

Manuscript essd-2024-14

Dear Editor, Sibylle Haßler,

Thank you for your positive comments on our manuscript to which we have only added a reference to the revised Readme file as discussed below.

These changes have been highlighted in blue in the annotated version of the manuscript:

“An online Readme file, that includes links to two short tutorials, provides additional technical information (https://www.isric.org/sites/default/files/Readme_WoSIS_202312_v2.pdf.” (Section 5, line 12) respectively, at the top of Appendix B (p. 27): “Technical details are provided in a Readme file (https://www.isric.org/sites/default/files/Readme_WoSIS_202312_v2.pdf.”.

Your main, and important, queries relate to the dataset itself. In particular its description and how the data can be easily imported. These comments relate to materials described on a GeoNetwork landing page. As such, we could not flag our changes using track changes. Therefore, we provide links to the modified texts as currently uploaded online:

- a) The revised snapshot landing page can be viewed see :

<https://data.isric.org/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/metadraf/e50f84e1-aa5b-49cb-bd6b-cd581232a2ec>

We revised/expanded the Readme file based on your comments, see:

https://www.isric.org/sites/default/files/Readme_WoSIS_202312_v2.pdf. It includes responses to your queries about “a. the files and what they contain (e.g. a list and short description); b. the individual columns within each file; c. the units of the columns (e.g. the upper_depth information is supposedly in cm?) ; and d. the category values that can occur in the columns and what they mean (e.g. “P” in the organic_surface).”

- b) To facilitate users, we have prepared two tutorials showing how to import TSV data into R programmes and Excel spreadsheets, respectively.

- https://www.isric.org/sites/default/files/Read_wosis_snapshot_2023_tsv_files_in_R.pdf

- https://www.isric.org/sites/default/files/Import_wosis_snapshot_2023_TSV_file_into_Excel.pdf

The new tutorials have also been added to the FAQ page: https://www.isric.org/explore/wosis/faq-wosis#Are_there_any_tutorials .

- c) The Readme file is now directly accessible under ‘Downloads and links’. It is also included in the zip file as, in our experience, users like to have the Readme file together with the data in their ‘download’ folder.

Further, you indicated ‘the wosis_202312.gpkg could benefit from classes or mean values instead of or additional to text for the positional uncertainty so that it can be filtered and sorted.’ Positional uncertainty in the snapshot is provided as four classes (text) that can be easily filtered. Since positional_uncertainty inherently is a ‘coarse measure’ providing mean values for a given class would not be useful as we do not know the ‘true accuracy’ of the coordinates (see section 3.4.1 in Manuscript).

We hope these replies satisfactorily answer your questions.

Best regards,

Niels Batjes on behalf of all co-authors