

# IPY Data - Plans and Needs

## Overview

IPY has an enlightened and advanced data policy, clearly stated and agreed to by IPY participants. With appropriate exceptions to protect individuals, local and traditional knowledge, and certain sacred or endangered locations, the IPY data policy requires that all participants make IPY data available fully, freely, openly, and on the shortest feasible time scales.

For some IPY participants a free and open data policy represents business as usual. For many participants, however, the free and open policy, and the practical needs to publicly identify the data, to make the data available to other users, and to ensure adequate long-term preservation of the data, represent unfamiliar responsibilities. The IPY Data and Information Service exists to encourage and assist all participants to meet IPY data requirements. The result, integrated and accessible data from all the various specialties of IPY, will represent a technical triumph and a scientific revolution.

Achieving this unprecedented data exchange capability will require advances in communication and storage technology, the most modern tools for linking and browsing information, and a high level of international cooperation among many data centers. Most of all, however, it requires staff to assist the thousands of IPY researchers in the careful and important tasks of identification, availability, and preservation and to ensure integration of the many products.

The **IPY Data and Information Service (IPY DIS)** focuses on three essential tasks during, soon after, and long after IPY operations: **identification, availability, and preservation.**

## IPY Data Activities Task Summary and Schedule

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
IDENTIFICATION					
		AVAILABILITY			
			PRESERVATION		
COORDINATION					

## Identification

We intend to produce a comprehensive set of information using a shared international standard that identifies the type, time, location, and description of all IPY data. We seek to have a complete description of IPY data by March 2009.

Staff need: Two (2) full-time Discovery Coordinators, for 24 months, from October 2007 to October 2009. These IPY data discovery coordinators need to understand international data formats and standards, to work skillfully with spreadsheets and databases, and to interact pleasantly and professionally with IPY researchers from many nations. The discovery coordinators will work from their home institutions. They will work closely with the leaders of the IPY DIS. This team will build on work underway and will constitute a data identification help desk for IPY participants.

## **Availability**

We seek to have all IPY data accessible through an international network of regional and speciality centers and services by March 2010.

Staff need: Six (6) part-time Data Integrators for 24 months, from March 2008 to March 2010. Ideally, each data integrator would develop partnerships among IPY researchers and new and existing data availability services within a broad disciplinary area, such as oceanography or meteorology. These IPY data integrators need to have working familiarity with existing data availability services within one or more of those disciplinary areas. The data integrators will work from their home institutions. They will work closely with the IPY Data Policy and Management Committee, with the IPY DIS, and with integration activities in appropriate IPY projects. This team will serve as a data availability help desk for IPY participants.

## **Preservation**

We seek to have all IPY data in secure long-term archives by 2012.

Preservation of global environmental data, for IPY and for science generally, presents a short-term planning and coordination challenge and a long-term resource and technology challenge. IPY can and should serve as a catalyst for prompt progress in data preservation. We seek leadership from among national funding agencies to immediately stimulate international action on data preservation. The IPY IPO director, working with members of the IPY Joint Committee, with the IPY sponsoring agencies (ICSU, WMO), and with the IPY Data Policy and Management Committee, will carry this issue forward starting with the IGFA meeting on 1 November 2007.

Need: Sustained long-term data preservation capabilities at national and international data centers.

## **Coordination**

The leaders of the IPY DIS carry substantial national and international leadership responsibilities, as expected for an urgent component of such a prominent program. A day-to-day IPY data activities coordinator will ensure maximum communication and coordination among the many IPY data management activities, and maximum information flow to the IPY projects.

Staff need: One (1) full-time data activities coordinator for 24 months, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009. This data activities coordinator will keep all parties informed, will support sub-committees and planning groups, and will provide information through newsletters and alerts to IPY participants and to science and data communities. The data activities coordinator should have a general familiarity with international data activities. The data activities coordinator should work at an international IPY data center or at the IPY IPO. The data activities coordinator will report to the IPY Data Policy and Management Committee co-chairs and to the IPY IPO director.