

WCRP Observation and Assimilation Panel (WOAP)

Report from WOAP-2 meeting Ispra 28-30 August 2006

SUMMARY of ACTIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 8: a task group chaired by N. Mc Farlane will review the status and management of observational data and model output archives, including web sites within WCRP, and will make recommendations for WCRP-wide overarching structure, site contents and data policy (see issues above). It will be composed of one member from each of the core-projects + GCOS, + WMP. Proposed terms of reference are annexed to this report in appendix 7. Time line: membership: 31 Dec 2006; Final report: 31 July 2008).

Excerpts from REPORT FROM THE MEETING

Session 5: Data activities

T. Koike reported on the plan for CEOP phase II starting in January 2007, focusing on the data and the scientific management aspects of the project. CEOP Phase II has been approved by JSC in March 2006, subject to a technical review of the science plan by experts from each WCRP project. The science reporting of CEOP is done through GEWEX and WOAP is expected to review the data aspects. The prototype data management system of CEOP is impressive and could be extended to all WCRP projects. It includes Quality Assurance of data, a distributed data function and cooperative architecture, with interoperability of data. The WOAP Panel needs specialist(s) in data management to cover this issue. Data sharing principles are being developed in GEO. Concerning the core-projects in WCRP, some are proprietary (GHP) and there is not open access to data, therefore a specific effort on implementing the data sharing principles is required within WCRP. CEOP is involved in two new GEO tasks, WA-07-P2 dealing with Satellite Water Measurements, including the implementation of a global water cycle data integration system. The second, DA-07-P4, aims at the design of a broad Earth Observation Data Integration and Analysis System. It has large implications for WCRP as a whole in terms of infrastructure, links to major data centers. It is relevant to both observation and model data.

G. Sommeria presented a summary of the WMO Information System (WIS) prepared by J. M. Rainer (World Weather Watch Dept), which should serve as a general framework for the exchange of global data, operational and research. It is indeed proposed to GEO as a general data system for all its data activities. The concept of Data Collection and Production Center is adapted to some of the large data sets prepared by research projects such as CEOP. An important issue is the development of homogeneous metadata catalogues for international exchange. WCRP is welcome to send an expert to the next CBS Technical Conference on WIS to be held in Seoul 6-8 November 2006. There is also an opening for WCRP projects to become pilot projects under WIS.

Recommendation 7: WMO WIS should be publicized within the WCRP community, and should be considered by all projects.

A matrix on data management (policy, metadata, web sites) in the different projects has been prepared by T. Koike and needs to be thoroughly validated. Comments by GEWEX, CLIVAR, SOLAS, have already been received. This should be followed up on by the data management task team (see below). (Attached).

There are two distinct issues: the review of the data aspects of CEOP and the general item of DM for WCRP.

The discussion on data management in WCRP projects highlighted the fact that all efforts were developed independently, which also meant solving problems separately without taking advantage of other efforts, and also coming up with answers that may not be compatible across WCRP. A key task is to ensure that projects can take advantage of developments and solutions to problems from other projects. WCRP cannot do data management but can facilitate and coordinate it, and work to minimize duplication of effort. There was discussion of the need to assess the following:

- 1) Is there a problem?
- 2) Observations data and model data, access
- 3) Redundancy among projects?
- 4) Efficiencies, facilitating coordination
- 5) How research data are archived? Needs?
- 6) What is best practice?
- 7) Should there be a WCRP data policy?
- 8) Web sites?
- 9) Resources.

Recommendation 8: a task group chaired by N. Mc Farlane will review the status and management of observational data and model output archives, including web sites within WCRP, and will make recommendations for WCRP-wide overarching structure, site contents and data policy (see issues above). It will be composed of one member from each of the core-projects + GCOS, + WMP. Proposed terms of reference are annexed to this report in Appendix 5. Time line: membership: 31 Dec 2006; Final report: 31 July 2008).

Members:

Chair (initially): Norm McFarlane

SPARC: Bill Randel

CLIVAR:

GEWEX:

CLiC:

CEOP:

WMP: Jim Kinter

WCRP: Gilles Sommeria, Catherine Michaud

Norm is the interim chair, possibly to be replaced by a volunteer from the committee.

Suggestions: Please make recommendations on what should follow the Task Group:

- 1) Assess what you will take on, what you will not and why
- 2) Assess the time table for doing things and report
- 3) Decide if the committee should terminate after the final report or should leave some means of communication among projects on these issues and if so how it should work.

Appendix 7: Task force on data management in the WCRP, proposed terms of reference.

Tasks

1. The task force will review the status and management of observational data and model output archives within the WCRP core projects to ascertain:
 - (a) The current status of archived data and model output (what? where? purpose?).
 - (b) The degree of accessibility and ease of access to archived material.
 - (c) The degree of redundancy in the archived material either within the WCRP or between WCRP and other archives (e.g. major data centers).
 - (d) Anticipated future archiving of observational data/model output
 - (e) Possible need for and ways to facilitate coordination of data archiving and management in the WCRP
 - (f) Possible future resources needed for data archiving and management

2. The task force will report to WOAP and make recommendations as to possible actions that may be taken.

Composition: One member from each of the core projects, WOAP, and WMP.

Time lines: - Membership: December 31, 2006

- Final report: July 31, 2008.