

Steering committee call 9/7 @8am EDT (12 Z, 13 UK, 14 Europe etc.)

Sent by email as attachments: Dial in numbers, generic powerpoint, generic poster, media engagement

Attendees: Peter Thorne, Kate Willett, Rob Allan, Blair Trewin, Xiaolan Wang, Tom Peterson, Greg Strouse, Jay Lawrimore, Antonio Possolo, Michael de Podesta, Jayashree Revadekar

Apologies in advance: Matilde Rusticucci, Peter Stott, Akiyo Yatagai

(Akiyo noted that she had been tasked with helping monitoring radiation following the tsunami but hoped to find time to re-engage soon, she currently has no funding for temperature work)

1. Review of actions from last call

ACTION: PS/BT to find out when such a WMO Climate Services meeting might be *Blair found out that WMO will be holding an extra session of congress next year and that some renegotiation of resolution 40 may be on the table.*

ACTION: RA and PT with PS to lead paper submission on data rescue, digitization and pull through to be made (possibly by the UK delegation) to a WMO Climate Services meeting if it is to occur.

Action is pending resolution as to how we may go about putting something in to this congress and its viability. We need to talk to an international delegation and ascertain the state of play.

UPDATE 9/6. Following on from last week's data rescue call PT had long discussions with Tom Peterson (chair of CCI) who then went and checked to clarify with folks at WMO. Congress apparently is to reconsider the Annex and not the core resolution. The Commission for Climatology (CCI) has the issue on their forthcoming Executive Council meeting as to how to address this. It is proposed that we hold fire on this pending the outcome of those CCI deliberations and that the default is to provide support to a CCI position to the extent possible rather than to try to start something else. CCI have been requested to keep ourselves and other interested parties informed as this progresses.

TP notes will also be discussed at GCOS Steering Committee. Would not lead to a mandate even if we renegotiate the annex. Team on data rescue for CCI is meeting in West Africa in November.

New ACTION: TP to provide request for short doc from ISTI detailing what we would like and why.

ACTION: PT and subgroup (JL, AP, XW, MdP, PS, REC) to iterate logo design to an agreed version. Then circulate for approval.

Logo agreed and now up.

ACTION: PT to solicit requisite minimum of 4 abstracts for the oral session at ITS9. By 7/15

Done. See subsequent discussion.

ACTION: PS/RA/KW to ascertain what involvement to have at the European Climate Data Management Workshop and if necessary who to go
12th-14th October, Edinburgh, UK

KW: Some members of COST HOME will attend. Have obtained a list of attendees from and agenda - linkages with data rescue, common platform European gridded datasets - EUMETGRID, homogenisation/benchmarking, ECSN - European Climate Support Network. I'm unable to attend. John Prior has said we might be able to include something ISTI on Friday morning - could ask Met Office colleague to present or Olivier Mestre. Could have the three generic posters put up for us.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/conference/ecsn-workshop/agenda>

PT: If Met Office are willing to print the posters and there is poster board space this sounds like the best solution. I believe there are four being prepared for WCRP (generic overview, databank, data rescue and benchmarking). A talk makes sense if someone from the steering committee is going but it sounds like there isn't.

ACTION: MdP to share his presentation

Shared with at least PT if I recall correctly.

ACTION: PT / KW / JL to prepare generic poster, powerpoint etc and distribute before next call.

JL: Databank poster is in draft form. Will send out for review next week.

Generic poster and powerpoint draft circulated with this mail.

KW: Benchmarking poster and talk not yet complete

ACTION: Richard to contact Ian Jolliffe and find out whether posited Significance submission is still planned to go ahead.

Unknown

ACTION: PT to draft a plan for engagement when the BAMS piece appears and circulate to all for comment.

Reappended to this agenda, to be discussed on call.

KW: Email already sent out to workshop participants 19th July 2011

ACTION: REC to take forwards TIES recognition of the initiative.

Unknown

Update subsequent to call: REC has secured ISI / TIES recognition.

ACTION: GS to take forwards BIPM recognition of the initiative.

GS: Response from Michael Kuhne is pending, so still needs to be determined.

