

06 June 2012 Databank WG Conference Call Summary Notes

1200 - 1320 UTC

Members In Attendance

Jay Lawrimore (NOAA NCDC, USA, Chair)

David Lister (Climatic Research Unit, East Anglia, UK)

Matt Menne (NOAA/NCDC, USA)

Colin Morice (UK Met Office)

Jared Rennie (NOAA NCDC, USA)

Steve Worley (National Center for Atmospheric Research, USA)

Peter Thorne (CICS-NC, USA, Chair, Surface Temperatures Initiative Steering Committee, ex officio)

Agenda

- I. Introduction of new member to Databank Working Group (Kenji Kamiguchi, JMA)
- II. Review action items from 15 Feb 2012 conference call (Lawrimore).
- III. Update on activities of the Int'l Surface Temp Initiative Steering Committee (Thorne)
- IV. Discussion of Stage 3 Merge process (Rennie, Gleason). Refer to information and graphics on the wiki under the Merge Program heading at http://editthis.info/intl_surface_temp_initiative/Main_Page and a pdf describing some merge updates at ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/globaldatabank/documents/merge_update_20120606.pdf. (Jared will be adding additional information on Tuesday.)
- V. Discuss plan for releasing version 1 of Databank in August.
- VI. Crowd sourcing task team update (Thorne)
- VII. Update on data collection activities at the Regional level (All)
- VIII. Other issues

Action Items From 15 February 2012 conference call.

DL to continue to work with BADC to identify new source data.

DL has worked with BADC on data. Need to identify what we would like. Very large archive.

BADC will be requested to share it all.

CM: All UK stations, possibly sub-hourly plus metadata.

Prioritize temperature.

DL: May be restrictions that need to be considered

ACTION: DL to determine if all data from BADC can be shared.

JC will send to Jared Rennie and Jay Lawrimore (32 stations with at least 4 years of data).

Uganda data were received from John Christy

JL to follow up with WG members and report back to group on how to handle situations where a data provider submits raw data and data that was merged or processed using expert judgement.

Decision is to retain the raw observations and the processed/bias adjusted data as Stage 1 data. Only the processed data will be carried into Stage 2 and subsequently merged. If anyone desires the original raw observations they will be available in Stage 1. The Ugandan data from JC is the first such data to go through this process.

JR will double check to ensure new stations within the ECA source are being pulled through when they are added – not just pulling in existing stations.

ECA data new station sources are being pulled in as added to ECA

JL to send completed letter to Brazil INMET.

JL sent letter to Brazil. No response as yet.

MRu will continue discussions with Agricultural national research institute to acquire daily data.

Matilde provided databank additional Argentinian data.

JL to complete a letter of request in support of MRe efforts.

JL sent text for letter to Madeline. Still working to finalize.

SW to continue efforts to obtain other assets including Antarctic stations.

Steve Worley attained additional data from Greenland.

JR to continue incorporating new stations into Databank as they are acquired.

New stations have been implemented in the databank.

III. Update on activities of the Int'l Surface Temp Initiative Steering Committee (Thorne)

Peter and Matt attended ITS9 in March. Discussions with metrologists, presentations and posters on the ISTI and Databank. There was interest accrued in the initiative and contributions may follow.

There are at least two totally new dataset efforts in the works by independent groups. One is about to be finalized.

A visit to NCDC by Kate Willett afforded an opportunity to push forwards with the benchmarking effort. This will get going in earnest when we get the first databank release.

Reasonably hopeful that we can get several dataset estimates hanging off the databank in relatively short order (a few months).

IV. Discussion of Stage 3 Merge process. (Rennie)

Jared provided an overview of Stage 3 merge process. Additional information available on the wiki under the Merge Program heading at http://editthis.info/intl_surface_temp_initiative/Main_Page and a pdf will be posted online with these minutes.

CM: How much of apparent increase in coverage is down to fixed ocean obs?

JL: Unlikely a significant contribution.

CM: Low variance in station counts for deck reorganization seems remarkably small. Suggests the sample is small.

PT: May make more of a difference to long records stations. May be a difference for the histogram of station lengths rather than number of stations.

CM: More on the ensembles and their analysis would help.

