

WDS supports ICSU's vision and mission by promoting universal and equitable access to, and long-term stewardship of, **quality-assured scientific data and data services, products, and information** covering a broad range of disciplines from the natural and social sciences, and humanities.



## WORLD DATA SYSTEM

### TRUSTED DATA SERVICES FOR GLOBAL SCIENCE

#### WDS Objectives

- Enable universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, services, products and information
- Ensure long-term data stewardship
- Foster compliance to agreed-upon data standards and conventions
- Provide mechanisms to facilitate and improve access to data and products

#### Scientific Committee

The WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) is the governing body of ICSU-WDS. It covers a broad range of disciplines and geographical areas and is made up of leading researchers actively involved with data/computer sciences and deal with large dataset issues.

##### WDS-SC members for 2015–2018:

Sandy Harrison (Chair), Ingrid Dillo and Wim Hugo (Vice-chairs), Aude Chambodut, Arona Diedhiou, Claudia Emerson, Elaine Faustman, Isabelle Gartner-Roer, Toshihiko Iyemori, Guoqing Li, Alexander de Sherbinin, Sanna Sorvari, Alfredo Tolmasquim.  
Ex officio: Heide Hackmann (ICSU), Yasuhiro Murayama (NICT).

The ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS) builds on the 50-year legacy of the World Data Centres and Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data analysis Services established by the International Council of Science (ICSU) to manage data generated by the International Geophysical Year (1957–58). These bodies were later disbanded by the ICSU General Assembly in 2008 and replaced by ICSU-WDS in 2009.

#### Mission

ICSU-WDS aims at facilitating scientific research endeavours by coordinating **trusted data services** for the provision, use, and preservation of relevant datasets. To fulfil its remit, ICSU-WDS is striving to build worldwide **'communities of excellence' for scientific data services** by certifying Member Organizations—holders and providers of data or data products—from wide-ranging fields using internationally recognized standards. WDS Members are then the building blocks of a searchable common infrastructure with which to form a data system that is both interoperable and distributed.

#### Working Groups

Working Groups coordinate the implementation of activities and projects addressing the objectives of ICSU-WDS through voluntary contributions from Members and other interested stakeholders.

Active groups cover the following areas:

- **Publishing Data (jointly with Research Data Alliance)**
- **WDS Metadata Catalogue and Knowledge Network**
- **Certification of Trusted Digital Repositories & Services**

[www.ICSU-WDS.org](http://www.ICSU-WDS.org)

WDS Regular and Network Members (10/2015)

## Membership

Candidate Members are evaluated by the WDS Scientific Committee on criteria such as access to high-quality data, data stewardship, and participation in broad harmonization and interoperability efforts.

As of June 2015, ICSU-WDS has accredited **71 Members** and co-opted another **24<sup>†</sup>**:

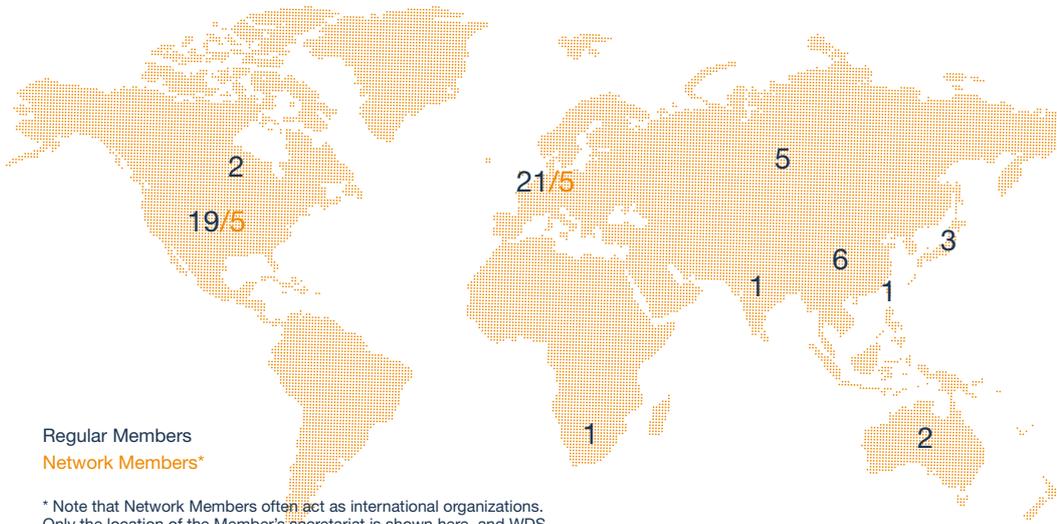
**61 Regular Members**—organizations that are data stewards and/or data analysis services.

**10 Network Members**—umbrella bodies representing groups of data stewardship organizations and/or data analysis services.

**6 Partner Members**—organizations that are not data stewards or data analysis services, but that contribute support or funding to ICSU-WDS.

**18 Associate Members**—organizations interested in the WDS endeavour, but that do not contribute direct funding or other support.

<sup>†</sup> Regular and Network Members must go through a certification process to join ICSU-WDS, whereas Partner and Associate Members are co-opted. All WDS Members are required to sign a Letter of Agreement (or a similar document) with ICSU.



Regular Members  
Network Members\*

\* Note that Network Members often act as international organizations. Only the location of the Member's secretariat is shown here, and WDS coverage extends to regions not marked.

## Why join ICSU-WDS?

- **For improved local and International recognition:** heightened profile, increased visibility, improved funding prospects, facilitated interactions and data exchange
- **To demonstrate your commitment to Open Science:** adherence to WDS Data Sharing Principles, becoming certified as a trustworthy scientific data service
- **To increase your performance and agility:** Enhanced discovery of your data and increased disciplinary and interdisciplinary user base, improved practices and process, facilitated citation of your data

## International Programme Office

The International Programme Office coordinates WDS operations and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Scientific Committee and for outreach and promotional activities.

**Staff:** Mustapha Mokrane (Executive Director), Takashi Watanabe (Senior Advisor), Rorie Edmunds (Programme Officer), Yuko Nikaido (Administrative Officer).

For more information, please contact [ipo@icsu-wds.org](mailto:ipo@icsu-wds.org)