

PAGES Data Board Meeting

KANDERSTEG, SWITZERLAND, 4-6 MARCH 2002

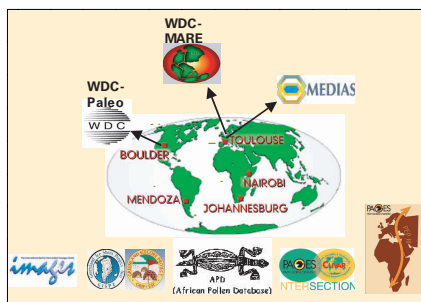


Fig. 1: Many of the data centers and data activities that are part of the PAGES Data System.

At the inaugural meeting of the new PAGES Data Board a list of planned actions and data policies was drawn up. Members in attendance at the inaugural meeting included representatives from all of the major data archives such as The World Data Center for Paleoclimatology in Boulder, USA, the World Data Center for Marine Environmental Data and PANGAEA in Germany as well as MEDIAS-France. In addition, representatives from thematic data collection efforts such as the African, European and North American Pollen databases and the IMAGES program were also present. Although participation in the workshop was necessarily limited, membership in the PAGES data board is open to all interested scientists and organizations. A full list of the proposed new PAGES Data board policies, which have subsequently been approved by the PAGES Scientific Steering Committee, is available on our web-

site www.pages-igbp.org. Here we highlight a few of the major outcomes of the meeting:

Members of the PAGES Data System will work to encourage and facilitate access and exchange of paleoenvironmental data by:

- establishing networks for data management,
- providing tools to facilitate data contribution and improve data utility, and
- increasing data sharing through development of common formats for data and metadata interchange

New members are always welcome in the PAGES Data System, their management activities should:

- be developed in coordination with existing data management programs and centers (Fig. 1)
- use existing databases and systems where appropriate,
- use the metadata profiles and interchange systems approved by the PAGES Data Board for paleo-metadata management and exchange,
- establish a protocol to define the expected flow of data from scientists, through discipline or project based data programs, to long-term archive, and
- fully document data following established standards for metadata and data.

In the near future, members of the Data Board will cooperate to create a

web based metadata portal compatible with, and linked to, the data archives maintained by all members. This portal, which will be mirrored by all the participating organizations including the PAGES IPO, will allow scientists to search for, or submit, any type of quantitative paleodata using simple keywords. This tool will allow fast and easy access to paleodata archived around the world.

The success of this initiative depends on the cooperation of various database managers, which was achieved during this first Data Board meeting, but more importantly, it depends on the willingness of individual scientists to submit their data to a participating archive. As one way to support this initiative, PAGES will request that the data used to create any figure published in a science highlights in PAGES News, be made publicly available in a participating data archive.

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PAGES Meeting on High Latitude Paleoenvironments

MOSCOW, RUSSIA, 16-17 MAY 2002

Studies of environmental changes in the Arctic region are important not only for understanding vegetation and climate history inside the polar circle, but over the entire Earth. This PAGES meeting in Moscow brought together over 100 palaeoscientists working in northern Eurasia. The two-day schedule included 25 keynote lectures and more than 80 poster presentations. A wide variety of topics - from global carbon balance to climatic influences on ancient Egyptian society - covering geographical

regions from the Barents Sea to the Tian-Shan Mountains and from Ukraine to Kamchatka - were covered, making it difficult to write a consistent overview. Unlike conventional meetings on High Latitude Environments, this meeting specifically sought to bring together the results obtained by the research teams of the former USSR, in collaboration with foreign partners, during the last ten years.

In the opening lecture Keith Alverson (Bern, Switzerland), provided an

overview of PAGES and called for greater participation from the Russian and eastern European paleoscience communities. Eugene Vaganov (Krasnoyarsk) and Stepan Shiyatov (Ekaterinburg) presented results and perspectives from dendrochronological studies in the Urals and Siberia. These include full Holocene tree-ring chronologies and seek to reconstruct annually resolved temperature variability from tree-ring data. Significant shifts of the timberline in the Polar Ural Mountains was shown to