

# Information and Core Data

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# Natural Science Research Agenda

- Current focus on natural science data needs
- What are natural scientists trying to measure?
- Where? (Site locations and monitoring stations)  
Site selection & scope and placement of sensors/arrays
- How frequently?  
Timing of measurements from real-time to annual
- To what extent?  
Compatibility with existing data sources

# Identifying Social Science Core Data

- Focus on human activities, impacts, etc.
- Synergies between social & natural sciences
  - Common data collection locations
  - Shared information (e.g. water use)
- Conflicts between social & natural sciences
  - Sensor placement to avoid ‘heat island’ effect v. placement to understand urban environments

# Balancing Priorities

- Social science input into research design
  - Contribute to decisions on site/sensor selection
- Planning for additional/complementary monitoring sites, measurements
- Evaluation based on compatibility with existing social science databases/sources
  - Census data
  - Geo-spatial databases

# Integration Issues

- Different observation methods
  - Household surveys
  - Focus group interviews
  - Unlike a sensor, not as clear when survey is “turned on”
- Different topical areas
  - Evaluating ecosystem services
  - Understanding environmental regulation/management
  - Policy implementation and analysis

# Breakout Questions

- What are the specific types of core data (human behaviors & activities, human impacts & responses, human welfare & development) that allow social science to serve as an input into natural science data collection and vice versa?
- Are there different data management and archival systems required for social versus natural science data?
  - quantitative data
  - qualitative data
- What are the existing sources (readily available, historically important, widely used, etc.) of social science data that could be used in parallel to observatory data?