World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #7

Teleconference #7 was held on Thursday, 19 May 2016 at 13:00 UTC

Summary:
Review of Action items
- The Call for Nominations for the 2016 WDS Data Stewardship Award has been extended until 30 May. SC members were asked to encourage nominations within their networks before the deadline.
- The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) has reached out to all of the ICSU Scientific Unions to seek nominations for the Award, and has received information that some are planning to nominate candidates.
- The final panel discussion at the International Data Forum (IDF) will be composed of early career researchers (ECRs), and it is hoped that at least one Data Stewardship Awardee will be included on the panel.
- Representatives of WDS, ICSU, and the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) met about the Data Ecology Document. Although the analysis will more closely align CODATA and WDS, there are concerns that it is a large undertaking, and the target audience must be agreed upon. More discussions will take place on how to move forward, and the WDS-SC will revisit its scoping to gain a clear vision of what it wishes to achieve.
- WDS is discussing with ICSU about its involvement in the Sustainable Development Goals process. The target is a side-event on 6–7 June, but details are not yet available to determine WDS participation. In the longer term, the WDS-SC will generate a well-defined strategy on this.
- ICSU-WDS will follow a similar timeline to the Data Seal of Approval for phasing out its current Catalogue of Criteria and beginning to use the Common Requirements for new applications.
- ICSU-WDS has initiated contact with the World Climate Research Programme and is having interactions with the World Meteorology Organization, both of which should lead to stronger ties on the topic of climate data.

WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO)
- There are certain system components ICSU-WDS wants to establish, and contributions it wants to make to Global Research Data Infrastructures (GRDI), requiring longer term funding. Moreover, the rotation of SC members is not always productive from the perspectives of institutional knowledge and engagement with other GRDI stakeholders. With these considerations in mind, a concept note has been written for establishing a WDS-ITO.
- The WDS-SC will review the concept note and supply feedback by its next teleconference to obtain consensus on the functions and governance of the WDS-ITO, which will then be expanded on in appendices. The WDS-IPO will use its valuable experience to guide development of the appendices.
- The Belmont Forum's e-Infrastructure and Data Management activity will hold a community engagement workshop in early September, and ICSU-WDS will be ready to provide consolidated input there. Before this, the concept note will be taken to ICSU to gain its endorsement and to check its preferred channel for distributing the hosting invitation.
- The WDS-SC will look at how its proposed landscape mapping exercise interfaces with what is being proposed in the concept note. The two are related in that the landscape review will help understand the independently funded entities (and so on) that can fulfil needed functions and also highlight any gaps.

Training School/Workshop in China
- ICSU-WDS has talked with two communities in China about the possibility of holding a WDS training school/workshop: The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation, and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).
- The next TWAS training school will probably take place in November 2016. The suggestion is that ICSU-WDS finds 2–3 experts for an independent, two-day session in the school on a data topic directed at ECRs from around the world, with TWAS supporting the cost.
- MOST has proposed that the opportunity should also be used for ICSU-WDS to give training to high-level experts in China; introducing new technologies and new opportunities. This would hopefully be attached to the school such that the experts could be asked to stay for another two days.
- The WDS-SC needs to decide on a training curriculum and who would give it. The high-level training might be used to highlight the importance of certification. The WDS-IPO already has a lot of material that could be utilized, and a document will be circulated to the WDS-SC on this and the general areas that ICSU-WDS might want to cover.

Report from ICSU Scientific Unions' Meeting & ICSU Grant
- The WDS Executive Director gave a well-received presentation on WDS at the Unions' Meeting as part of a session on ICSU programmes, specifically addressing the relationship between ICSU-WDS and the Unions.
- The focus of the 2016 ICSU Grants Programme is on science education, outreach, and public engagement. At least two ICSU Scientific Unions must lead each proposal, and priority is given to proposals where ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies and Regional Offices are engaged. Hence, there is a compelling case for ICSU-WDS to be part of a proposal, and the WDS-SC was asked to put forward ideas to start building a strong application.
- Successful bids in the past have typically gone across Union clusters, which means one must find a broad-based theme/programme and show how the proposal will support that. ICSU-WDS needs to position itself to link activities across the Unions, and then think about cross-cutting training and education within one of the themes.
- The Chair gave the WDS-SC time to reflect on this, and it will brainstorm about themes at its next Teleconference.

WDS Working Groups (WGs)
a. Knowledge Network (KN) Charter
    - The aim is to confirm the WG's Terms of Reference, and be in a position to kick-off its meetings, by the end of May. The priority for the WDS-SC is thus to send feedback on the Charter and to make suggestions for WG members. The Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Humanities are covered by current participants, but there are disciplines for which the WG has little knowledge and should be focussed on to canvas membership.
    - The South African Environmental Observation Network has made funding available to take forward the KN implementation. It is now appointing a service provider to assist with initial establishment of infrastructure.
b. Publishing Data Services: Endorsement and Follow Up
    - One of the Co-chairs of the joint Research Data Alliance–WDS Publishing Data Services WG joined the call. The WG has delivered its outputs, and a summary of its recommendations was presented to the WDS-SC:
        i. A technical, operational prototype—the Data–Literature Interlinking Service—to demonstrate how a universal, open system might work and assist in meaningful conversations about sustainability.
        ii. A set guidelines about how the WG envisions future infrastructure for article–data linking; a multi-hub model, coined 'Scholix' (www.scholix.org). The WG is already working alongside a number of existing service providers to set up an interoperability framework for exchanging/sharing and aggregating links.
    - The hope of the WG is that the final version of the recommendations is officially endorsed by ICSU-WDS such that they can be communicated at the WDS Members' Forum: the goal is to encourage WDS Members to adopt some of the recommendations in their practices.
    - The Chair asked the WDS-SC to look through the recommendations, with feedback and potential endorsement of them placed on the agenda of the next Teleconference. The outcomes will then be transmitted to WDS Members and hopefully lead to an adoption phase.

IDW and SciDataCon 2016 Update
- Good progress has been made on the programme for the IDF. However, several confirmations are still being awaited from Keynote Speakers. Two of the planned panel discussions now have their full complements of speakers, as well as moderators.
- Although the Organizing Committee is working very hard on gaining sponsorship, it has yet to meet the target set for this. It is not that far away and will prioritize this at its next call.
- The deadline for abstract submissions for papers and posters at SciDataCon 2016 has been extended to 30 May. SC members were requested to submit abstracts by this deadline and to promote the call within their networks.

WDS Members
a. Agenda for WDS Members' Forum
    - The Members' Forum Agenda has been redrafted, taking into account the discussions at WDS-SC#14. SC members were asked to look at the draft Agenda and inform the WDS-IPO if they have feedback or suggestions for general discussion topics. A small subgroup of the WDS-SC will discuss poster themes.
b. Membership Applications Update
    - The WDS-IPO has not received a response from the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service about the Expression of Interest from EOST Loading Service. It will try a different route to establish contact.
    - The WDS-SC approved the WDS Network Member application of the Natural Environment Research Council – Environmental Data Centres, subject to some extra details being added for clarification.