

CDSSG meeting, 108 Teaching Building, 24 June 2016

Beth Greenaway (UKSA), Ali Arkell (IEA), Sally Stevens (IEA), Andrea Sharpe (NERC), Caroline Poulson (NCEO RAL Space), Chetan Pradhan (CGI), John Remedios (NCEO), Sarah Callaghan (STFC), Stewart Turner (Met Office), Andrew Groom (CGI), Maria Noguera (IEA), Zof Stott (Assimila), Derek Greer (Telespazio Vega), Ben Carlton (PML), Chris Merchant (University of Reading), Victoria Bennett (STFC), Steve Groom (PML), Claire Macintosh (NCEO)

Apologies: Colin McKinnon, Vicky Lucas, Richard Brook, Alan Whitelaw, Geoff Buswell, Adrian Broad, Lee Boland

All presentations reference below can be found at: www.the-iea.org/CDSSG

ITEM 1 -Welcome and review of minutes. (Beth Greenaway):

Acknowledging the referendum result, Beth Greenaway iterated the importance of using climate science for growth in the UK and that whilst funding sources may change in the future, there is still important work to do now.

The Programme Proposal has been delayed due to an unexpected long term leave. The implications and mitigation plans are on the agenda for this meeting.

All actions complete except the action on UKSA to circulate the paper on EU & ESA ground segment NRT annex.

ACTION: Beth to circulate the EC Integrated Ground Segment papers to the group.

ITEM 2 -Coordinator Update (Claire Macintosh presentation)

Group Updates:

A Climate Data from Space zone has been funded and will be set up over the next 2 years. Press release dated April has the details.

ACTION: CDSSG data providers to contact Claire Macintosh if they need more info

The Accessing Climate Data from Space Report was produced and circulated and has been used to list what tools people use to access / visualise climate data. The group agreed to review this every other meeting so it was up to date.

ACTION: Coordinator to request input on an a biannual basis

Work Package Updates

- Training -Vicky Lucas, IEA (presented by Claire Macintosh)

The Climate Data from Space training workshop on 5th July at the University of Reading is to train people to understand climate quality datasets and gain the skills to evaluate when data can add value. It will be a hands on experience using visualisation of complex datasets.

Targeted at Business Managers and people with some environmental knowledge but who need to know what climate data can do. The course is free of charge and will be videoed for future sharing.

- Communications -Sally Stevens, IEA

Sally Stevens asked the group for websites and publications that would be useful platforms to share CDSSG success stories. Sally advised that news headlines have to be easily accessible to people straight away and highlighted the importance of tying in with other events.

Sally also presented a round up image of press releases picked up by the community, a copy of which will be circulated with the meeting presentations

The group agreed the importance of linking the CDSSG member communications departments to ensure the CDSSG are well briefed before news items are publicised externally.

ACTION: Sally Stevens to contact CDSSG members for their comms/press contacts

ACTION: Sally Stevens to send the link to the CDSSG webpage and LinkedIn for comment

ACTION: John Remedios to share Royal Society "from satellite to soils" June 2016 meeting report

Other related activities

Claire Macintosh gave an overview of the UK CEOS/GEO Office that is being established at NCEO to align the activities of UK Space Agency, Defra and NERC in these international forum. GEO is a global coordination body to align international efforts in Earth Observations – wider than satellites in a global system of systems. The CEOS is a group of Space Agencies involved in EO and most of its tasks are for or with GEO. Therefore at UK level there will now be a central point where the contracts for technical input to these groups are managed and communications between them and the strategic and policy direction set by UKSA and Defra aligned.

Participating in the CEOS Working Group on Climate will be funded via this route, Claire Macintosh is the CEOS WG Climate ECV inventory contact point. The UK data provider community are currently responding to the survey, coordinated by Claire MacIntosh at the IEA, and Alexandra Nunes at Eumetsat. This work is expected to be completed by September 2016

The UK are this year hosting the GFOI (Global Forrest Observing Initiative) data from space group 6-9th September. The first day will be to discuss high level government policy and the use of the data in the REDD+ context and the rest of the workshop covers the technical practicalities.

There has been a recent Sci and Tech committee report on satellites and space, reiterating the gaps and issues with the supply of data from space. This report reiterates the relevance of the work of this group in its coordinated approach to the supply chain.

ACTION: Claire Macintosh to circulate the Science and Technology report URL to CDSSG mailing list – Complete July 2016

ITEM 3 CDS Zone (Victoria Bennett presentation)

After last CDSSG meeting highlighted the major weakness in the seamless supply chain and the urgency to fill the gap in order to realise commercial contracts, a small group discussed what was needed and worked on making things happen quickly using collective expertise. The CDS Zone is UKSA / NCEO funded (500k for 2 /3 years) to set up the underpinning infrastructure to support UK Climate data from space. The £500K has not been re-charged to the Commission and there is no aim to recoup it, however funding beyond the initial 2 years needs to be considered.

Infrastructure is already in use by CDS and the wider community for ECV production, it is on JASMIN CEMS (NERC facility) but the CDS Zone is separately funded to look at more operational applications. Overseas organisations also included so there is a separation of concerns from NERC.

