

ISTI steering committee call July 10th 2013

8am EDT, 12Z, 13 BST, 14 CEST etc.

Present on call: Peter Thorne, Blair Trewin, Kate Willett, Xiaolan Wang, Albert Mhanda, Akiyo Yatagai, Jay Lawrimore

Apologies in advance: Richard Chandler

Note that next call is scheduled for October 22nd at 12Z

Summary of new actions

ACTION: All to provide any final comments on the IP redraft contents by Monday 15th July.

ACTION: Kate to finalize report on recent mini-workshop at NCDC and post on the blog.

ACTION: KW set up a call with Blair to chat about benchmarking further - realistic worlds, especially input on tropical stations.

ACTION: KW to link up African data possibilities from Mozambique workshop if possible through Rob Allan, PT to highlight possibilities to Chris Merchant.

ACTION: PT will email Albert Mhanda and Chris Merchant to try to make links on African data and participants for Earthtemp meeting.

ACTION: BT to send some ideas of participants to Chris Merchant from his recent WMO African meeting he attended.

ACTION: JL to report back on what may be possible regarding improving the precision of the station coordinates within the merged holding at the next call.

ACTION: PT will ask Tom if any words could / should be added to the IP on data sharing and WMO.

ACTION: KW to chat to Rob Allan about ACRE text in IP

1. Review of actions from prior steering committee call

ACTION: Peter to chase Andrea about sharing meteomet timeseries
This is now shared

ACTION: PT will send an email soliciting comments by Friday then finalize the annual report.
Annual report was finalized and posted.

ACTION: PT, JL and KW to draft a new Implementation Plan by end of May
Done. Discussion in section 5 will yield final edits and hopefully can be signed off on before 26th.

ACTION: PT and JL to send updated versions of generic and databank posters to BT.
Done.

2. Review of actions from prior all hands call

Resulting major action items arising:

ACTION: Everyone to provide track change comments on the IP document draft to PT by 14th June.
Refresh will also inter-alia take into account the outcomes of this call and any additional suggestions received in the interim.
Some comments received and included in redraft.

Resulting minor action items arising:

ACTION: PT to chase GCOS secretariat for an update on the letter requested to be sent to PRs and GCOS focal points at AOPC
Done. Ascertaining what is required by secretariat.

ACTION: PT and AM to add meteomet text to IP refresh with some output that is ISTI relevant.
Done.

ACTION: KW to contact Manola and Andrea about reporting to the Benchmark WG on this Type B uncertainty and intercomparison knowledge during a weekly teleconference.
Done - talk from Enric Aguilar instead of Manola and still need to arrange a date for Andrea to join the call.

ACTION: Databank Working Group to add some realistic items into IP on metadata rescue and preparation.
Done

ACTION: PT to follow up with GCOS secretariat regarding request to garner metadata for GSN and RBCN network stations and include JL.
Done as part of braoder email. Follow up still required.

ACTION: SB to ensure ERA-CLIM phase 1 data are submitted to databank.
Pending

ACTION: Steering committee, databank working group and data rescue task team to organize calls before end of July
All three calls will occur in week of July 8th.

3. Report on outcomes of NCDC workshop on benchmarking July 1st-3rd - Kate

This meeting was hosted by Matt Menne and chaired by Kate Willett. Over three days all aspects of the benchmarking exercise were discussed in some detail. A blogpost summarizing many of the outcomes is to be published soon. The key requirements were clarified.

More generally the benchmarking group has been meeting frequently to begin to push the benchmarking exercise forwards. Minutes of these meetings are available at <http://www.surfacetemperatures.org/benchmarking-and-assessment-working-group>. The group is confident that they will meet the timeline envisaged in the redrafted IP.

The meeting covered three days of 9-5 (plus evening pub) discussion and decision making for the three areas of benchmarking (Team Creation, Team Corruption and Team Validation) with daily teleconferences to report back and gain input from other members.

Key elements:

- ISTI glossary

Be clear what we mean - particularly when cross-disciplinary collaborations are involved. Make sure we understand each other.

- who do we expect to take part? - encourage global and regional

Down to all ISTI participants to encourage new groups to be involved.

- blindness now limited to specifics of where and what is applied to each station, descriptions of worlds should be public but no-one will know which world is which.

- ironing out issues with Team Creation methodology and statistics/climate miscommunications

- deciding on appropriate distributions to draw the location, size and duration of changepoints for Team Corruption, allowing changepoints close together and close to period of record ends but not during missing data periods.

- focus on Level 1 (comparison of trends, climatology, variance between homogenised and clean worlds) and then level 2 (hit/miss/false alarm for locating changepoints) for Team Validation. Assessment on station and region level and will deal with pre-gridded data if we have to.

