the different data generating activities that are entailed in the different projects, issues around data validation technique, as well as the systems in place for cleaning, curating, managing, and disseminating data.
 - Details from TG proposal sent to the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) have been placed into the WDS Working Group (WG) Charter template. Although the TG was proposed by the WDS-SC as a joint endeavour, it had been formally approved by CODATA but not by ICSU-WDS. The WDS-SC therefore officially endorsed it as a WDS–CODATA WG for the record.

Reporting Back

- a. Core Certification of Trustworthy Data Repositories
 - Members of the WDS and Data Seal of Approval (DSA) Executive Committees met in London to discuss the alignment of the two organizations. They decided on a number of basic principles and functions for a new, joint certification entity; looking at both the transition phase and longer term.
 - A temporary board will be set up to do the following over the next 18 months: revise current documents based on the new situation, decide on the branding of the certification and board, develop a common tool for self-assessment and review, and elaborate on the governance and business model of the entity.
 - There is real added value in having a clear distinction between and the certification authority and the certification itself. The hope is that the branding can be resolved quickly, because the new certification is gaining attention beyond the DSA and WDS communities.
 - The two organizations have not decided on the makeup of the transitional board. The easy solution is to have a large board that balances a Subcommittee of the WDS-SC with the DSA Board. A board of around 15 people is not ideal for moving things swiftly, but it is better to start with a lot of hands to deal with the heavy workload, and then reduce the number later.

- SC members were asked to look at the alignment document and to contact the Executive Committee with comments/questions such that these can be taken into account before moving forward in the New Year.
- b. Belmont Forum eInfrastructure Workshop
 - The Belmont Forum eInfrastructure and Data Management activity organized a two-day scoping workshop covering its action theme on eInfrastructures. It contained a number of presentations on the needs for better connection between eInfrastructure and data management in research projects.
 - Much of the workshop focussed on a planned Call for Proposals: how it can best serve the community and ensure eInfrastructure initiatives are responsive to the needs of research projects. There was agreement that a group of projects should work with eInfrastructure providers to demonstrate that eInfrastructure can be reused and can help produce better research results.
 - The leaders of this activity will now define the scope of the Call with the European Commission. ICSU-WDS was well represented at the workshop and provided substantial input, and the hope is that not only pure infrastructure activities benefit from the Call but also those helping improve the eInfrastructure landscape.

Conferences & Workshops in 2017

- a. Two-day African Workshop
 - The top people at the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) have been informed of the April Workshop and its significance. They are happy to involve their African partners managing observatories and databases, but have not decided on exactly who should attend.
 - IRD asked which scientific domains should be included and whether its European partners were welcome to join the Workshop since this affects the number of participants, and thus logistical issues and funding.
 - The WDS-SC agreed that the Workshop must match the remit of ICSU-WDS, which covers all domains. It felt that 30–50 attendees—including a minority of European participants—was optimal.
 - The WDS-IPO will send out invitation letters to those already identified, and will then send a second batch once it has received a list of IRD attendees.
- b. WDS Asia–Oceania Conference 2017
 - The Conference will be held on 26–28 September 2017 at Kyoto University. A draft document outlining its scope and objectives has been prepared for circulation among related organizations and to recruit members of the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees. A very provisional schedule for the three days includes a workshop about the WDS accreditation procedure.
 - Japanese domestic funds are being sought to support participants. It will not be clear until March/April 2017 if these are successful, and hence how many people can be invited.
 - The Conference is likely to be held back-to-back with the 17th WDS-SC Meeting. A decision will be made soon, because Kyoto is very busy in autumn and hotels must be reserved far in advance.
- c. Water Cycle/Carbon Cycle/Health Workshops
 - A deadline of 1 December was given at the 15th WDS-SC Meeting to decide on which of these topics might be taken forward as a WDS Workshop in 2017.
 - The organizers of the International Carbon Dioxide Conference, which is heavily attended by the Carbon Cycle community, are very interested in ICSU-WDS hosting an event at either its 2017 or 2018 Conference.
 - With the WDS Asia–Oceania Conference being held in September 2017, the WDS-SC decided to organize a small-scale WDS meeting at the 2017 Carbon Dioxide Conference in which the data needs of the Carbon Cycle community—and how ICSU-WDS can link in with them—can start to be explored. This side meeting will act as a prelude to a bigger outreach and engagement event in 2018.

Membership Management Update

- Survey Research Data Archive (SRDA) was previously requested by the WDS-SC to send more information to support its Expression of Interest (EoI) for WDS Regular membership. SRDA supplied a document giving details on its data activities, and the WDS-SC approved the EoI on the basis of this additional information.
- Environment Climate Data Sweden (ECDS) has changed host to the Swedish National Data Service (SND). Since SND itself is highly suitable as a WDS Regular Member and possesses a current DSA Seal, it was invited to become a Member too—eventually replacing ECDS when its Letter of Agreement expires on 1 January 2018. With all administrative procedures in place, the WDS-SC formally approved SND's WDS Regular membership.
- The WDS-SC upheld the Reviewers' comments on the Ocean Biology Data Active Archive Center's (OB.DAAC's) application for WDS Regular membership. The WDS-IPO will ask OB.DAAC to update its application in light of this feedback.