

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #21

Teleconference #21 took place on Tuesday, 14 November 2017 at 13:00 UTC.

Summary

Review of Action Items

- The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) needs to reflect on the best solution to convert the WDS Contacts Spreadsheet into a relational database/dynamic list. In the meantime, SC members should continue to input contacts into the current spreadsheet, and a reminder of this will be sent.
- The WDS-IPO has shared with the Co-chairs of the WDS Early Career Researcher Network the SC's feedback on the Network Charter, as well as the Call for Sessions for SciDataCon 2018. The Co-chairs will have two teleconferences to discuss both, the second of which will be joined by the WDS Programme Officer.
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Global Science Forum (OECD-GSF) held a meeting in Rome, where the reports were presented on the two studies concerning Business Models and Coordination of International Infrastructures. The reports have now been approved at level of the directorate, so will be published as official OECD reports in the New Year. There has been a lot of support for the recommendations in the reports, which will be publicized broadly together. A session at the end of the meeting opened up the question of ideas and proposals for new topics OECD-GSF could examine in the future.
- There are still a few comments remaining in the training curriculum that need to be resolved. At the same time, the document will be turned into a two-pager on what young scientists need to know about data management.
- The training curriculum has been sent to INASP, an ICSU International Body specializing in education programmes, and with a particular focus on the developing world. The INASP Chair is interested in converting the WDS curriculum into an online education unit on data management for (developing world) scientists. This will be discussed further; especially, a proposal for funding would be needed.
- The joint project with INASP can be put at the start of a list of WDS training opportunities. Other possibilities also need to be compiled; for example, the WDS-SC would like to apply for European Geosciences Union (EGU) funding for a workshop in 2019, and there are probably similar opportunities in the American Geophysical Union that can be added. The idea is to pursue options when available, and SC members were asked to share contacts or opportunities with the WDS-IPO so that a list can be maintained.
- The Belmont Forum (BF) is developing training curricula that can be used across its member funding agencies. The WDS Executive Director (ED) has had interactions with the BF regarding this, and will send them the Training Resources Guide published on the WDS website. The BF has also endorsed a curriculum for its e-Infrastructure and Data Management activity, and ICSU-WDS will connect with some of the topics by mapping them with training identified from WDS Members.
- The Call for Session Proposals for SciDataCon 2018 is due to go out after the teleconference. The WDS-SC thus needs to start thinking about the sessions it would like to promote, and put in proposals for those sessions. SC members were asked to please share areas they think must be included as a session—and text for the proposal—so that everything can be circulated before the next teleconference.

Report from 32nd ICSU General Assembly (GA)

- The main outcome of the 32nd ICSU GA was an overwhelming vote by ICSU and International Social Science Council (ISSC) members in favour of the two organizations merging. All of the legal parts of the merger will now be put in place, and then there will be an Extraordinary GA in July 2018 in Paris to celebrate the formation of the new International Science Council. The WDS-SC expressed that this was very good news, because it means there will be a united voice for science across the disciplines.
- ICSU-WDS was highly regarded since it has Members who are not part of the traditional physical sciences, and WDS membership is open to any data repository irrespective of the data being served. ICSU-WDS will now reach out to ISSC members and ask how it can help them with their data management needs.
- Some of the representatives in attendance at the GA were not clear on what ICSU-WDS is doing. There will likely be some re-examination of the roles of the various bodies and projects within the new Council, and so it is imperative that ICSU-WDS takes steps in the next six months to make clearer what it stands for.

WDS Conferences and WDS-SC Meetings

- a. WDS Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Scientific Data Management Workshop + 18th WDS-SC Meeting
 - The WDS LAC Workshop will be held on 18–19 April 2018 at the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in Rio de Janeiro, with the 18th WDS-SC Meeting taking place on the following two days at the Museum of Tomorrow. The [website for the Workshop is now available](#), with the Call for Abstracts/Papers open until 26 January. The hope is to identify currently unknown data initiatives in the region and offer them an opportunity to present at the Workshop.
 - Contact was established at the BF Plenary Meeting with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI); its ED is very interested in data-related issues and agreed to support the Workshop.
 - The International Organizing Committee (IOC) is almost complete. The ED of the ICSU Regional Office for LAC has accepted a formal invitation to be part of the IOC, and promised to help disseminate information about the Workshop within the networks of the Regional Office and The World Academy of Sciences.
 - The Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) offices in the LAC region have been invited to send experts to the Workshop or to provide funding to sponsor experts. The regional representative of IRD in Brazil is particularly supportive, and has contacted IRD colleagues and partners in South America.
 - The WDS Chair has been in contact with the ED of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS), who has offered support for the Workshop since data collection is one of their foci. IANAS will reach out to the Academies and has suggested who might be able to send someone to the Workshop.
- b. International Data Week (IDW) 2 + SciDataCon 2018
 - The three host organizations have now identified who from the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will join the regular calls for preparing IDW 2 so that work can be started on the logistical aspects of the meeting.
 - As mentioned above, the Call for Sessions for SciDataCon 2018 should be released in the coming days. The conference themes and scope are on the [SciDataCon 2018 website](#).

BF Plenary Meeting

- The BF held its Plenary Meeting in São Paulo the week prior to the teleconference. It also held a number of side events beforehand that enabled the WDS ED to meet with organizations interested in both the LAC Workshop and future WDS projects.
- The formal Plenary Meeting reviewed upcoming funding calls, as well as the e-Infrastructure and Data Management action being led by the WDS ED. For the latter, the Steering Committee endorsed use of a training curriculum across BF funding agencies, and invited its use more widely across their organizations. A system was proposed whereby agencies share training opportunities, and the BF offered to sponsor a coordination activity across the agencies to develop exchange.
- The data management planning activity was also discussed. It was agreed that the BF funding agencies will support the continuation of the work to move from the set of BF data management principles to an implementation whereby the realization of data management plans is monitored when research projects are delivered. To ensure this follow up happens, an additional position will be created at the BF Secretariat, which will now be moved to Montevideo and hosted by IAI.

CoreTrustSeal/ICSU-WDS Applications Update

- The submission of CoreTrustSeal applications from new applicant organizations has been suspended for November and December to transition to a new Application Management Tool. This meant there was an influx of applications at the end of October, and so the review workload is heavy at this time.
- An Expression of Interest (EoI) from the NASA Level-1 and Atmosphere Archive & Distribution System Distributed Active Archive Center for WDS Regular Member was approved by the WDS-SC. However, the application cannot be submitted for review until after the abovementioned suspension.
- The WDS-IPO has also received an EoI from the Department of Botany, University of Lomé in Togo. The WDS-SC asked the WDS-IPO to ascertain if the Department of Botany has a repository function. If the Department does not have its own repository, then WDS Associate membership will be offered such that the Department can exchange ideas and benefit from being part of the WDS community.

Any Other Business

- The WDS ED gave a talk on the status and role of ICSU-WDS to the Executive Committee of the Council of Data Facilities (CDF). The presentation was very well received, and the Executive Committee has requested for a version to be given at the CFD GA. The former SC Chair was asked to give the talk, but is unable to attend, and a current member of the WDS-SC will go in his place.