

Data rescue task team call 6/8/11

Expected on the call: Peter Thorne (PT), Rob Allan (RA), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Stefan Bronniman (SB), Rod Hutchinson (RH), Tom Ross for Rick Crouthamel (TR), HermmmanMachel (HM), William Angel (WA)

Apologies in advance: JuergLuterbacher, Manola Brunet, RickCrouthamel

Tentative: Masumi Zaiki (did not make call)

Minutes from our last call are at http://www.surface temperatures.org/databank/data-rescue-task-team/Data_rescue_task_team_meeting_notes41111.pdf?attredirects=0

Agenda

0. Update on previous actions (All)

Actions were:

i. PT to ascertain google intentions regarding participation.

PT did this and was told they were interested but a decision was some weeks away.

ii. To augment with known activities the excel spreadsheet that Rob Allan owns and is now hosted at BADC.

Juerg (in advance of call): we are working on a listing of the stations that we have already digitized and will be digitized in the next months. Has sent the details to Rob Allan and myself. Additionally: "in our digit. efforts we are also digitize cloudiness, rel hum, wind etc. So apart from the 1. priority parameters we might provide additional information for stations in Europe, western Asia"

Manola: Info on my known DARE activities. At least, two European projects, EURO4M and ERA-CLIM are making advances in recovering/digitising/developing climate timeseries. EURO4M is focused on north Africa and Middle East countries, with details having been provided in table format to Rob. ERA-CLIM is starting and involveMeteo-France (Sylvie Jourdain), Rob and Juerg and at present they are in the inventorying stage. My attendance to the 16th WMO Congress also gave me insights on what is going on DARE at the national scale (NMHS). In here is particularly worth to mention Algerian DARE efforts, since they have got digitised a bunch of daily temp and precip records for the longest stations in this country. For sure, others NMHS will have similar programmes or less ambitious ones, but DARE projects are being carried out at the national level. Problem is to figure out a plan to get involved contributors at this scale.

iii. IEDRO video on data rescue to be sent to me to be hosted from surfacetemperatures.org

I (PT) have a DVD copy and a task pending on me is to ascertain how IEDRO wish to host the online presence of this. I could host a copy but suspect they want one version on the web.

Tom will follow up.

ACTION: Tom Ross / Rick Crouthamel to advise on IEDRO preferred solution to posting this video to the web.

iv. All to let Jay and PT know of any digital archives we can possibly pursue for databank version 1.

RA provided info on ISPD.

1. Databank progress update (Jay)

We have received additional source data. Source data for Europe, East Africa, Japan, colonial era archives. 8 sources thus far for monthly. 5 or 6 new sources for daily - will feed through eventually to monthly. A significant chunk of Brazilian data is in process. Moving along. World data centre B mirror is in process - daily at first. Monthly and routine refresh in action. Data submission guidance and terms of reference recently circulated.

RA: Is this only temperature?

JL: Its a mix. We only pull through T to stage 2 but we are interested in all data for stage 1 and encourage full record submission. Pull through of other elements is the aim but resource dependent and we have to start somewhere.

RH: What sort of date periods? In Pacific have data from NOAA over GTS. Is there earlier?

JL: Its mainly older data. Mix of sources and regions and periods. ASCII flatfile only at this stage.

2. Report on WMO congress activities (Peter / Rick)

Draft congress text for surface temperatures initiative as a whole: Congress recognized the importance of addressing new and evolving requirements for climate data for improved climate monitoring products and services that would support the analysis and assessment of climate extremes, climate change adaptation at regional and national levels, issuing early warnings and perform climate watches. It agreed that there is a need to assess gaps, opportunities and the new and evolving requirements for climate data aspects. Congress noted the progress of the Surface Temperature Initiative, a cross-disciplinary initiative to create a comprehensive global databank of land surface temperature. Congress expressed satisfaction that the Initiative had been endorsed by the WCRP, CCI and GCOS and requested that the progress on the Initiative be formally reported to WMO through CCI. Congress encouraged Members to contribute to the initiative primarily through the sharing of data and noted that data.submission@surfacetemperatures.org could be used to initiate discussions to this end. Congress adopted Resolution 3.5/1 (Cg-XVI) on climate data requirements.

The resolution itself does not mention the initiative explicitly but has many of the required general statements.

Manola: The WMO Congress. As you'll know it was approved a pink doc of the WCP (Doc 3.5) where is appreciated MEDARE and ACRE efforts on DARE. My attendance to the Congress allowed me to contact relevant PRs over north African countries (except Libya, of course) for proposing them an exchange exercise between the data we are recovering/developing under the umbrella of MEDARE/EURO4M efforts and their recent digital parts for our targeted records over these areas. It seems to me they are good perspectives that the proposed exchange will come true. However, I could notice reluctance to give free access to their data to other projects or initiatives and much less free access to the public. So, at present, I'm unsure if the recent parts of the long temp/precip/SLP daily/hourly series we want to develop will be able to be shared or not with other projects different to MEDARE (some weren't reluctant even allowing to be use their data within EURO4M!!), since they were proposing me to word clear restrictions on accessing to the exchanged data !! So, climate data access is still the big issue among NMHS that we should face at some point.

