

Surface temperatures initiative

Steering committee call 04/20/11

Present: Antnoio Possolo (AP), Michael de Podesta (MdP), Tom Peterson (TP), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Kate Willett (KW), Rob Allan (RA), Xiaolon Wang (XW), Blair Trewin latterly and very briefly from Perth Airport

Apologies in advance: Peter Stott (PS), Matilde Rusticcuci,

Unable to connect to call: Akiyo Yatagai, Albert Mhanda

1. Review of status of actions from last call (ALL)
Please see previous meeting notes for context

ACTION: PS to circulate proposed final version of governance document for comment by months end.
DONE

ACTION: PT to redraft based upon feedback and send out by 3/23

ACTION: All to provide comments by 4/13
DONE. Terms of reference discussed in #3.

ACTION: PT, KW, JL to iterate for 15th April send out to SC.
DONE. See item on implementation plan

ACTION: All provide Greg with suggestions.
Pending.

ACTION: TP, KW, PT will take forwards
DONE See item on WCRP

ACTION: PT create a 1-sider on communication options for discussion in next call.
DONE See item on steering committee communications.

2. Update on working group progress (KW / JL / PS)

Governance

PT: Proposed final document was sent in advance by Peter Stott who sent his apology. Save some wordsmithing for clarity on

terms of reference text segment suggest we adopt and post on the website.

ACTION: PT to iterate one issue over text clarity with PS and then post the governance document and recognize formal adoption by the steering committee.

Databank

Recent call on 4/5. Pilot databank linked from GOSIC. Six sources of new data sourced. Reviewed a data provenance and tracking methodology with adjustments going forwards. Process for greater contributions from throughout the world. Jay will lead production of a how to. We will write a letter and hopefully cosign with CCL / GCOS. Mirror site? WDC-B. Poster and leaflet in process. Omar Baddour discussions at WMO level – will be a break out where this can be discussed. WWR decadal to annual transition.

PT: Note ACMAD / African involvement in the databank WG and data rescue task team would be highly desirable.

ACTION: Jay to pursue African involvement in these activities with Albert.

RA: Rick Crouthmael has had some input. Bring him into this?
XW: Berkeley project presentation suggested they had a lot of data.

JL: Most of the data they got from GHCN-D. Finding the effort harder and more time consuming than they thought. Merging and duplicate removal is very hard.

JL: We are starting with a very small holding and working up from there. We will eventually include everything. Provenance tracking is new and we are learning. We will incorporate everything.

Benchmarking

Had a second call end of March. What were we going to do to create the world truth. Synthetic or model based? Decided on GCMs to give a plausible structure. Being written up as a white paper. Next step is what questions to address and explicit design. Draft terms of reference being prepared. Funding being considered. Various conference presentations and posters (EGU

– no feedback). EMS presentation planned. MARCDAT presentation to be given.

3. ToR adoption (PT)

Present version circulated just prior to this call adopted and to be posted with these notes.

4. ITS9 - concrete steps needed and how (GS/PT)

AP: Suggest PT contacts GS

MdP: Not been in contact with GS.

ACTION: PT to contact GS offline formulate a plan and circulate to all.

MdP: Meteomet coordinator has been contacted. Multimillion euro project. Was briefed orally. Will write. Will be at ITS-9. Will try to ensure that we are synchronized.

PT: Instrument development or analysis?

MdP: Very broad ranging. Look at systematic Stevenson screen effects. Measurement of atmospheric temperature.

PT: Should we invite Andrea Merlone (project lead) to sit on our next call?

ACTION: MdP will invite Andrea Merlone to give a presentation on our next call.

5. WCRP - please note abstract submission deadline of 4/30 which means we need to hit the ground running if we want to do anything here

<http://www.wcrp-climate.org/conference2011/> (TP / KW / PT)

PS input:

"Re WCRP OSC I am starting to think about this in the context of my own participation on attribution of extremes, which involves the writing of a position paper. My position paper isn't really suitable for advertising our initiative here but Kevin Trenberth who is a plenary speaker on

"Challenges of a Sustained Climate Observing System"

and will therefore presumably be writing a position paper seems a better fit.

In addition there is

Session B4: Climate System Observations, Reprocessing, Reanalysis and Climate Data Records (conveners: M. Bosilovich, A. O'Neill, J. Kennedy)

which presumably is also being asked to write a position paper. John Kennedy is a convener."

TP: This is an opportunity to engage with a large number of scientists. C. 15,000. Opportunity to get the message out. Have something rather than nothing.

KW: Do a coordinated poster cluster? Would need a coordinator.

JL: Is there an opportunity to do three or four oral presentations?

PT: Limited oral presentation opportunity. Maybe 1.

JL: Do we need 10 posters in a cluster?

KW: Can we create 10?

TP: Near term deadline is for abstract submission and not presentation. Abstract needs only be a paragraph.

KW: Need a convener

PT: I will possibly be going

TP: I will definitely be going.

PT: Poster session C13 seems most appropriate and TP is a co-convenor.

TP: Even if you don't submit as a formal cluster we can put them together geographically at the conference.