ACTION: PT/JL/KW to have a final edit of the Implementation Plan

ACTION: ALL two weeks to comment on next draft and unless objections are raised it will be posted online.

Done. Posted online.

ACTION: KW/PT to approach people from specific regions prior to next call for a short regional presentation.

KW has approached Blair to provide an update on the Australian effort that has just completed.

2. Regional update (Blair)

Australia is currently in the process of finalising a new national temperature data set homogenised at the daily timescale. As part of this process, an international review team was commissioned, and have made a report (although the report is not yet public). The data set is extensively documented and may provide a template for other efforts at the national/international level. The data set is due for release in early 2012.

PT: Plans to implement globally?

BT: Need reasonable density of stations. Quite difficult without complete access to data at the global level. But could be implemented more broadly. Pretty labour intensive could be a drawback.

MdP: Does Australia have an equivalent to the USCRN?

BT: Not really, its just a meteorological network. One outcome of review was additional stations in data critical areas which may be reference type measures or at least managed by climate.

MdP: Don't forget the Australian NMI. Use their expertise.

KW: Did your exercise involve any benchmarking?

BT: Some benchmarking of adjustment methods. Percentile matching methods and RHtestsV3.

JL: This dataset will be available in 2012? Should it be included in the databank?

BT: May be a few stations where we have more than databank

PT: Need to start thinking about how we append the value added data to the databank. Netcdf?

JL: Probably not netcdf.

3. Update on progress / events since last call

a. Databank (Jay)

[Ed: Copy and paste of Jay's submission to recent data rescue task team call]

Data incorporated so far:

Japan (Koji Ishihara)	Daily data for 157 stations.
Europe (KNMI; Albert Klein-Tank):	Daily data for 1177 stations.
ISPD (Int'l Sfc Pressure Databank):	Daily data for 13 stations in
Tunisia&Morocco.	
Pitcairn Island (Peter Fisher)	Daily data for 3 sources of same station

Previous Daily Data Submissions

Spain (Manola Brunet)

US Forts (CDMP)

Vietnam (CDMP)

Mexico (CDMP)

Recent Monthly Data Submissions

East Africa (John Christy)	Monthly data for 112 stations.
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Europe (KNMI; Albert Klein-Tank)	Monthly data for 1551
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stations.

Japan (Koshi Ishihara)	Monthly data for 157 stations.
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Antarctica South Pole (Matthew Lazzara, Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison)	Monthly data for 1 station.
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Previous Monthly Data Submissions

Colonial Era Archive

World Weather Records (Through 2000)

Antarctica (SCAR) (Antarctic Climate Data SCAR READER Project website -- <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/met/READER/>, downloaded on 9 Feb 2011)

Databank mirror site up and running at WDC-B at RIHMI Russia.

A review of data collected as part of ISPD (pressure) effort turned up little new temperature data. Jared Rennie has attempted contacts with some data providers to determine if they have temperature data that could be submitted.

Progress toward identifying new data sources has slowed in the past two months.

Completion of Submission guidance and databank overview letter may be helpful in future contacts.

Aiming to incorporate imaged / hardcopy with zooniverse. But no guaranteed funding presently.

Use of UUIDs for data provenance tracking is being investigated. Not likely to be incorporated into land databank. While helpful to the ocean community, there are questions about its necessity for land data.

Databank poster to be produced in September in advance of the Oct WCRP Open Science Conference.

PT: Are we putting GHCND / underlying sources in?

JL: Yes. We also have a call with Albert Klein Tank for regular updates on ECA data. Haven't talked about routine updates and version control of live data sources. Goal remains to release version 1 in April.

PT: Please note that databank is our responsibility too. We should be advocates for new data sources. Please use the materials available on www.surfacetemperatures.org/databank

b. Benchmarking (Kate)

Last Call 11th August - minutes online

Three task teams set up: Team Creation, Team Corruption and Team Validation to take on the three main aspects of the project

PhD CASE Studentship award supported by Met Office so should hopefully go ahead October 2012.

