World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #23

Teleconference #23 took place on Tuesday, 16 January 2018 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action Items

- Several possibilities for funding training through the European Geosciences Union have been explored. An item will be added to the Agenda of the 18th WDS-SC Meeting to discuss topics to propose, with the mid-year deadline for the next round in mind.
- The SC Chair has contacted the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Working Group (WG) about working with ICSU-WDS to create a report on fulfilling the data needs of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IAP WG is very positive about it, and will discuss whether to plan for a new extension of the WG to deal with it.
- The SC Chair and WDS Executive Director (ED) have not yet started communicating about WDS activities to ICSU and International Social Science Council (ISSC) members. The ED is planning to write to all ICSU/ISSC members about the WDS Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop, and so this can be used as an opportunity to reach out about WDS activities.
- The Blog post by the SC Chair was publicized on Twitter and gained a lot of attention: the message resonated with many people. The WDS-IPO has also encouraged the 2017 winner of the WDS Data Stewardship Award to write a post, which should be received in the next fortnight.

WDS LAC Workshop

- The WDS-SC was given an update on the Workshop. It expressed concern that, whilst understandable, almost all registrations are currently from Brazil only. A lot of work has been put into getting people from other LAC countries to express interest, and ICSU-WDS must keep sending reminders until people register. There is a question for those outside of Brazil to ensure travel funds, with organizations providing support wanting to first identify who they will send. The WDS-IPO will ask these organization to please identify representatives soon.
- A first version of the Workshop Programme was presented to the WDS-SC for comments and suggestions. Someone is still being sought to talk about 'New Trends and Challenges for Scientific Data Management', and the WDS-SC was asked for recommendations as to whom might be able to give an inspiring talk about it.

International Data Week (IDW) 2 + SciDataCon 2018

- The dates for IDW 2 have now been confirmed as 5–8 November 2018. The WDS Members' Forum will thus take place on 9 November, and the 19th WDS-SC Meeting two days after that.
- The organizers are still looking for keynotes for IDW. No recommendations have been received thus far, and SC members were again asked to send suggestions (from Africa or otherwise) to the WDS ED.
- The remainder of the discussion focussed on WDS session proposals for SciDataCon:
    - A proposal on 'Africa Data Centers: Challenges and Opportunities' can be submitted as it currently stands; however, the format envisaged for the session is missing. With IDW 2 hosted in Botswana, many practitioners from throughout Africa will be in attendance, and a format is best that enables all participants to contribute. A decision will be made before the submission deadline.
    - Texts were given to the WDS-SC immediately prior to the teleconference on sessions covering 'Health Databases in Africa' and the 'Wider Certification of Scientific Outputs'. Since the WDS-SC had not had time to look through the proposals, they will be circulated again to move things forward electronically.
    - A session on Research Data for the SDGs has resulted from the SC Chair's interactions with IAP on its WG Report. IAP is keen to be involved in the session and ICSU is also interested in this subject. There is a strong suggestion to involve others, including the Director of the Center of International Earth Science Information Network, who is proposing a similar topic at the United Nations World Data Forum.
    - The WDS Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network is also preparing two proposals: one connected with the SDGs and the other more ECR related. The Network is having a call in the week after the WDS-SC teleconference, and once it is satisfied with the texts, they will circulated to the WDS-SC for comments.

Research Data Management Training for ECRs: INASP–WDS Proposal

- The SC Chair presented the WDS-SC with a summary of her meeting with INASP and the outline of a concept note she was asked to put together. INASP wants to take forward the training, but funding is needed develop

the content and the online course. The concept note is thus aimed at funders identified by INASP, and the WDS-SC was asked for comments on the draft since we want it to be successful when it goes out asking for support: INASP is now working out the costs for the project, and will add this along with any modifications.

- INASP's initial idea is to create an online course aimed at Young Scientists. If it works, then INASP and ICSU-WDS can develop courses targeted at practitioners or people who want to get into the business of data stewardship.

- Because INASP has questions about ICSU-WDS training materials, the Chair has appointed an SC Member to liaise closely with INASP. This 'point person' may contact other SC members/the WDS-IPO for examples of materials that INASP can look at to determine the work needed to turn them into an online course.

Follow-up to the WDS African Workshop

- The EDs of the Southern African Science Service Centres for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management and the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) have officially agreed to explore WDS membership. An agenda item on this issue is included in the upcoming WASCAL Scientific Advisory Committee meeting, with a recommendation expected to the WASCAL Board that data representatives contact ICSU-WDS about starting the accreditation process.

Call for Nominations

a. Research Data Alliance (RDA) Council
- RDA is an important partner of ICSU-WDS, they have many joint WGs and have developed a strong working relationship. ICSU-WDS previously nominated the former SC Chair onto the RDA Council, and the WDS-SC discussed whether it would like to support a candidate on this occasion.
b. Governing Board of the International Science Council
- SC members connected to ICSU Unions and/or National Members were encouraged to work with them to ensure careful thought is put into who is nominated. It is imperative that the new Council has a good Governing Board, and it really should include someone sensitive to data issues.

CoreTrustSeal/WDS Applications Update

- The CoreTrust applications have been approved for ImmPort Repository and the Worldwide Protein Databank. Both of also expected to be accredited as WDS Regular Members by the WDS-SC, and once completed, the WDS-IPO will promote that these two organizations are the first to become CoreTrustSeal-certified WDS Regular Members. That both are in the biomedical field is an even greater positive from a WDS viewpoint.

- Connected with this, ImmPort Repository's WDS Regular membership was approved in principle. However, a link showing compliance with the WDS Data Sharing Principles was not supplied. Once a link is sent, it will be shared with the WDS-SC, such that ImmPort Repository's membership can be formally approved.

- A question was put to the WDS-SC about WDS Regular Members falling out of membership since it is taking a long time for some organizations to complete the periodic review process. The rules on renewal of WDS Regular membership are in the WDS Constitution and Bylaws: if an organization has reached the limit of its certification and has not submitted, it is no longer a Trustworthy Data Repository and loses its Regular Member status as a result. Any such organization will be offered Associate membership to continue communication and to work with it until it can become a Regular Member once again.

- The WDS-IPO will write to all WDS Regular Members undergoing periodic review to ask them if there is a problem with their renewal and to offer help. Depending on the response, each Member will be reminded that there is a 5-year statutory period, and they are strongly encouraged to complete their certification within the next two months; otherwise, their status will be changed to Associate Member.

Any Other Business

- The WDS-SC was positive that ICSU-WDS should have a WG on the topic of Non-standard Research Outputs. Several SC members have agreed to be the core of the WG, and the WDS-IPO will set up a teleconference to discuss the WG's remit.

- The International Network for Government Science Advice of the World Science Forum has recently released a Manifesto that, although emphasizes the importance of data, is not strong when it comes to data stewardship. More on data must be ideally be included from an ICSU-WDS perspective, and the SC Chair asked the WDS-SC to read the Manifesto—ICSU-WDS will be asked to endorse it—and for anyone willing to comment on behalf of ICSU-WDS to do so by the requested deadline.