DL: This is a big increase over GHNmv3 data holdings.

JL: This is real. GHCN-D and new sources.

CM: Can you also show the number that have been withheld?

PT: Need to stratify why withheld and should plot the reason code frequency.

PT: Would like to get views from non-NCDC WG members on other ensemble solutions.

CM: Definitely need a best solution of your databank but an ensemble might be useful. Ensemble should encompass different 'experts' a priori rather than be random. Deck sorting and also critical values. Justify the reasons for each ensemble member and justify your best guess.

ACTION: CM and DL to provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.

ACTION: JL to request that other WG members provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.

ACTION: JR and JL to provide volunteers a short summary of what is requested regarding source prioritization and parameters for metadata and data comparisons.

PT: Looking for WG members to provide 1-2 sides with a rationale for why they chose what they did. Will be SI in a paper and guarantee co-authorship.

V. Discuss plan for releasing version 1 of Databank in August.

Will likely push back due to need to work through NCDC processes associated with internal reviews, archive and security processes.

Press release? What interest would there be from international partners? Should the release of version 1 of the Databank be accompanied by a bias corrected version of the Databank and global surface temperature trends?

CM: Will be interest in the last 15 years databank being warmer than GHCNv3. Might be an issue if you put this out w/ the databank.

JL: Has been discussion here and not yet a consensus on which approach is best.

CM: Might be a spoiler?

Others will almost certainly produce a global average and trends.

PT: Tricky issue. Vexed.

MM: Will be a bigger burden if we decide to include.

ACTION: JL to discuss issue of releasing bias corrected global temperature trends with release of Databank version 1 with leadership at NCDC and WG.

VI. Crowdsourcing task team update (Thorne)

Beginning in late March, NCDC initiated an effort to inventory and image the 1500+ boxes of forms in their basement. They have completed inventorying boxes for Africa and S. America. Currently working on Asia. Much slower process to image all forms, but as of 4 June have imaged the contents of 23 boxes, 37,466 images for the following countries.

Countries (present-day in parenthesis where applicable):

AFRICA: Angola, Belgian Congo (Congo DR), Burundi, French Equatorial Africa (Chad, Central African Rep., Cameroon, Gabon, Congo), French Somaliland (Djibouti), Italian Somaliland (Somalia), Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), South Africa (South Africa, Namibia), Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Tanganyika (Tanzania), Tanzania, Zanzibar (Tanzania), Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles

SOUTH AMERICA: French Guiana, Guyana

NORTH AMERICA: French Caribbean (Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Barths)

EUROPE: Spain

Requesting permission from the Department of Commerce to bring in volunteers from the community to help inventory and image. Awaiting decision.

PT sent a message out to the international community informing them of this effort and providing the list of boxes inventoried – and asking if there was special interest in a particular

country or countries that they could be moved to the top of the list for imaging. Some responses and commitments to key if the images can be provided.

VII. Update on new data collection activities at the Regional level

From Vyacheslav Razuvaev: We have some new results in creation of baseline data sets over the Russian territory. Two days ago we have placed on our web <http://www.meteo.ru> new 3-hourly meteorological data set with 495 stations for the period 1966-2010 (now only in Russian, English version will be prepared on the next week). It is, as usual, available free of charge. This data set may be considered as our input in Global Data Set. Information about possible mistakes and all other comments will be greatly appreciated.

ACTION: VR to provide Russian baseline data in English version. JR to add to databank.

VIII. Other

Still intend to produce two journal articles, one high level (all databank WG members as authors), one technical details on the merge process (those who contributed to the development).

JR: Some of the plots will be used in the paper. Will start drafting shortly.

Next call to be scheduled as we get closer to release of the first version of the Databank.

ACTIONS resulting from 6 Jun 2012 call

1. DL to determine if all data from BADC can be shared.
2. CM and DL to provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.
3. JL to request that other WG members provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.
4. JR and JL to provide volunteers a short summary of what is requested regarding source prioritization and parameters for metadata and data comparisons.
5. JL to discuss issue of releasing bias corrected global temperature trends with release of Databank version 1 with leadership at NCDC and WG.
6. VR to provide Russian baseline data in English version. JR to add to databank.