Robert Lund submitted a funding proposal to NSF

Kate attending COST HOME workshop

Steve Easterbrook presenting poster to be at WCRP Open Science

Robert Lund attending TIES meeting in Hyderabad, India

Victor Venema attending EMS 2011

Annual progress report now due

c. ISI meeting Dublin (Richard)

KW: Grapevine people were surprisingly interested.

Post call update from Richard: Presentation to ISI congress was very well received. The session was videoed, but I'm not sure what they are planning to do with the results. Will also be written up in a special issue of Environmetrics.

d. ITS9 abstracts / session (Greg / Peter)

I believe that at least 5 abstracts were submitted to ITS9 and am confident of getting a session together. Invited plenary talk has been accepted.

GS: 300+ abstracts for conference as a whole. 14 in area of interest to this group. 7 accepted thus far. Should have all reviews done by Friday.

e. NIST / NCDC meeting (Greg / Peter / Antonio)

Peter Thorne and Matt Menne visited NIST for two days just after the last call. Items discussed were NIST planned field experiments, a NIST led homogenisation effort and possible innovative site cross-calibration procedures.

f. GCOS Steering Committee meeting (Kate)

Thursday 22nd September - recommendations to GCOS :

- GCOS SC are invited to review the prototype databank archive and provide feedback on adequacy or otherwise for GCOS purposes during this pilot phase prior to a first version release in April 2012.
- GCOS SC are invited to recognise the ISTI databank as a GCOS data archive for land surface temperatures and other data and to help provide links between data sources and the databank curators at NCDC. Such recognition and linkages may help: acquisition of new data sources (both rescued historical data and data made available through new data-sharing agreements); communication and publication of the work of ISTI; and in gaining support from NMHSs, the research community and National Governments.
- GCOS SC are invited to provide constructive feedback on any aspects of the Initiative to the ISTI Steering Committee including guidance on GCOS standards and principles that ISTI should subscribe to. Feedback would be particularly welcome on the recently published Implementation Plan which includes a time line for achievements.
- GCOS SC are invited to consider appropriate ongoing reporting mechanisms to GCOS, if desired, recognising that the initiative is a voluntary effort only.
- It is noted that the Exeter workshop included a recommendation to GCOS to consider the instigation of a global surface reference network, modelled upon USCRN and GRUAN. This will assure the future record at a representative sample of sites through traceable and redundant measurements tied to metrological standards at well characterised sites free of artificial contaminant effects. GCOS SC are invited to consider the viability of such a network to ensure robust climate monitoring for posterity in their future strategic planning.

BT: Have any countries done this beyond the US?

KW: Perhaps the UK. But maybe not.

XW: Canada has a reference climate station (RCS) network, which consists of about 300 stations and is in operation since early 2000s. It has redundant measurements but I am not sure if the measurements are tied to the same metrological standards used outside Canada.

Comments on circulated document please - needs to be submitted to GCOS by end of week.

4. Membership discussion (Peter)

It is suggested that we create an affiliate membership for key members of relevant other groups such as meteomet and the surface temperature network (and any others that arise). Such members would be on the mailing list and be welcome (but not expected) to attend our meetings but would not in the event of anything we have to vote on have a binding vote. First two invitees would be Chris Merchant and Andrea Merlone or their nominated representatives.

All on call agreed.

ACTION: PT to invite Andrea Merlone and Chris Merchant to join as affiliate members.

KW: Other experts in the field: Phil Jones, Matt Menne, John Kennedy/Colin Morice, Jim Hansen, someone from the Berkeley project, ...

PT: These suggestions would perhaps be better as some sort of generic send out list rather than getting committee messages. These folks would get news but I'm not sure they would want machinations of the group landing in their inbox?

KW: good point - difference between 'followers' who get key updates and 'associate members'

PT agreed to pursue this as a background activity.

5. Discussion of generic materials (Peter)

Generic powerpoint and poster discussion. These will get their first major outing at WCRP OSC but can be used anywhere people wish. We need to bottom out a version of these by end of September.

ACTION: ALL to provide feedback on both the generic poster and powerpoint by next Friday (16th Sept) and then PT will recirculate one last time. Then post to website.

