

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #24

Teleconference #24 was held on Thursday, 15 February 2018 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action Items

- The Call for Nominations for the next WDS-SC is open until 5 March, and went out to members of ICSU, the International Social Science Council, WDS, and our partner organizations. In particular, the Call is open to nominations of relevant experts not coming from the traditional members of ICSU.
- The Call includes language encouraging nominations from Early Career Researchers (ECRs), and the request to have one seat available for ECRs will be sent to the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review after the Call has closed.
- A final version of the two-pager on what ECRs should know about research data management will be completed by the end of the week following the teleconference.
- Representatives of the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) will be invited to present at the African Data Centres session ICSU-WDS is organizing at SciDataCon 2018 (see below). It is hoped during this meeting to find opportunities for WASCAL and SASSCAL to lead the building of infrastructure that could join ICSU-WDS as Regular Members.
- The new Director of Data and e-Infrastructure at Institut de recherche pour le développement will also be invited to speak in the African Data Centres session, and this is strategic for linking with the French national data pôles.
- ICSU will survey all its members to find out about their data needs and what they know of the data within their organizations. This survey will include things of interest from a WDS perspective, and the WDS-SC will be able to add inputs into the survey.
- People representing ICSU members often do not realize exactly what WDS is doing: they require many of the services WDS provides, but cannot always articulate this. ICSU-WDS must therefore communicate to ICSU member representatives what ICSU-WDS stands for, what it is doing, and to clarify where WDS Members have interactions with parts of their projects; recognizing that this will have to be tailored to each member's interests and requirements. Help from all SC members is needed to envision the data needs/activities of specific ICSU members and to work with the WDS-IPO on sending a targeted message to ICSU members.
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is organizing a workshop in March in which it will consider updating the recommendations it issued in 2006 dealing with accessibility to data produced through publically funded research. ICSU-WDS will provide inputs to that process so its views are taken onboard in any revision. ICSU-WDS will also use the workshop to discuss any follow ups resulting from the two WDS reports on Business Models and Coordination of International Research Data Networks.

Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop + 18th WDS-SC Meeting

- The Call for Abstracts was very successful. The majority of submissions are from Brazil, but a good proportion also come from other LAC countries. Most of the abstracts have been accepted after review by the International Organizing Committee (IOC), which has tried to be as inclusive as possible. In particular, session 2 will include lightning talks addressing case studies to encourage discussions on areas where ICSU-WDS can help in the development of data initiatives. Participants are also being given an opportunity to provide a poster to further present their activities. Topics cover various disciplines/backgrounds, and whilst some do not address data issues explicitly, all are in scope for the

Workshop. Some abstracts even came from private corporations, and it is good to see interest from the private sector.

- Travel support has been secured for participants outside of Brazil thanks to support from the ICSU Regional Office for LAC. Six participants have requested travel support, and it is expected that their travel can be covered using these funds. An offer has additionally been received from the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Science to cover two economy airfares in the LAC region.
- A number of Brazilian participants have also requested travel support. The Brazilian Academy of Science will support two participants, and other organizations are being approached to help with another six.
- The WDS-IPO will present a draft agenda for the 18th WDS-SC Meeting at the next teleconference.

International Data Week (IDW) 2 / SciDataCon 2018

a. General Update

- The organizers of IDW 2 have been working hard with the local hosts to secure funding to support the event. In particular, there is a need to keep registration fees relatively low for participants from Lower and Middle Income Countries and for students.
- The Call for Session proposals for SciDataCon 2018 will close imminently. A good number of proposals have already been submitted, but it is expected that an influx will be received before the deadline.
- As well as the three WDS proposals below, one has been submitted on African Data Centres and another will be submitted for a mixed panel session on behalf of the WDS–CODATA Task Group on Citizen Science.

b. WDS Session Proposals

i. Health Databases across the African Continent

- It was decided that the best format for this session would be to have a panel of just three identified people and trigger a debate between them and the audience. Several people have already expressed interest in being on a panel or presenting a paper concerning this topic. The necessary changes will be made to the proposal and then it will be submitted.

ii. Wider Certification of Scientific Outputs

- It was recommended by the WDS-SC to submit the proposal as a research paper session so that it is open for abstract submissions. Potential speakers can still be added if they can be persuaded to submit papers to the session. The proposal should be slightly rewritten to make it more open to general submissions from participants by saying that talks are wanted about all types of repositories.

iii. Research Data for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The Center for International Earth Science Information Network is planning to submit a session proposal on spatial data for the SDGs, and is asking whether ICSU-WDS would like to be a co-organizer. ICSU-WDS is planning to submit a proposal more generally about data and the SDGs for SciDataCon 2018. However, the WDS proposal should be kept separate from the spatial data one, which is specific in its focus and the organizations it is engaging. The abstract will be shared with the SC Chair and the WDS-IPO; it is likely that ICSU-WDS will be happy to endorse it and be added as a co-organizer.

WDS Data Stewardship Award 2018

- The Call for Nominations for the 2018 Award must go out soon to ensure the winner can attend IDW 2. Once approved, the Call will be added to the WDS website and sent out to the WDS community. The text now includes specific mention of Masters degrees to ensure potential candidates are not excluded.
- The Call will be circulated after the teleconference so that SC members can send it out to targeted organizations.

WDS-ITO update

- The WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO) will be hosted in Victoria, Canada by a consortium of WDS Members: Ocean Networks Canada, the Canadian Astronomical Data Centre, and the Polar Data Catalogue. The office will be within Ocean Networks Canada, who will organize an inaugural workshop on 28–29 March 2018. The idea is to focus on mainly the local stakeholders to build momentum, and the tentative programme includes talks from the three WDS Members, local stakeholders, and funders in Canada. There are also plans to involve representatives from international organizations the WDS-ITO will interact with, and the organizers are reaching out to secure their participation.
- A parallel effort is to finalize the job classification of the ITO Director, and this will be released within one week with the hope that potential candidates can be identified by the time of the workshop and interviews can take place in the days leading up to it.
- The WDS-SC Executive Committee will be represented in the interviews, and other SC members based in North America were asked about attending as it is important to have strong SC representation.

CTS/WDS Applications Update

- The new CoreTrustSeal Application Management Tool has now been generally released.
- The Worldwide Protein Data Bank (wwPDB) is CoreTrustSeal-certified and has applied for WDS Regular membership. The WDS-SC approved wwPDB's accreditation as a WDS Regular Member. The WDS-IPO will promote that ImmPort Repository and wwPDB are the first two CoreTrustSeal-certified WDS Regular Members.