
COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

ITEM: 3

EXPERT TEAM ON OBSERVATIONAL DATA REQUIREMENTS
AND REDESIGN OF THE GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM

Original: ENGLISH

REDUCED SESSION

OXFORD, ENGLAND, 1 – 5 JULY 2002

REPORT ON THE COSNA/SEG MEETING

(Submitted by Dr. Horst Böttger, ECMWF)

Summary and Purpose of the Document

The 12th Session of the COSNA Scientific Evaluation Group, held at ECMWF, Reading, 21-22 May 2002, discussed issues related to the future of CGC and SEG. An extract from the draft report of the Session is attached.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team Members are invited to consider the SEG's views concerning proposals for a continuation of the data impact studies work.

DISCUSSION

1. The CGC on COSNA is likely to be subsumed into EUCOS by August 2003 when the final decision will be taken. EUCOS will have a Scientific Advisory Team to advise on issues related to the observing system over Europe and the North Atlantic. EUCOS, which is oriented toward the European needs, cannot support the more general type observation impact study work, which has been carried out over the last 10 years by the Scientific Evaluation Group for COSNA. Although the SEG had focussed on the North Atlantic, the impact studies were mainly undertaken with global forecasting systems and produced globally valid results. The SEG also organised two workshops on the subject of data impact studies with invited speakers and experts (partially funded by CGC and co-sponsored by the WMO).
2. The data impact study work of the SEG and the related workshops are considered to be valuable contributions towards the monitoring and the development of the global observing system. Environmental monitoring and weather forecasting through global NWP systems require a well-balanced and integrated observing system providing high quality *in situ* and remotely sensed data for the earth, the sea and the atmosphere. Global NWP centres are best placed to assess the relative contribution and value of the various components of the observing system and to provide feedback on data requirement and input for the re-design of the Global Observing System. In particular the evolution of the satellite observing system capabilities and the utilisation of the data in skilful data assimilation systems should be monitored and supported through a well-organised programme of observing system experiments involving the major NWP centres of the WMO members from all the Regions.
3. While there is a strong interest in the scientific community in this OSE work, it will be important for the specification of future observational data requirement and the re-design of the Global Observing System that the observing system experimentation work provides direct feedback into the work of the WMO/CBS activities. Therefore it is important that these activities of the SEG be taken over. At this stage the view of the SEG is that the CBS/OPAG-IOS through the Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and the Re-design of the GOS and its Rapporteurs on global and regional NWP appears to be best placed to organise the OSE work and arrange future workshops as open fora for the exchange of the results from the OSE studies and for providing the feedback to the operators and managers of the observing system on the performance of their systems and future data requirements.
4. The appendix contains excerpts from the Draft Final Report, Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG), Twelfth Session, ECMWF, Reading, U.K., 21-22 May 2002]

APPENDIX

[Extract from the Draft Final Report, Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG), Twelfth Session, ECMWF, Reading, U.K., 21-22 May 2002]

FUTURE OF CGC AND SEG

Magne Lystad, Chairman of CGC, informed the meeting of the CGC Management Group decision to propose to CGC at the session in August 2003 to take a decision on the integration of COSNA in EUCOS and to transfer the CGC activities to EUMETNET. As far as the SEG activities were concerned, CGC had taken the view that it would be desirable for these activities to be carried out within the framework of WMO/CBS. The OPAG-IOS with the Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and the Redesign of the GOS and the two rapporteurs on global and regional NWP impact studies was considered to provide the organisational structure to take on the task of impact study monitoring, promotion and co-ordination. Assuming an agreement of CBS in December 2002 to take over the SEG activities, the CGC at its session in August was expected to take the decision in principle to disband the SEG as from 1 January 2003.

Andrew Lorenc informed the meeting of the view of WGNE that the SEG had fulfilled an important role in soliciting and undertaking global data and regional impact studies with a view towards the re-design and the development of the global observing system. WGNE has no intention to take on such routine activities and fully supports the idea to let the CBS take over this function when the SEG ceases to exist.

Jean Pailleux, in his capacity as the CBS/OPAG rapporteur on global NWP studies, noted the importance of OSEs and OSSEs for the redesign and development of the observing system. Regular workshops are an important forum for the monitoring of the progress with NWP impact studies and for the exchange of the results and views amongst the parties involved, including the managers and operators of the observing systems. Jean Pailleux noted the past difficulties in organising such workshops on NWP studies with limited resources and therefore welcomed the decision of the OPAG-IOS Expert Team to set up an ad hoc working group for the organisation of the next workshop.

Paul Menzel, Chairman of the OPAG/IOS ET on ODRRGOS, noted the importance of the work of the SEG and expressed his expectations that the ET will benefit from future NWP impact studies. The ET will be prepared to co-sponsor future workshops and participate actively in the organisation of such events on approximately a tri-annual cycle. He did not see a need for any SEG type meeting in the interim period. The SEG members, however, expressed the view that the annual meetings of the SEG had been an important aspect of the work, it had contributed significantly towards a co-ordination of the NWP impact study work between the members and had been instrumental in following up the progress of work.

The Chairman of the SEG in his summary concluded that the data monitoring and NWP impact study activities of the SEG had provided an important contribution towards the work of the CGC in monitoring and developing the COSNA. Through the organisation of the two workshops on the impact of observations on global and regional NWP, both co-sponsored by the WMO, the SEG had raised the awareness for the need of such work on a global scale. Horst Böttger welcomed the intention of the CBS/OPAG-IOS ET to organise future workshops. He also noted with appreciation that the CGC and the WMO Secretariat may provide the funding for the next workshop in early 2004. Horst Böttger expressed his concern that there are no plans for regular, *i.e.*, annual meetings of the key contributors towards the NWP impact study work. The CBS/OPAG rapporteurs are expected to follow the work and keep in touch with the various contributors. As voiced strongly by the SEG it was felt that the composition of a successor institution to the SEG would be desirable. Both CGC and the OPAG-IOS ET are expected to address this issue further in their forthcoming meetings in July and August 2002.