RH: Pacific Climate Change Project (PCCSP) has data sharing working with 15 countries. This required an MOU so that data is not distributed to 3rd parties. Situation is quite political and not necessarily driven by NMHSs; possibly ministers.

JL: What encouragement?

RH: All about engendering input and capacity building. Trying to get message across that derived science is more valuable than data. MoU precludes third party sharing.

RA: WMO congress - DVD went to almost all delegates and shown in lobby.

3. Progress on crowdsourcing (Peter / Jay)

PT: SB what is the status with the land side bug with datarescueathome?

SB: Now identified the issue and getting fixed.

PT: Additional stations?

SB: yes. Need permission to distribute to public. Expeditions, things that don't fall under an authority in the first instance.

PT: We have a bid for funds in to move forwards on NCDC crowdsourcing. There is no indication presently whether this will be successful.

JL: Are there any medium to large scale activities that might be giving new data?

RH: Australian effort has an extension for 18 months from July 1. There is digitizing/imaging funds of AUD\$ 400K, with AUD\$100K tied to East Timor data. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Darwin office has some original observations from East Timor which I hope to digitise this calendar year. Remaining funds could be used to picking data from partner countries in SWPacific region. Target suggestions most welcome.

RA: French Pacific data bid is successful - ACRE Pacific. Could be some East Timor redundancy with Portugal. Possible SE Asia bid also. Note by RH after meeting; I have contact in Portugal which is same as Stefans.

RA: Need to ensure against redundancy

RA: Mauritius data may be developed.

TR: Weather wizards at IEDRO may key some data in for Africa. Upper air only

JL: What about surface?

TR: Issue is IPR.

TR: ACMAD microfiche still an issue.

SB: Can this info pull through to Rob's excel file?

RH: Recall a Niger effort?

TR: Again it was upper-air.

RH: ACMAD microfiche? I was under an impression there is funding to undertake DARE work. I will research it.

RA: Hope to at a minimum get onto a stable medium at least with IEDROt.

TR: RC has a meeting on this in October.

RA: Mauritian data may be crowdsourced through an alternative approach to zooniverse.

4. Updates to website (Peter)

Have updated this somewhat, please let me know what you think. Idea is that this becomes some sort of useful resource including appropriate links to organizations and projects.

RH: found it quite good

ACTION: ALL to provide suggestions on improvements to the data rescue component of the www.surfacetemperatures.org domain.

5. Ensuring timely pull through of rescued data to the databank discussion (Jay / Peter)

[Data submission guidance draft circulated by email in advance]

JL: Documentation previously circulated gives a brief outline. Asks for submission of stage 1 data. Not asking for reformat - introduction of errors. Ancillary information as well. Requires description of format and contents and where the source is. Ensures provenance. Requires station information metadata - minimum location info.

Manola: Both the data submission guidance that Jay sent and action ii. of our Agenda made me to think on the convenience to make things as easier as possible to our data and metadata providers, since we can't expect to get much success if we ask to our contributors for making time consuming tasks. I think the guidance note should pick only the essential requirements to submit the data provided in the easier way we can. The same can be say for fulfilling with metadata Rob's file. Particularly the 2nd one is very time consuming if the metadata providers has to introduce all the info on stations, identifiers, variables, records, time periods, time resolution, etc. into the Rob's excel file. I think we should ensure that someone within our project ensure and manage the metadata provided in different formats (e.g. tables with all the details or in whatever other way the metadata provider use) is correctly introduced in the spreadsheet. And this point to the need of getting funded the project for ensuring people managing both aspects a correct documentation of the data and the metadata.

JL: Good point about ease of use but balance against the provenance issues.

SB: Will send you a file later on which might help from era-clim project. e.g. station under multiple identifiers, required and optional fields.

JL: Are we asking too much? Too little?

RH: Real lack of metadata for many stations in pacific region, but is really important. PCCSP has found that using RH Test many homogeneity changepoints causation cannot be found in metadata

PT: Timeliness?

RA: ISPD has an annual deadline

PT: Successful?

RA: Still needs effort to chase people.

JL: We need to know when data are digitized. Then to pull it through. Can't be entirely a pull process though. Will need at a minimum alerting as to availability. Here the task team can help.

6. AOB

Agreed to next call early September.

ACTION: PT to schedule next call for early September.