ACTION: PT, KW, JL to solicit poster abstracts for session C13. PT to submit abstract for the oral session.

XW: If we put up a poster should at least one of the authors be there?

JL: Not necessarily.

6. Discussion of steering committee communication strategy (PT)

PT summarized the 1-sider prepared in advance.

AP: No additional comments. Fine as is.

MdP: A blog or a wiki might be helpful. See what we said we would do and do progress reporting between calls. Webex type meetings. Can type whilst you are doing. Oknfpad? See what we are doing and increase input.

TP: How public should this be? Two sides to the coin. Are we trying to get this core group moving or engage others?

JL: Wiki, password protected internal for frank discussions. Use of oknfpad at time of meetings. A physical meeting mid-2012 SC and WGs would be a good suggestion.

KW: Blog or wiki would be useful. Blog can be semi-closed.

ACTION: KW to investigate wiki hosting options.

KW: Online workshop?

JL: Within US has worked pretty well. Time zones may be an issue?

KW: Definitely use the oknfpad.

ACTION: KW to send details of oknfpad to PT to set up for next call.

KW: Rotating the call chairing would be nice. But would everybody be interested.

ACTION: PT to ask for volunteers to chair future calls.

RA: MARCDAT presence. ACRE in September 2011. Now being worked with ERA-CLIM and EURO-4M.

ACTION: KW, RA to ascertain interest amongst the European representatives in first instance in side meeting at ACRE meeting in Netherlands in September.

XW: Append meeting to another at which a quoracy might be attending anyway.

KW: Can we have a list of who is going to what and when? Might have a way to coordinate.

7. Discussion of Implementation Plan (PT / KW / JL)

KW: Implementation Plan is important, requires checking.

JL: Definitely keep. Provides valuable information.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTION: ALL to provide feedback on current draft of implementation plan by mid-May.

Aim for mid-summer release.

8. Discussion of MARCDAT presentations (PT / KW)

JL: 2000 boxes in basement. We don't know how valuable. Because not inventoried.

MdP: Can you host files of large sizes? Put them on the web to distribute?

PT will look at hosting on the NCDC website.

KW: Will give a talk on benchmarking. May circulate nearer the time.

9. AOB

WMO congress. BT note, PT / KW

TP: once every four year event with all member states. Decide a lot of things. Lots of resolutions and documents. Countries can edit or recommend interventions. Formal requests for data, data access and etc. Side meetings to discuss issues. 1 month meeting. Side event, posters etc.

JL: When?

TP: 5/16 - 6/3

RA: DVD being put together on data rescue fundamentals. Get in touch with Dick Crouthmael.

PT: Two aspects : Recognition of the effort, data submission.

TP: Concern as to who might submit data and what we might get. How do we ensure that we get it through? What would we do with it? Who would address it?

RA: Need to ensure we join up.

TP: Limits to IEDRO link-up?

JL: Originally easier to get the digital data. 1 to 2 pager will be aimed primarily at digital.

RA: ACRE is CCI ratified.

TP: How did it change ACRE?

RA: Gave better benefit. Gave sanction for what they want to do.

ACTION: PT to work with Simon Gilbert to ensure that the data request portion of the UK contribution is acceptable to RA, JL, TP, Richard Crouthmael.

TP: Would be okay to digital only, reservations otherwise.

JL: But we want provenance. Images in addition?

PT: Limit to images and data?

BT input:

"- I see a significant concern for this project as being its lack of specific resourcing - as far as I know this project is not specifically part of anybody's job (although it's de facto become an extra task for quite a few of us). That's manageable for the planning stage of the project where we are, but it's hard to see how it can work once we get deeper into the implementation phase. Nor do I have any bright ideas as to where such resources might come from, given the public-sector financial crunch in both Europe and the US (and, in the case of the US, the possibility that any funding made available might come under direct political attack).

- we've defined stages 4 and 5 of the databank as being out of scope in the implementation plan. This may be a practical reality, but it seems to me that not having any form of centralised quality control (stage 4) is setting up a lot of unnecessary duplication of effort down the track - I don't know the extent to which this has been discussed already in the databank working group. I'm also not sure which groups would look to use this databank for derivation of downstream products; ultimately our goal would be, I would imagine, that this becomes the source data set for global temperature analyses, but what would it take for GISS/NCDC/HadCRU to switch over from their own databases in the long term, or would we envisage that a completely new group take the lead?

- I imagine most, if not all, of you have seen the reporting of the initial results of the Berkeley initiative a couple of weeks ago.

- to what extent should we involve ourselves in issues relating to the ongoing monitoring of temperature? (instruments, operation of networks, guidelines on comparisons etc.). My feeling is that there are already WMO processes for raising these issues but

somebody on the steering committee should have responsibility for keeping up to date with any developments in this area and informing us if relevant. Ideally this would be someone who is already closely involved with GCOS; do we have such a person?

- some of you will have seen the discussion of data rescue/digitisation at www.realclimate.org: the WMO papers are also quite big on this. I'm also aware that Australia has put in a bid for funding of a Pacific islands digitisation initiative. Again mainly an issue for the databank working group."

Next call Thursday 23rd June. 9EDT.