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# WDS: A Trusted Community of Excellence

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World Data System, International Program Office (WDS-IPO)

Hosted at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) by the UT Oak Ridge Innovation Institute (UTORII)

## WDS Mission

The World Data System supports the International Science Council through our mission of enhancing the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of our member data repositories and data services by:



Creating trusted communities of scientific data repositories



Strengthening the scientific enterprise throughout the entire lifecycle of data and all related components creating first-class data that feeds first-class research outputs



Advocating for accessible data and transparent and reproducible science

## Membership Categories

Membership Type (# as of 4/19/23)	Membership description
<b>Regular (86)</b>	Organizations that are data stewards or data services (e.g., data centers and services that support scientific research by holding and providing data or data products).
<b>Network (11)</b>	Umbrella bodies representing groups of data stewards or data services, some of which may or may not be WDS Regular Members. Usually serve as coordinating agents for nodes that have common characteristics and often common disciplines (e.g., International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE))
<b>Partner (11)</b>	Organizations that are not data stewards or data services but contribute support or funding to WDS and/or WDS Members (e.g., International Scientific Unions of the ISC supporting data services, and public and private agencies that provide technical or financial support).
<b>Associate (20)</b>	Organizations interested in the WDS endeavor and participate in our discussions but do not contribute direct funding or material support (e.g., ISC National Members, Academies, commercial entities).
<b>New! Candidate</b>	Repositories who wish to become Regular Members but do not have all processes and documentation in place to undergo CoreTrustSeal certification. It is a sign of commitment that an organization will become a certified CoreTrustSeal Trustworthy Data Repository and an accredited WDS Regular Member.

## Three steps to joining WDS

1. Complete membership application at: [https://worlddatasystem.org/members/application\\_membership/](https://worlddatasystem.org/members/application_membership/)
2. Agree to WDS Data Sharing Principles
3. Dependent on membership level, apply for CoreTrustSeal certification



## CoreTrustSeal Certification

CoreTrustSeal is an international, community-based, non-governmental, and non-profit organization promoting sustainable and trustworthy data infrastructures.

Visit [www.coretrustseal.org](http://www.coretrustseal.org) to learn more about the 16 Core Trustworthy Data Repository requirements which reflect the characteristics of trustworthy repositories.

## WDS Data Sharing Principles

Data, metadata, products, and information should be **fully and openly shared**, subject to national or international jurisdictional laws and policies, including respecting appropriate extant restrictions, and **in accordance with international standards of ethical research conduct**.

Data, metadata, products, and information produced for research, education, and public-domain use will be made available with **minimum time delay and free of charge**, or for no more than the cost of dissemination, which may be **waived for lower-income user communities to support equity in access**.

All who produce, share, and use data and metadata are stewards of those data and ensure that the data's **authenticity, quality, and integrity** are preserved. Respect for the data source is maintained by **ensuring privacy** where appropriate and encouraging **appropriate citation** of the dataset and original work and **acknowledgment of the data repository**.

Data should be **open by default** and labeled 'sensitive' or 'restricted' only with appropriate justification and clearly defined protocols. They should, in any event, be made available **for use on the least restrictive basis possible**.

Data should be treated with integrity and confidentiality and **treated with the security requested by the data steward and producers**.

To the greatest extent possible, data and data repositories should **follow the best data management and stewardship practices**, such as the FAIR Principles for scientific data management and stewardship (1), the TRUST Principles for Data Repositories (2), and the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (3).