The advisory group will consist of UKSA, NCEO, CEDA and CDSSG. There is also need for communication between users to ensure all data processing requirements do not all come in at the same time, as there is limited processing capability.

The initial phase of the system has been sized for recently submitted C3S ECV calls, as there was an urgent need to provide quantitative support to these bids, but the remit of the zone is wider than this and can include any UK-involved Climate quality dataset production in principle.

Without this underpinning infrastructure it would not have been possible for people to put in proposals for bids totalling 2.2 million EUROS.

Victoria concluded that there is currently a procurement exercise in place to decide what software is best to spend the £100K on. Could connect with CHARMe, will be open tender to come up with solutions.

ACTION: CDSSG to suggest to Claire Macintosh what could be done to form case to build the zone further/ beyond 2018.

ITEM 4 CCI next phase update (Caroline Poulson presentation)

The business case for UK investment in CCI+ considers a number of investment opportunities and different scenarios: scientific excellence, community building, UK Knowledge, the ability to generate collaborations, outreach and lots of news stories and training for skills. A draft of how to capitalise on work already done is currently under consideration with UKSA.

The importance of establishing links between the CCI programme and the EO Envelope Programme and balancing the investments was raised. A first complete draft of the text to be completed in July and combined with the other ESA CMIN business cases and discussed with Treasury in July/August 2016.

ACTION ALL: CDSSG to provide facts/figures contributions to Caroline to help build case, how many jobs at risk etc.

Beth Greenaway acknowledged that CCI is the highest priority of EO for UKSA and stressed the importance of hard facts to help build the case. Whilst what could be achieved with high levels of funding should be considered what could be done with low level funding needed consideration also.

It was noted that whilst CCI has enabled a lot of success in Copernicus, it is not actually a part of Copernicus.

ITEM 5 Open Data Portal & Tool Box (Derek Greer presentation)

Derek presented the capabilities and features of the Open Data Portal for the CCI projects, and the upcoming Toolbox, which will provide analysis and visualisation tools for the CCI ECVs. Derek confirmed the Portal will go live July/August 2016 and will be hosted at STFC. There will be new releases of the Tool Box 2016-2018

UK expertise was central to the build of the portal and tool box and It was noted that the C3S Climate data store portal is also in the pipeline, and several Stakeholders are part of ongoing development.

ITEM 6 ECWMF Landscape (Angel Lopez Alos, CDS Development Team presentation)

Angel explained the ECWMF global vision is to provide useable climate information to Europe. There are 4 Pillars of the C3S programme:

1. Climate data Store
2. Sectoral Information System
3. Evaluation & Quality Control
4. Outreach and Dissemination

Many CDSSG partners are already involved with one or more of the above areas. The group were reminded that the full list of current and upcoming tenders is available in the ECMWF website.

ITEM 7 C3S Project: SECTEUR (Maria Noguera presentation)

Working closely with developers of the CDS (Climate Data Store) and the 7 poc-SIS (proof-of-concept Sectoral Information Systems), SECTEUR project is led by the IEA with 11 other organisations across 6 countries, SECTEUR is the evaluation arm of the C3S. The project is designed as market analysis for 6 sectors use of the climate data (Agri/forestry, Coastal, Health, Infrastructure, Insurance, and Tourism). It aims for each sector to develop user requirements for information availability, conduct a market analysis of what already exists, and work with users to develop requirements, taking a bottom up approach.

ACTION: Maria Noguera to share with CDSSG members the SECTEUR survey and feedback from the sector workshops at next CDSSG meeting.

ITEM 8 Framework Proposal (Beth Greenaway presentation)

Beth Greenaway stressed the excellent work of the group so far but also the importance of making the 'group' more sustainable and able to reach the Innovation and Growth Strategy target and the overall vision. Beth asked if the vision could be met by 2018 instead of 2020 i.e. the UK is the place to come for climate knowledge.

Beth proposed 3 options for how the CDSSG/ the climate services framework could continue:

Option 1: approximately £35K (1 day per week of coordination support), low governance and no joint activities.

Option 2: central funding to approx. £115K per year to have a full time, jointly funded Framework Manager, need an overall governance/ steering committee, plan of work and coordination of joint activities and bids for other funding sources.

Option 3: approx. £300K or more. A full time Framework Manager as option 2 with extra monies in a central pot to undertake projects and coordinate funding opportunities

There was strong agreement that the vision needs to be progressed at a faster pace and the activities such as training and joint communications are of great benefit. Therefore it was agreed if there is to be significant progress towards the vision a Framework Manager needs to be a full time role, someone neutral, and able to enable the community to undertake new initiatives. It is this Framework Manager post and the person recruited to it would be key to the success.

Whilst there was acknowledgement that joint activities needed to occur, the idea of a central pot of funds that some pay into and other don't is fraught with procurement and governance difficulties. It would be better to call for in kind or cash contributions on a project by project basis.

Therefore Option 2 was recommended by the group.

