

## Surface Temperature Initiative steering committee call

9/19/12 8am EDT, 12Z

Present on call: Peter Thorne, Kate Willett (KW), Rob Allan (RA), Akiyo Yatagai, Richard Chandler, Jay Lawrimore, Xiaolan Wang, Andrea Merlone, Antonio Possolo, Blair Trewin

Apologies in advance: Matilde Rusticucci, Albert Mhanda

Andrea Merlone noted he might be called away at any moment so requested an item be discussed first:

AM: Has a research grant with Manola Brunet - effect of instrument changes on the series. 12 months. Includes uncertainty (type B). Is looking for advice through lifetime of the project.

REC: What is type B?

AM Instrumental uncertainties only (i.e. calibration, resolution, data logging...).

PT: Does it include side-by-side comparison or simply statistical analysis?

AM: Mainly physical analysis - use of instruments.

### 1. Review of actions from last call

KW was to instigate a call of the benchmarking WG in August

Not done - work ongoing with Robert Lund

PT was to lead a proposal to the BIRS Banff facility to host a workshop

Not done. Time squeeze but still possible before end of Sept deadline if quick. Will take this up as priority if agreed.

Q's on what we would do, what the remit is. Level of detail.

Decision: Wait another year. PT to ensure we are on a mailing list for next years call.

### 2. Progress review

#### 2.1 Steering committee - Peter

Peter Thorne attended a meeting on attributing climate extreme events in Oxford, UK, in early September and presented the poster there in modified form.

Peter also visited Michael de Podesta briefly at NPL on his way through.

Some updates to the blog.

#### 2.2 Databank - Jay

The databank is nearing a beta release scheduled for first half of Oct. The beta release will consist of all code and data and at least 5 variants of the merged product. Beta is planned for three months before a first version lock-down is achieved. We will try to utilize the initiative blog as the primary means of garnering feedback on the beta release.

The recommended merge version of the beta consists of just over 37,000 merged series all told. It has more stations and greater areal coverage than the current NCDC GHCN-M product. It is this recommended merge version which all participating analyses should run on and which the benchmark datasets will be spun off of.

Data rescue has seen relatively little progress. Getting volunteer effort approval to do data discovery in the NCDC archives is still in red tape legal approval. The data that was rescued and imaged earlier this year is now online within the databank ftp area. There is no known progress at this time to report on a crowdsourcing interface.

Looking to set up a WG on data rescue within NOAA.

XW: Temporal resolution?

JL: Monthly but its built from daily and the top source is the daily to ensure vertical consistency. Priority from day 1 has been monthly. Daily will follow.

KW: Criteria daily-2-monthly?

JL: WMO criteria

JL: We just submitted a short paper to EOS highlighting the databank. Jared Rennie is leading a longer technical paper for Rob Allan's new data journal.

**ACTION:** Rob to contact Jared about journal submission of databank method paper.

REC: Presumably there are flags number of days went into a monthly?

JL: Will check and ensure that is the case.

REC: Relevant for uncertainty analysis

**ACTION:** Jay to check and confirm number of days going into the monthlies where we have calculated them is in the flags.

### *2.3 Benchmarking - Kate*

I've been working with Robert on creation of synthetic station data analog to the data bank and progress is being made but slowly in the background of other work. We think we have a working method but I'm in the middle of coding up to test on wider networks. Two papers in progress on this and the benchmarking concept in general.

**ACTION:** Kate to organize benchmarking WG call. By mid-October.

PhD student working on daily benchmark data starts next week.

KW to present at the 5th ACRE meeting in Toulouse in November on ISTI/Databank

AM: New member from Meteomet has had to leave after job move. Please include me in the interim. She should have sent series.

**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.

PT: Are these observed? Yes

PT: Can we have them please

### *2.4 Contributed data products*

REC, XW and AP have started drawing up a list of organisations and individuals who may be interested in contributing products to the Initiative. This is not yet complete, but we should be able to circulate a first draft for comment and additional suggestions within a couple of weeks. The next step will be to prepare a standard invitation letter to go to everybody on the list, to ask if they are potentially interested in contributing products to ISTI; and use the responses to populate a mailing list. Subsequently we will need to prepare detailed instructions and protocols for contributors, but probably the precise details will need to wait until after the databank goes live. In the short term however, to convince as many potential developers as possible that ISTI is a serious scientific endeavour, it probably would be helpful to professionalise the web site a bit (including a facility for other product creators to add themselves to the mailing list - or would the blog serve this purpose?).

**ACTION:** REC to circulate preliminary list of potential target organizations and individuals to take up the challenge of creating data products from the databank for comment when complete

**Note that WG progress reports are due in October**

### **3. Publications updates**

Databank ITS9 paper is accepted pending minor revisions.

A databank paper to EOS (1100 words plus one figure) was submitted

A more detailed paper describing the databank is in advanced preparation stages.

Metrologia piece?

BT: hoping to use data from beta version of databank in paper he expects to submit in next couple of months on multi-day heatwave indices - potentially early opportunity to get ISTI data into literature.

### **4. AOB**

Do we need to revamp the surfacetemperatures.org website? Refresh, add better links etc? Will be a background activity.

Generally felt yes, Peter will pursue as a low priority activity.

This is more for information: The NOAA Central Library and ACRE/the Met Office Library and Archives are developing a project to scan the full record of the Indian Daily Weather Reviews (IDWRs) from mid-1878. There has been a suggestion by NOAA that they would look to fly the 33.5 years of volumes of IDWRs that the Met Office Library and Archives are missing over to the UK by an RAF flight, and the Met Office Library and Archives would then scan that material plus their own holdings to complete a full record of these publications. There are a number of concerns from the Met Office Library and Archives about this proposal, ranging from monies here to get them from an RAF airbase to here and then to do the reverse in sending them back after, to concerns about the physical safety of the material itself. I'm also talking to Rick Crouthamel at IEDRO to see if they can help re any funding and/or personnel at the US end to do the scanning of the NOAA Central Library IDWRs at that end. If anyone is interested I can provide scans of sample IDWRs so you can see the extent of the data.

EMS side meeting on homogenisation took place last week. BT joined this rather erratically by teleconference. Some areas of common interest with ISTI - in particular, they are trying to get a COST action up on collating information on instrument/site comparisons.

Extraordinary WMO Congress on Global framework for Climate Services in next few weeks. Major breakthroughs on data policy not expected at this stage but worth keeping an eye on.

REC, XW and MR are involved in organising the 12th International Meeting in Statistical Climatology (IMSC), which will be held in Korea in June 2013. Current plans (which may change) are that XW and MR will organise a session on data homogenisation and climatic trends / variability, and REC will organise a session with Doug Nychka on "Next generation climate data products". Precise details re plenary / parallel sessions etc. are yet to be finalised, but the IMSC meetings usually have plenary sessions on each of their main themes. This is a good opportunity to showcase the work of the ISTI to a community that should be very sympathetic - watch out for invitations! More details to follow in due course.

Propose next call in late November / Early December as the databank beta nears a close.

Agreed to have next call Dec 11th @8EST, 13Z