World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2018–2021

Teleconference #1

Teleconference #1 was held on Monday, 09 July 2018 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action Items

• A first draft of the proposal to the European Geosciences Union (EGU) for a WDS training workshop was created. The idea is to link the WDS training with the 21st WDS-SC Meeting in Paris. Potential venues will be checked, since it is good to clearly state a date and place, even if these change.

• The EGU proposal will be shared such that the WDS-SC can use it as inspiration when thinking about opportunities for funding the INASP–WDS proposal and for other independent training workshops.

• The Brazilian Academy of Sciences has been engaged in other activities, and has asked for more time to move forward the creation of a Working Group (WG) that will take steps on initiatives related to the WDS Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop.

• The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) shared the latest version of the Maturity Document with SC members for feedback. There is also a need to discuss with WDS Members about issues in harvesting their (meta)data catalogues.

• The WDS-IPO put in a proposal on behalf of the Non-standard Outputs WG for a Birds of a Feather session at the 12th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance (RDA). RDA has received a very large number of proposals for sessions, and so it is not clear if the WDS one will be accepted.

• The final version of the Enabling FAIR Commitment statement will be released at the Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) Summer Meeting. After that, it will be ready for endorsement.

Report back from the International Science Council (ISC) inaugural General Assembly (GA)

• The SC Chair gave the WDS-SC a brief report on the main points of interest from the inaugural ISC GA.

• A number of additional areas were brought up that were missing from the ISC agenda. Data is important for all of them, and thus WDS can contribute, but the major foci of ISC will not be clear until after the Governing Board has met and puts out material for consideration. WDS will make sure to respond rapidly about its contribution, and before any of the programmes are adopted.

• WDS contributed to the ICSU survey of the Scientific Union on data. Initial feedback appears to suggest that the reason behind the survey was not well understood.

• Some other points coming out of side discussions at ISC were:
  (a) What WDS is doing, or can do, to support organizations that have no accredited status or funding to maintain their data service. There is an issue that many scientists are running data services without funding or certification, and when they stop, the whole community is left without an important service. Where WDS could help is to translate services not supported into certified repositories/services by providing a framework whereby organizations become certified/recognized/WDS Members, which at least ensures they have a continuity plan.
  A manuscript will be circulated to WDS-SC since it addresses many of the issues raised. There are thousands of databases created within a research paradigm that is not going to sustain them.

  (b) WDS has been invited to participate in a side event at the Conference of the Parties on biological data management being planned by the International Union of Biological Sciences .

  (c) Working with the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) on a proposal for a WG on practical data guidelines. IAP’s currently has a WG that is looking at the National Academies’ role in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It came out in the WG’s report that there is not a good understanding of what data there should be for the SDGs, where they should be archived, and who is responsible for them. The idea of the WG is for WDS to work with IAP and put together a protocol about how to handle data that are relevant to the SDGs—a practical guide for what people should be doing rather than a set of high-level comments on the importance of data. The notion of a new, joint WG will be raised at the IAP Meeting in September in Bern, and before then, a concept note must be developed saying what the WG will actually produce.

  (d) WDS asked the Scientific Unions and National Academies to put forward their Early Career Researchers (ECRs) for the WDS Data Stewardship Award. It was commented that the nature of the Award should be
made clearer: representatives from some organizations did not nominate as they thought the award was about the science of data rather than data management/production. The ECR Network Co-chairs will write to the non-successful Award nominees to promote the Network.

(e) The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research is in the process of setting up the International Decade of the Ocean, and have requested WDS liaise with them about the data needs for that endeavour.

(f) The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) also requested that WDS liaise with them about data issues (see below).

International Data Week (IDW) 2018, WDS Members Forum, + 19th WDS-SC Meeting

- The review process is now underway for SciDataCon abstracts. Over 450 abstracts were received in total. Most of the WDS sessions have received a good number of abstracts and should therefore be approved as viable.
- The online registration system for IDW is expected to be available in the coming weeks.
- Accommodation has been found for the 19th WDS-SC Meeting. This has been challenging as a large event is being held in Cape Town at the same time as the WDS-SC Meeting.
- Organizing the WDS Members’ Forum/Data Repositories Day 2018 is a little behind schedule. A ‘save the date’ was sent to all Members, but they have not received formal invitations or more information about the meeting. The main question is whether the meeting will have a similar format as previously, or will be something very different, and the WDS-SC gave the IPO its thoughts on what the meeting might include.
- The feedback was highly positive for the 2016 Members’ Forum: people enjoy it and were pleased with the interactions; there was a strong feeling of community. In particular, the oral and poster presentations and discussions were deemed very good/helpful since all sessions had a focus. Oral and poster presentations were concerned with best practices—interesting successes, challenges, lesson learnt, and opportunities for collaboration—while the plenary discussion was around the sustainability of data repositories.
- The agenda will be put together and contributions from Members will be solicited.

IRDR Proposed Activities and Level of WDS Collaboration and Involvement

- WDS was approached earlier this year about having a more direct liaison with the IRDR programme. Specifically, WDS is asked to
  i. Endorse the programme in the same way that many other international bodies do, which is then highlighted in, for example, their newsletter.
  ii. Write an article for their newsletter/blog on the importance of data for disaster risk assessment and management.
  iii. Identify WDS Members/certified repositories in a position to assist with their data management issues. IRDR would like WDS to poll its membership on whether they have holdings relevant to the programme, and whether they are ready to accept data relevant to the programme.
- The items for engagement will be shared with a member of the IRDR Science Committee for comment and then re-examined by the WDS-SC.

INASP–WDS Research Data Management (RDM) Training Proposal

- The services have been enlisted of two data management professionals who work closely with ESIP and have been involved in the development of online training materials and resources. They are very aware of what the needs are and are expected to understand the needs of all domains.
- The two enlisted people have been asked to highlight any gaps in the WDS-SC Opinion Piece on what ECRs should know about RDM. They identified a few areas where additional material could be developed. Their idea is to link the data lifecycle to Data Management Planning in order to take a fairly broad approach. They also believe that having real projects, whereby students bring their own data, would produce the greatest value.

CoreTrustSeal Certification and WDS Membership Update

- A large number of organizations are in the CoreTrustSeal certification process, with many new applicants coming in directly through the new CoreTrustSeal online tool. Any organization that is not a WDS Member is contacted after being certified and encouraged to go through the WDS membership accreditation. The first to come via this route is the Australian Data Archive, whose application for WDS Regular Member was approved by the WDS-SC.
- Several WDS Members have now been recertified as part of their periodic reviews, and more will finish soon.