ACTION ALL: CDSSG members to consider the Person Specification details for the Framework Manager role and send to Claire Macintosh by end July

ITEM 9 BREAK OUT SESSIONS:

The group split in to 3 subgroups to discuss which of the 3 options detailed above they believed would be best, which organisation should employ the Framework Manager and what activities were needed under the three work streams: The 3 groups *Marketisation (Derek Greer chair); Training (John Remedios to chair); Data & Tech (Victoria Bennett chair)* reported back. The comments are in Annex 1.

In summary the consensus was that Option 2 would be the best model moving forwards, £100k would be needed from between UKSA and CDSSG for continued coordination activities since other academic and public sector bodies cannot fund coordination tasks. A focus on community coherence and 'good news' stories was felt to be important, as was the ability to coordinate responses to funding and other relevant opportunities. Continued work on the seamless supply chain as part of the implementation of climate service – ready products was also seen as a core part of the proposed activities.

The group felt that leadership and coordination of the framework would fall to UKSA and NCEO with industry to help fund and with other organisations contributing in kind resources, or via specific project activities as allowed by their set up.

UKSA stressed that the case for UKSA funding would be much stronger if other organisations are prepared to invest as well. It was noted that organisations will invest if they can prove value in their investment. The business case / proposal needs to be written and the job specification completed by October.

The group agreed that in the interim period, and in the set up of alternative arrangements coordination of the group should continue as normal to March 2017.

ACTION ALL: provide initial details of what your organisation could invest into CDSSG, monetary value or in-kind person time to Claire Macintosh by 25th July in order to help prepare the case for next steps.

ACTION ALL: Any stakeholders interested in offering resources to write the proposal to contact BG by July 21st.

Action IEA to provide proposal for extension of coordination activities October to March 17 to UKSA asap.

AOB.

There was some wider discussion about the rapidly changing political and funding landscape, and the position of climate data from space, and EO data more generally – and what the community position and priorities were given possible changes to funding streams.

ACTION: Derek Greer, Telespazio Vega and Andrew Groom, CGI agreed to write a 2 sided paper by 11 July on Brexit induced opportunities and risks on the Climate Data from Space value chain

Date of Next Meeting: Next meeting would be in early Autumn.

[post meeting note – next meeting Reading or Harwell 13th October 1-4pm]

Meeting closed at 15.15

Annex 1 Feedback from the breakout groups.

The best Option for continuation of CDSSG funding:

Marketisation Group:

- Suggest Option 1 or Option 2
- Regarding Option 3, the group couldn't see a mechanism for this to easily work. A lobbying collaboration with everyone contributing stops individual ownership. This makes it hard to persuade managements to buy in if you are unable to demonstrate that the return on investment comes directly back to the investor
- It will be important to establish who the group is open to if people are contributing. Important questions to consider; Who do we invite to meetings? Will people speak as freely if they have to pay?
- Industry bodies are will to fund in principle, in-kind funding contributions not pure cash

Training Group:

- Must be done within a shared framework
- Public sector organisations are unlikely to be able to fund
- Suggest a model similar to the ISIC model could be used as a start point
- Satellite and Soil meeting, members pay in for events open to everyone to help grow the sector
- People would be willing to invest if it made it easier to recruit people with the right skill level

Data & Tech Group:

- If CDSSG work aligns with currently funded work then there are ways of re-channelling current funding
- ***Ownership of CDSSG:***

Marketisation Group:

- The group suggest either:
 - UKSA sitting above all
 - Or a subscription mechanism with a CDSSG Contributor Group / Governing Board where people buy in to it, own it and govern it.

Data & Tech Group:

- Agree UKSA should own the framework and UKSA to decide who the Framework Manager is.
- They will have privileged access to funding opportunities with limited access so it is important to work out how to share out the funding opportunities. Suggest someone in the IEA, part funded and part contribution in-kind.

Who the Framework Manager should be:

Marketisation Group:

- Suggest middle to senior level depending on whether they would write the brief or talk to ministers themselves
- Suggest considering an FT split

Data & Tech Group:

- Suggest 2 days a week of a person would be optimal for Options 1, 2 and 3
- Important to get the right person at the right level of seniority but will depend on the scope of the work

Host of the Programme Manager:

Marketisation Group:

- Should not be an industrial organisation, nor an academic one. The group suggest the IEA as it is neutral, is involved in relevant activity and has useful skillsets

Data & Tech Group:

- Where the person sits is less important than having the right person in post
- Suggest they are hosted in an IEA type of organisation

Priority/Suggested activities moving forwards:

Marketisation Group:

- The primary priority of the framework should be how to rebuild the missing chunks of the value chain particularly in the light of Brexit and potential impacts on the R&D in H2020.

Data & Tech Group:

- Community coordination and info sharing is very important
- Likewise generating user requirements
- There is a need for infrastructure storage and processing to generate Climate data from Space
- There are tools needed to do the sub set of work with Sentinel 3 and 2

Training group

- Training landscape should be considered. There is a need from industry to provide individuals skilled in EO and climate data and industry relevant technical skills
- Are there analyses of currently available training courses relevant to the SSC? Potential for a community analysis document.