

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #20

Teleconference #20 was held on Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action items

- The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) sent an email to SC members asking them to add entries to the Landscape Mapping spreadsheet before the 17th WDS-SC Meeting, where it will be used to inform strategy and to give leads for approaching people at the 32nd ICSU General Assembly (GA).
- The 32nd ICSU GA is being held back-to-back with an Extraordinary GA of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), before a joint meeting in which a vote will be taken on a merger of the two organizations. ICSU-WDS will show its engagement beyond the Earth Sciences/Global Change community, and demonstrate that it is vital part of ICSU's strategy when it comes to scientific data. To assist with this, the WDS-IPO will share a list of ISSC bodies with the WDS-SC to ensure they are considered in the Landscape Mapping.
- The Mapping undoubtedly will show that the data landscape is complex, with many players, and that ICSU-WDS has to be strategic in selecting who to work with. ICSU-WDS need to show its unique role within the bigger picture and as a certifier and membership organization.
- A number of meetings connected with the French national data pôles are planned at the start of 2018, and ICSU-WDS will make connections with the developed data infrastructures and to explore the possibility of them become WDS Members.

Draft Agenda and Logistics for 17th WDS-SC Meeting

- The WDS-SC gave feedback on the draft agenda created by the WDS-IPO for the 17th WDS-SC Meeting.
- The SC Chair was concerned that the WDS positioning strategy and reporting to the ICSU General Assembly—an important item—was timetabled at the end of the second day. Since it is related to the Strategic Plan, it was decided to have a higher-level discussion in conjunction with this, and to keep a second slot at the end of the Meeting as a conclusion after looking at the Implementation Plan.
- To update the Implementation Plan during the Meeting, it is vital that the WDS-SC has carefully studied the current Plan and connected tasks well in advance. The WDS-IPO will get this document out immediately.
- Time will be added to report back from both the RDA Plenary Meeting and the iPRES Conference. One of the Vice Chairs will also give information to the WDS-SC on maturity development among repositories in the Dutch context and the setting up of a website around it to guide people.

WDS Conferences and SC Meetings

- a. Asia–Oceania Conference 2017
 - The current agenda for the Conference was shared with the WDS-SC, highlighting points of note. In particular, the Scientific Organizing Committee has tried to include the papers of as many Early Career Researchers from Asian countries as possible.
 - It was recommended to SC members who will be in Kyoto to join the keynotes on the first day, and the thematic discussions and cultural attraction on the afternoon of the second day. Everyone was also reminded to please register so that the number of participants is known (there is no fee).
- b. Latin American Workshop + 18th SC Meeting
 - The current thinking for the WDS Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop and associated 18th WDS-SC Meeting was presented, highlighting the suggested dates, location, and themes. Some important Brazilian institutes have been successfully engaged and financial support gained for Brazilian participants. The main challenge is to find similar financial support to bring in participants from other LAC countries, and the Brazilian Academy of Science is in contact with National Academies in the LAC region to see if they can provide some travel support.
 - The WDS-SC noted that the suggested dates clash with the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2018, for which a number of SC members are committed to being involved. There are local constraints also, as the first week of May is the Brazilian Academy of Sciences' annual meeting, and so the Workshop must be held well in advance of that. The possibilities will be checked and alternative dates in April proposed.
- c. IDW 2 + SciDataCon 2018

- International Data Week 2018 (IDW 2) will be announced once the local organizers in Botswana have received a letter of high-level support from the relevant ministry. Discussions are also taking place among the three hosts regarding the organization of IDW 2. The understanding is that the programme will be highly integrated this time, and details of the structure will be discussed within the following week.
- Preparing the programme for SciDataCon 2018 is in progress: a system has been developed whereby the website can be setup easily, and the dates for the Sessions and Abstract Call are now being decided.

WDS Strategic Plan 2018–2022

- The current Strategic Plan was examined at the 16th WDS-SC Meeting, and the WDS-IPO has created a first draft of the Plan for 2018–2022 based on feedback given at that Meeting. The idea is that the Plan will not be changed significantly, but rather restructured and the number of Strategic Targets reduced to three. The WDS-SC was presented with the revisions in track changes, and was invited to provide comments and suggestions of improvement. The hope is to simply say at the 17th Meeting that the document is ready for publishing; moreover, it will provide the basis of the Implementation Plan under more extensive discussion.
- SC members were asked to send their comments to the WDS-IPO before the SC Meeting, and for those keen to provide new text to do so within the next two weeks.

CTS/WDS Applications Update

- The WDS-IPO had received a new Expression of Interest for WDS Regular membership from the Iranian National Cartographic Center (NCC). The WDS-SC agreed for the WDS-IPO to send the cover letter and application link.
- Neotoma Paleoecology Database has been accredited as a WDS Regular Member. It is the last organization that will be accredited using the WDS catalogue of criteria, all other applicants will be asked to go through CoreTrustSeal Certification, and then to show adherence to the WDS Bylaws.
- Within the CoreTrustSeal, ICSU-WDS has been starting the periodic reviews of WDS Regular Members in stages to try not to overwhelm the review process. No WDS Member has been CoreTrustSeal certified yet, but the first one should be soon, and will be announced on the WDS website.