New members to the group:

Thordis Thorrarrinsdottir (Norwegian Computing Centre) - Team Validation

Colin Gallagher (Clemson University) - Team Corruption

Zeke Hausfather (Berkeley) - General

Writing up a short report on the workshop to be sent to NCDC and posted on the ISTI blog shortly.

ACTION: Kate to finalize report on recent mini-workshop at NCDC and post on the blog.

BT: Would like to discuss with Kate more generally.

KW: Input would be valuable.

BT: Make sure sufficiently hard, but not too hard.

ACTION KW: set up a call with Blair to chat about benchmarking further - realistic worlds, especially input on tropical stations.

4. Update on status of databank - Jay

The databank has now undergone a fourth beta version release. This beta version includes CF-compliant netcdf files. The formal databank release is still pending an editorial decision upon the methods paper.

Assuming that decision is positive we will release a first version at that time. Work is ongoing to define both real-time update and delayed mode update processes. At the present time it looks likely that a subset of sources will be appended on a regular basis and then there will be periodic period of record updates. These period of record updates will incorporate any new sources or additional stations from existing stations.

Conference call on 7/9. Actions resulting.

ISTI Implementation review and comment, particularly on Databank section

WG members to identify metadata sources (low hanging fruit)

WG members to investigate holdings of parallel measurements and WG to begin exploring ways of integrating into Databank

PT to follow up on EarthTemp meeting which will have an African focus in 2014 - potential for identifying new sources of data to fill the many gaps on the continent.

KW: Does this link with Rob Allan's ACRE led workshop in Mozambique in September - focus on Indian Ocean (and surrounding countries) data?

PT: Not at this time. I can take an action to highlight this to Chris Merchant.

ACTION: KW to link up African data possibilities from Mozambique workshop if possible through Rob Allan, PT to highlight possibilities to Chris Merchant.

ACTION: PT will email Albert and Chris Merchant to try to make links on African data and participants for Earthtemp meeting.

ACTION: BT to send some ideas of participants to Chris Merchant from his recent WMO African meeting he attended.

WA to advise on potential for identifying new sources of data for Brazil. Many stations currently but many with short records.

JR to follow up with WG once receiving comments on Databank journal article - expected within the month.

JR and others to release version 1 of Stage3 merged dataset following paper acceptance.

BT: If we can work on precision of coordinates that would be useful. Would help things such as land typing and geographical aspect etc.

JL: As resources permit this is a good idea.

ACTION: JL to report back on what may be possible regarding improving the precision of the station coordinates within the merged holding at the next call.

5. Discussion of IP redraft - Peter

What is missing?

PT: Still need input from Earthtemp initiative and ACRE on any collaboration activities that they would like placed as actions and any text that they may want added to the final main text section.

ACTION: KW to chat to Rob Allan about ACRE

Blair: somewhere we should mention data policy/access issues, the limitations they place on ISTI as it currently stands, and the status of WMO "diplomacy" to address these issues - would imagine Tom Peterson (or perhaps Jay) would be best-placed to draft something on this. (There was a WMO meeting last week on the Global Framework for Climate Services, which I assume Tom was at, which may or may not have further discussed this issue, although from previous communications from Tom it seems like any really substantive international action would need to wait until the 2015 Congress).

BT - according to one of the Australian reps there, data policy wasn't discussed at last week's GFCS meeting.

ACTION: PT will ask Tom if any words could / should be added to the IP on data sharing and WMO.

What timelines are unrealistic?

Blair: - there are a lot of action items (especially under Benchmarking) for June/July 2013 - should check that these have been achieved or are close to being achieved (and, if not, amend the dates).

What are next steps?

Propose to give folks a chance to feedback additional comments by next Monday (15th) at which point will redraft and recirculate solely to the WG chairs for sign off and aim to publish later that week.

ACTION: All to make final set of suggested changes to IP text by Monday 15th.

Please check your affiliation is correct in the Annex listing of steering committee members and advise also if you are missing. This is a dated listing that needs updating.

6. Any other Business

Please append any information on activities of which the steering committee should be aware here.

12th International Meeting on Statistical Climatology

Many voices of support from the IMSC conference. Interesting to engage with others in the future: Finn Lindgren, Jaxk Reeves, Doug Nychka? Importance of version control and making any processing (merging/benchmarking) code available were stressed. This is already occurring. There was a query as to why not do 1000 benchmarks? Release of the code in principle would permit others to do this.

KW to feel free to follow up with those who showed interest in ISTI at IMSC, including others as she deems relevant.

Propose next call be scheduled in October. Tentatively October 22nd