PT: All are encouraged to use the talk and poster as they see fit.

6. Media engagement (Peter)

Discussion of media strategy and timing. The Bulletin of American Met Soc. meeting report is available in AOP and will be 'published' (electronic only) with the November edition. What do we want to do by when? Is the website ready? etc. etc.

I have resent the original write up I did which is out of date. I believe that the first step (email to Exeter workshop participants) was already done by Kate (if I recall correctly) - yes in July. I wonder whether we still need to rework the website some more and also to finesse a media strategy.

KW: Benefit from media coverage. We had Nature at the meeting.

PT: Also had Nature, Economist, UK national media

KW: Could we use NCDC / UKMO press office?

RA: ACRE meeting will perhaps have some media coverage UKMO / NOAA / KNMI. May be some press interest in ISTI.

BT: Would be good to engage the media through press offices of key institutions. What is the new news? Obviously the article.

MdP: Same question: What is new?

PT: Its the methodological framework agreed

BT: And the process

AP: Unless we can be clear in reporting something new. Maybe wait until we release the databank first version or similar significant news.

AP: Looking for impact to get attention. Go through our own press offices. Try to get a mirrored release through SC members organizations. Amplifies our voice.

KW: Could be more low key about paper.

KW: Realclimate?

PT: We can pursue

KW: Hold until databank release.

Conclusion: We should hold on doing a media release until the first version databank release and then look to do a coordinated release through as many of our press offices as is deemed viable pushing the Initiative as a whole and the databank release as a tangible outcome. We should ensure internationality is stressed.

7. Funding opportunities and general opportunities update (All)

Peter Thorne has a potential bid being worked through the system for NSF funds. These would be used to engage data digitization crowdsourcing and creating modular open source homogenization algorithms and interfacing these with benchmarking / serious gaming. There are three hoops and we are currently under consideration with the first hoop. Hopefully more by the call. If it fails the NCSU hoop we may apply through Clemson instead. Funds would be expected to cover at least one major ITSI participant meeting (SC, WGs, TTs, other key players) and would facilitate international exchanges over a period of four years.

UPDATE: Just after hitting send I find NCSU hurdle failed. More feedback and hopefully any next steps by the next call.

UPDATE 9/6: Still no feedback but we are putting in a version via Clemson University under Robert Lund to see whether it can be taken forward as a Clemson bid.

NCDC may also reapply for digitization funds next FY but until budget is resolved nothing is certain.

PT is applying for funds to use the 20CR reanalysis to do homogenization.

8. AOB

Meteomet involvement - Kate has been trying to sort out formal Met Office involvement but is unable to attend the kick-off meeting (Turin/Torino, Italy, October 12th-13th). Is anyone attending?

MdP: Can't attend, but a colleague Stephanie Bell (a specialist in humidity measurement) will be attending.

RA: New Journal RMS online journal on data - Rob has been asked to be editor - meeting in Reading, UK next Monday (12th Sep) to discuss

BT: Launch?

RA: early next year

KW/RA: COP17 Representation? Durban, South Africa, December 2011

ACTION: KW / RA to find out what if anything can be done at COP17 to raise awareness and report back

(The Task Team on Climate Monitoring Products is meeting in Geneva next week (12-14 September). May be possible linkages with our work. I don't think any of us are members of this TT but some of us have colleagues who are (John Kennedy, Deke Arndt, Andrew Watkins) so may be worth briefing those people before they go - I've already had an initial discussion with Andrew. Another TT with possible linkages is the TT on Definitions of Extreme Climate Events - I'm on this TT which meets in late November - Blair)

ACTION: Kate talk to John, Peter talk to Deke regarding the task team on Climate Monitoring Products

Next call proposed at 8am EST November 9th. Other suggestions around that time welcome. 11th is a public holiday in the US and week of 21st is thanksgiving so before that week. (I'm at WMO for most of November so the weeks 7-11 and 14-18 November would work well for me - Blair) November 11th is also a holiday in Canada.

Next call will be at 8am 11/9

REMINDER: WG progress reports are due October and will be discussed on our next call. Please be sure to relate to the Implementation Plan.