

International Surface Temperature Initiative Steering Committee call

3/19/13

8EDT, 12Z

Present on call: Peter Thorne, Xiaolan Wang, Blair Trewin, Akiyo Yatagai, Jay Lawrimore, Michael de Podesta

Apologies in advance: Many people seemed to be caught out by the timezone changes in the NH being non-synchronous.

Collated actions

ACTION: Peter to chase Andrea about sharing meteomet timeseries

ACTION: PT will send an email soliciting comments by Friday then finalize the annual report.

ACTION: PT, JL and KW to draft a new Implementation Plan by end of May

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

Next call 6/4 at 8EDT, 12Z. Do it joint with the working groups, make the focus the IP refresh.

1. Review of actions from previous call

ACTION: Andrea will send Meteomet timeseries by email to Kate and Peter. These are the series that will be used in MeteoMet for possible inclusion of instrumental uncertainties.

Pending. Peter will chase Andrea.

ACTION: Peter to chase Andrea about sharing meteomet timeseries

ACTION: Jared Rennie to host the merge process metadata on ftp and make its availability known through the initiative blog and databank ftp pages.

This has been included in the third beta release

ACTION: Kate to put Jared in contact with appropriate ECMWF people to scope potential to interact the databank with reanalysis feedback files.

Pending

ACTION: Jared Rennie and Xiaolan Wang to follow up on getting the 400 Chinese daily resolution stations' data into the databank [It was clarified that these are homogenized records and that we would therefore prioritize them accordingly]

Approved as of this morning for exchange of raw and homogenized data for 200 global exchange stations plus homogenized data for 200 more regional exchange stations.

ACTION: Kate Willett to engage with benchmarking working group and provide update to steering committee on what is planned and a new timeline to release of the first version of the benchmarks. By no later than end of Jan 2013.

Call occurred. See later for update

ACTION: Peter Thorne to convert the document of potential data product creators provided by SC members into a spreadsheet on googledocs which everyone can access and members of SC / WG to volunteer to approach the relevant individuals to encourage their participation in product generation from the databank and in the benchmarking exercise.

This was done and the link was shared offline.

ACTION: Peter Thorne will liaise with GCOS secretariat and AOPC to ascertain how most appropriately to raise a request for regional national focal points to review the databank release and help us to start to improve the provenance of what we have.

This will be raised in person at a meeting of AOPC in first week in April

NEW ACTION: Peter to follow up with Andrea and Michael on presenting an update at Tempmeko.

A draft abstract is with Michael for his consideration. Abstracts are due next Monday (25th). Michael clarified that he is unlikely to attend but will ensure that a talk is given for us.

NEW ACTION: Peter Thorne to draft initial progress report and circulate for review and comment.

Done. See item #3

2. Updates from working groups

a. Databank WG

The databank WG have signed off on a release and NCDC have also signed off conditional upon acceptance of the methods paper. A brief communication led by Jay Lawrimore appeared in EOS in February. A third beta release is going live in mid-March and will be available prior to the call for consideration. The main innovation for beta 3 is the construction and application of a blacklisting facility which has identified station record / metadata issues and made decisions as to how to enforce their resolution. This has acted to reduce the station count by removing stations with incorrect coordinates or force merge of stations that are truly the same station but which the algorithm was missing. Full details of the latest beta release are available at

http://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/globaldatabank/monthly/stage3/updates_to_beta3.pdf .

b. Benchmarking and Assessment Working Group

Kate had a call in Jan that re-engaged members of the WG and produced an updated timeline yielding a new set of expectations. The plan is to have the benchmarks constructed and released by end of 2013 with papers to follow on. Its dependent upon WG members having sufficient resources and the databank version 1 release occurring no later than late spring / early summer (boreal).

JL: Can she start using beta 3?

PT: She can test code etc. on that release. Benchmarks are going to mirror v1.0 so there is an absolute dependency for final analog construction upon the version 1 databank release occurring.

3. Sign off on annual progress report

Peter circulated a draft prior to the call. Please make specific suggestions or sign off and we will ship to our sponsors with an apology for tardiness (IPCC ate Peter's homework)

BT: Need a day or so to have a closer look.

ACTION: PT will send an email soliciting comments by Friday then finalize the annual report.

4. Discussion of efforts to entrain analyst teams into creating products from databank

Peter shared his link to the converted database in googledocs. Timing-wise we should wait until the databank is out of beta to start seriously pushing this but some initial contacts could be made and shared.

There was discussion about editing - it was clarified that this was the idea. The worst thing would be to bug dataset creators 5 different ways.

5. New Implementation Plan?

There was a general feeling that a new IP would be helpful. We should discuss here the when and how. Idea would be to do as last time. Peter, Jay and Kate will draft something Mid-May and circulate for comment on the next call.

JL: Should we expand the elements that we include in the databank? e.g. snow depth data, other elements? Should this be in the plan?

PT: Yes, from our 'sponsors' there has always been the push to go multi-element in holdings. It makes no sense for example to have a global SLP databank and temperature and precip maintained seperately.

BT: once structure is in place for temperature, expansion to other elements should be easier. Most other elements (esp. precip) are much less well-developed for global datasets than temperature is, even before ISTI.

ACTION: PT, JL and KW to draft a new Implementation Plan by end of May

6. General issues / updates

Peter Thorne will present an update upon the initiative to GCOS at its AOPC meeting. Beyond using this as an opportunity to perhaps shake out data and analyst teams is there anything in addition that SC members wish to see raised?

BT: Greater efforts on data openness. Peter needs to talk to Tom P about appropriateness. [Peter talked afterwards and its going to be covered by the CCI rep]

We will have two posters at EGU. One generic overview poster which will be an iteration on the pre-existing overview poster and be in the Earthtemp led session on surface temperatures and one soliciting analyses of the databank which will be in the homogenization session. I will aim to circulate later this week.

Blair Trewin: One item of possible interest is that WMO are holding a regional workshop on climate monitoring for eastern and southern Africa in South Africa next month (15-18 April), which I will be involved with. This may provide an opportunity to build support for ISTI and related activities; by the look of the databank holdings it looks like no country in that region has supplied data directly, although

obviously some eastern/southern African data is picked up through data sets such as GHCN and GSOD. That said, everything I've heard about Africa suggests that data policy is likely to be an "interesting" issue. **ACTION:** PT and JL to send updated versions of generic and databank posters to BT.

7. AOB

Suggest next call 6/4 at 8EDT, 12Z. Do it joint with the working groups, make the focus the IP refresh.