

## **Data Advisory Council Report**

### **1. Highlights for JSC**

- **Climate Data Intercomparison Project**

Discussed the proposed (JSC) “Climate Data Intercomparison Project” at WDAC6. There are several data assessment activities completed or underway by the WCRP Core Projects (e.g. SPARC S-RIP initiative, CLIVAR ORA-IP, etc.). The Core Projects (led by GEWEX/GDAP) prepared and vetted a “best practices” document (see below), which was recently published ([https://www.wcrp-climate.org/WDAC/documents/WDAC\\_Report\\_DataSetQualityAssessments.pdf](https://www.wcrp-climate.org/WDAC/documents/WDAC_Report_DataSetQualityAssessments.pdf)).

It is unclear to the Council which attributes of a product should be the focus of such an activity. For example, the EU Copernicus Climate Change Service puts a high priority on sustained product delivery while GEWEX/GDAP puts a priority on representativeness.

Moreover, such an effort could be duplicative of current Core Project activities if not orchestrated properly. A wider coordinated effort could leverage common protocols such as those developed under CMIP, obs4MIPs and ana4MIPs and form the basis for Climate Indicators.

- **WCRP/GCOS coordination mechanisms**

The GCOS/OOPC recently contacted the WDAC concerning appropriate paths for discussing WCRP ocean observing needs arising from the recent GCOS Implementation Plan (IP). It is unclear to the OOPC how it should gather this information from the WCRP Core Projects and Grand Challenges.

This query is indicative of broader challenges faced by the WCRP observing partners in working with WCRP components. While the WDAC has representation from the Core Projects, it does not have representation from the Grand Challenges nor Modelling Groups, and, thus does not currently offer the comprehensive WCRP forum for facilitating such discussions.

WDAC recommends that the WCRP/JSC considers the overall programme structure and make adjustments to facilitating external interactions.

- **2016 WCRP/GCOS International Data Prize awarded**

Dr. Kate Willett from the Met Office Hadley Centre, UK, is the recipient of the WCRP/GCOS International Data Prize in 2016 for her pioneering work in the development of data sets for climate research.

### **2. Early success and/or planned activities in 2017/2018**

- Obs4MIPs – >100 data sets published, CMOR software revised and released, first *in situ* data set almost finalized (SOCAT), paving the way for a general strategy to include other *in situ* data sets, 2 manuscripts (strategy and governance) in preparation
- [Dataset Quality Assessments document](#) released
- Reanalysis Task Team ([TIRA](#)) established and moving forward (4 meetings to date) – looking at developing a reanalysis Intercomparison project
- WMO OSCAR and Rolling Requirements Review – noted that current tables for climate applications are outdated and insufficiently documented and traceable, and recommended to follow GCOS approach to revise observing system requirements per the [GCOS 2016 Implementation Plan](#), using the ‘Climate Monitoring’ entry managed via GCOS
- WCRP Data Policy was finalized and published after community consultation
- 5<sup>th</sup> International Reanalysis Conference will be held in November 2017 (Rome)

**3. Partners for Council’s activities** (within and outside WCRP community)

Core Projects, SOLAS, GCOS and panels, CEOS-CGMS WG Climate, etc

**4. Overall Council timeline if applicable** (include any milestones)

N/A

**5. Issues and challenges**

- How does Council improve discussions about observing needs between GCOS (panels) and WCRP? (see above under 1.) GCOS manages the observing networks for the WCRP, thus it is critically important for the WCRP Core Projects, Working Groups and Grand Challenges to provide the GCOS panels with their observing requirements as research evolves. While the WDAC is a facilitator in this process and has representation from the Core Projects and the GCOS panels, improved communication between the respective entities is the desired outcome.
- WDAC seeks guidance from JSC as to how active it should be in advocating for observing systems that are critical for moving WCRP science forward and maybe at risk.
- WDAC Surface Flux Task Team was established under guidance by JSC. Formation and initial operations are taking longer than expected to bring to fruition. Direct discussions to address membership and plans are underway. Advice from the JSC is sought in how to better integrate flux activities across the WCRP, particularly in light of the GEWEX/GDAP plans towards integrated products which encompass many of the fluxes.

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