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Report of the Data Policy Working Group

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This document presents the current situation of the IAI-DIS system, the updated list of actions, as well as some points on the future of the system.

The purpose of the system has been previously presented, however its important re-emphasize that the IAI-DIS is a distributed database system that uses the Internet to disseminate information related to Global Change research using standardized formats.

Current Situation of the System

To date, only the Brazilian and Uruguayan nodes remain operational. The first node references data from INPE and IAI (reports from programs ISP, CRN and PESCA) and the second node is working, however no data has been submitted to date.

Actions taken during the past year

1) **Implementation of interactions between the IAI-DIS with LBA-DIS from CPTEC/INPE, so that a user of LBA-DIS can find information in IAI-DIS and vice-versa.** COMMENTS: During this past year, we made contacts with LBA-DIS to explore this possibility. To facilitate this interaction we will need to modify part of the source code of the IAI-DIS system and recompile it. To accomplish this, we need some additional support from CIESIN.

2) **Test of the IAI-DIS system on the SUN platform with Operating System Solaris 8 and Oracle 8i.** COMMENTS: This is working, however CIESIN cannot give support for two platforms at the same time. The SUN platform is less expensive than IBM, and more widely used in the academic world.

3) **Inclusion of all Final Reports from ISP1 and ISP2 in the IAI-DIS system in the Brazilian node**. COMMENTS: Complete. This will be done for ISP3, CRN and PESCA Final Reports as well.

4) **Addition of links from the IAI-DIS homepage to existing IAI project homepages.** COMMENTS: We are calling this **IAI-DIS level 1**. Complete

5) **Drafting the document "Policies for metadata creation within the IAI-DIS**". COMMENTS: This document is in its first version, defining the procedures for metadata creation, and laying out general rules for the national node managers.

6) **Define a strategy to begin creating metadata at the Uruguay node**. COMMENTS: The Uruguay node manager will come to Brazil to brush up on the technical issues of IAI-DIS and afterwards begin the utilization of the system.

7) **Restructuring of the DISWG**. COMMENTS: The Uruguay node manager, Carlos Martinez, was invited to join the working group and he has accepted. Active PI's from IAI projects that are data intensinve will also be invited to join.

8) **Submission of a proposal to the infoDev program of the World Bank**. COMMENTS: This proposal was submitted, but was unfortunately not funded.

Future -of the system

1) The relationship with CIESIN as an Associate of the IAI remains to be negotiated, and the WG will transmit its recommendations on future software support needs to the Director.

2) It is clear that the development of an independent system that is at the cutting edge of DIS technology is beyond the IAI's present budget, and that an incremental approach is needed. This incremental approach will address the constraints of both the scientists and the node managers. The DIS is robust enough for heavy data generators and users as designed, and should be kept available for those users that are in a position to take advantage of it. The WG has recommended that the system be eventually migrated to a platform other than the IBM. For low-volume data generating projects, a web-based approach will be initially followed that will gradually migrate to the full IAI-DIS system as originally envisioned.

3) The DPWG will continue to work closely with the Communications Task Force in developing strategies and guidance for the development of the IAI-DIS, the IAI Homepage system, and the other components of the IAI information management and dissemination infrastructure.