an affiliated body of



**International  
Science Council**

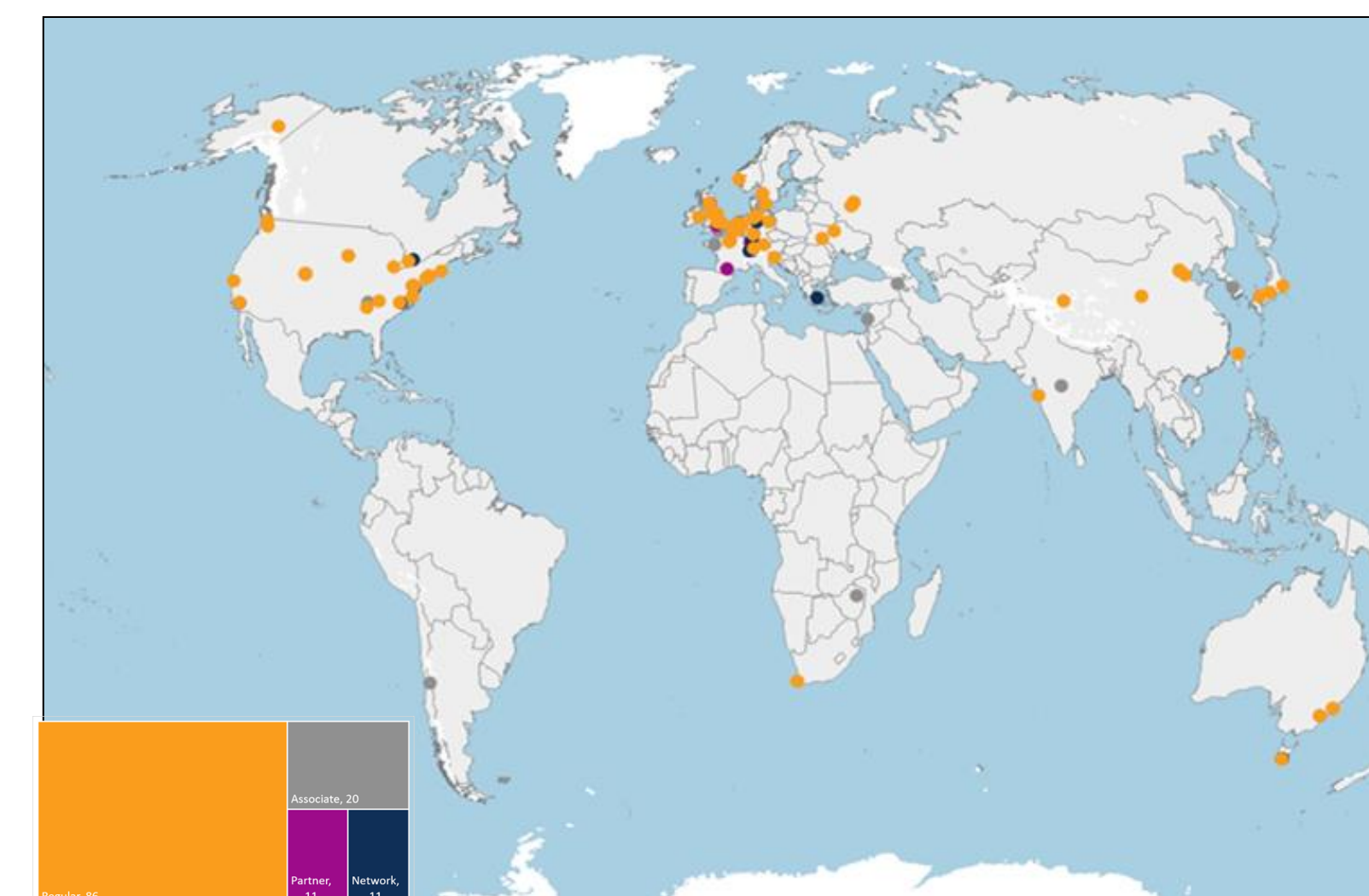


Figure 1. WDS members as of 4/19/2023

## WDS Scientific Committee 2021-2024

**Chair:** David Castle (Canada) **Vice-chairs:** Claudia Medeiros (Brazil), Hugh Shanahan (UK) **Members:** Christine Choirat (Switzerland), Mamoru Ishii (Japan), Margaret Levenstein (USA), Libby Liggins (New Zealand), Yasuhiro Murayama (Japan), Marc Nyssen (Brussels), Dale Peters (South Africa), Ioana Popescu (The Netherlands), Juanle Wang (China) **Early Career Research (ECR) Network Representative:** Maja Dolinar (Slovenia) **Ex officio:** Suzie Allard (UTK), Geoffrey Boulton (ISC)

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## References

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2. Lin, D., Crabtree, J., Dillo, I. et al. The TRUST Principles for digital repositories. *Sci Data* 7, 144 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-020-0486-7>
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