

Scientific Partnership

between

**NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information – Center for Weather and Climate, World
Data Service for Paleoclimatology**

(Boulder Colorado, United States of America, hereafter "WDS-Paleo")

and

Past Global Changes Project

(Bern, Switzerland, hereafter "PAGES")

1 Participants of this Partnership

This Partnership has been undertaken between PAGES and WDS-Paleo, hereafter called “Participants”.

PAGES supports research aimed at understanding the Earth’s past environment in order to understand patterns and mechanisms of variability and to constrain projections for the future. Founded in 1991, PAGES is currently a core project of Future Earth. It is overseen by a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) made up of members chosen to provide balanced expertise in the major techniques, disciplines and geographic regions that contribute to paleoscience, with attention to issues of diversity relative to national origin, gender, and ethnicity. Over 6,000 scientists from more than 100 countries around the world conduct research within the PAGES sphere of interest.

WDS-Paleo archives and distributes data contributed by scientists around the world. It provides the paleoclimatology data and information that scientists need to understand natural climate variability and potential future climate change. It is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Within NOAA, it is part of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), and fosters NOAA's goals to understand climate variability, extremes, and change and to build societal resilience in relation to these aspects of climate. WDS-Paleo is governed within NOAA by the NESDIS-NCEI organizational structure in response to NOAA's goals, and specifically within NCEI by the management and scientific directorship of NCEI's Center for Weather and Climate (CWC). WDS-Paleo is a member Service of the World Data System (WDS), and in this capacity is certified by the WDS governance structure. WDS-Paleo also houses the International Tree Ring Data Base (ITRDB) and International Multi-Proxy Paleo-Fire Database (IMPD) for the boards of these groups.

2 Background

PAGES and WDS-Paleo recognize convergence in their interests and activities, and the existence of substantial mutual collaboration. PAGES and WDS-Paleo similarly respond to “bottom-up” initiatives that arise from the paleoclimate community. Beginning with early community synthesis products, PAGES has developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in research that involve data stewardship, synthesis, and analysis. PAGES facilitates the development of data-intensive synthesis products, and promotes data stewardship within its constituency. Several databases have been developed and used widely, and many others are under construction. Anticipating a growing need and opportunity to coordinate and develop high-quality and easily accessible data products and services, PAGES and WDS-Paleo establish this Scientific Partnership. In their respective functions as coordination organizations for international paleoscience and World Data Service for paleoscience data, PAGES and WDS-Paleo are ideally positioned to pursue joint community-driven data-centered activities to implement the FAIR Guiding Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) for paleoscientific research.

3 Parties, Subject and Scope of this Partnership

The Participants endeavor to maintain this Partnership for the mutual benefit of both Parties. This document sets out the intended goals and activities of the Partnership as well as responsibilities for each Participant.

4 Activities of Collaboration and Partnership

4.1 Official addresses and contact information

The official address of WDS-Paleo will be:

World Data Service for Paleoclimatology
NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, Center for Weather and Climate
325 Broadway Street
Boulder, CO 80305-3337
USA

Official correspondence concerning WDS-Paleo should go to its Director.

The official address of PAGES will be:

PAGES International Project Office
Hochschulstrasse 4
3012 Bern
Switzerland

Official correspondence concerning PAGES should go to its Executive Director.

4.2 Elements of collaboration and partnerships

The Participants intend to develop activities of mutual interest focused on enhancement of paleo data products and services, including the development, communication, and implementation of community vetted standards and formats for the archiving of paleoscience data. These activities might potentially include (virtual) workshops and meetings, jointly sponsored and produced reports, joint sessions at international conferences, joint communication towards the paleoscience community, or other activities or products of mutual interest.

Potential new mutual activities, beyond those in existence at the time of implementation of this arrangement, which would require substantial commitments of additional time by either Participant, will be discussed in advance. As requested by either or both Participants, the structure and timing of deliverable components of such new activities will be described in a separate project arrangement. This project arrangement will include: Identification of the project managers, defined completion and termination criteria and duration, work plan and technical specifications, and mutual objectives. In the event that any Intellectual property is developed or exchange of resources is necessary, a legally binding agreement will be required.

4.3 Enhanced communication and planning

The Participants may establish sustained communication and mutual planning at the executive levels of PAGES and the WDS-Paleo Director and Products Section Head within NCEI-CWC. This communication and planning collaboration might include elements such as periodic virtual meetings, shared calendars, mutual representation on steering or ad hoc advisory committees, and other regular or ad hoc interactions as identified as useful by the parties. Each Participant may announce and promote this scientific partnership on their respective websites and other publications where appropriate.

5 Financial and Administrative Commitments of the Parties

5.1 Nothing in this arrangement commits or requires either Participant to expend or exchange funds or other resources.

5.2 The Participants intend to administrative cooperation as necessary, able, at the director, and executive levels, to support the overall goals and mutually-agreed tasks of this Partnership.

6 General provisions

6.1 Amendments and additions to the Partnership

This Partnership document describes the intended relationship of and collaboration between the Participants. There are no existing collateral agreements and any earlier official or unofficial arrangements are hereby terminated. Amendments, additions, and extensions to this Partnership are only valid if made in writing and signed by both Participants.

6.2 Obligation of assistance

The Participants may provide each other promptly, to the extent possible, the mutual assistance required to enable this Partnership.

6.3 Commitment

This arrangement is not a legally binding commitment and is not binding under international law.

7 Term and right of termination

This Partnership is intended to commence once it is signed by the Participants and be valid for 5 years. If either Participant desires to terminate this Partnership prematurely, it should notify the other Participant at least 3 months in advance. Upon receipt of such letter, both Participants should work together to plan the way forward.

Signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Participants:

Dr. Marie-France Loutre
Executive Director
PAGES International Project Office
Bern [DATE] //

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May 8, 2019

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