

## **The ICSU World Data System**

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The ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS) created in October 2008 by the 29th General Assembly of ICSU, replaces the ICSU World Data Centre system and the ICSU Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services. Its primary goals are to ensure the long-term stewardship of quality-assessed data for research and education, and the provision of such data and related data services to the international science community and other stakeholders. For this purpose, the WDS aims to incorporate scientific data activities into a common, globally interoperable, distributed data system, building on interconnections between disciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific applications. With a broad disciplinary and geographic base, WDS strives to grow into a worldwide '*community of excellence*' for scientific data.

The WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) was appointed by ICSU to implement and administer the activities of the WDS. A WDS Constitution and a WDS data policy statement have been approved, and a tender offer issued for an International Program Office. A preliminary worldwide survey of scientific data management and data services organizations generated over 100 expressions of interest. The certification procedure for candidate WDS members is being finalized. These documents are found on the new WDS web site at <http://icsu-wds.org/>. The ICSU WDS-SC recognizes that it is critical to coordinate ongoing developments with existing community data activities such as the International Polar Year Data and Information System (IPY-DIS), the new CODATA-sponsored Polar Information Commons (PIC) and GRDI2020.