

MEETING OF THE
Expert Team on WORLD DATA CENTRES
(JMA, Tokyo, Japan, 21-23 January 2014)

GAW Data Policy – Fit for Purpose?

Submitted by Martin Schultz

1. Current Official Data Use Policy

See GAW Strategic Plan No. 172 or <http://gaw.empa.ch/gawsis/faqs.asp>

Box 11. Data-use policy of Global Atmosphere Watch

Use of data obtained from one of the WMO/GAW World Data Centres is subject to the following statement endorsed by the WMO Executive Council/Committee on Atmospheric Sciences (EC/CAS) Panel of Experts Working Group on Environmental Pollution and Atmospheric Chemistry [WMO, 2001a]:

"For scientific purposes, access to these [GAW] data is unlimited and provided without charge. By their use you accept that an offer of co-authorship will be made through personal contact with the data providers or owners whenever substantial use is made of their data. In all cases, an acknowledgment must be made to the data providers or owners and to the data centre when these data are used within a publication."

2. Current data policies listed on the WDCs' web sites:

2.1. Aerosols (<http://www.gaw-wdca.org>):

~~The data associated with the GAW-WDCA project, i.e. data reported to WDCA regularly on an annual basis, are available free of charge for non-commercial and scientific use. By using this data, you as data user accept that an offer of co-authorship will be made through personal contact with the data providers or owners whenever substantial use is made of their data. In all cases, an acknowledgement must be made to the data providers or owners and to the project name when these data are used within a publication. Public data are available in EBAS without login.~~

This has been changed as a result of discussions in the RG SAG. New text:

The data associated with the GAW programme, i.e. data reported to WDCA regularly on an annual basis, are available free of charge for non-commercial and scientific use. By using this data, you as data user accept that an offer of co-authorship will be made through personal contact with the data providers or owners whenever substantial use is made of their data. In all cases, an acknowledgement must be made to the data providers or owners and to GAW when these data are used within a publication. GAW WDCA data available from in the EBAS database with open access and without login.

2.2. Greenhouse gases (<http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/>):

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Note: On any publication using data from the individual station, the author must contact the data submitters concerning co-authorship or acknowledgements, and make proper descriptions on the data sources in their references.

2.3. Ozone (http://www.woudc.org/index_e.html):

(not on home page)

When publishing data retrieved from the WOUDC, follow the citation rules to acknowledge the WOUDC and the Agencies who author these data.

Citation rules:

The data contained within the WOUDC Data Archive are free and unrestricted. Please see the WMO International exchange of data and products for more information.

For Scientific purposes, access to these data is unlimited and provided without charge. By their use you accept that an offer of co-authorship will be made through personal contact with the data providers or owners whenever substantial use is made of their data. In all cases, an acknowledgement must be made to the data providers or owners and to the data centre when these data are used within a publication.

2.4. Precipitation (<http://wdcpc.org/>):

No data policy (or did I overlook something?)

2.5. Satellites (http://wdc.dlr.de/data_products/data_use_policy.php):

If data obtained from WDC-RSAT is used as the basis for any presented or published research, or is further disseminated, it is important to acknowledge and reference its origin as being "the ICSU World Data Center for Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere." For data, products or services with specific references given on its WDC-RSAT web page, those should be cited in any publications.

2.6. Radiation (<http://wrdc-mgo.nrel.gov/>):

No data policy (or did I overlook something?)

3. Issues

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3.1. Common GAW data policy:

In order to increase visibility of GAW as a network, it may help to have a common GAW data policy and agree on how/where/when this data policy is displayed. Currently, 3 centres have a somewhat similar policy on display, which is entirely focused on scientific use, but does not clearly define the use and limitations.

3.2. Identify data owners and roles:

As we saw during our GEO AQ CoP metadata discussions in Dublin (Sept 2012), there is a lot of ambiguity in “role codes”, and it would help the users of data if they get a clear idea, who actually “owns” WDC data, and what the role of the WDCs is in providing data, ensuring their quality, etc. Again, this should be defined consistently for the entire GAW program.

Note that the exact wording on the current data policies differs with respect to the data center roles.

3.3. Identify users and provide them with unambiguous information about “terms of use”:

The Tokio meeting agenda has “commercial use” on the agenda. Other users which may increase in importance are “Atmospheric services” (e.g. MACC), which will use the data for model validation. It is certainly debatable whether this would be called “extensive use”, and “publications” ensuing from this activity will primarily be validation reports. It is simply unpractical to ask such users to contact each data owner individually.

For scientific use of the data, one could perhaps specify more clearly “extensive use regarding the interpretation of the data ...” or similar to distinguish this from the “technical use” where for example time series are taken at face value to be compared with model results.

3.4. Add “GAW” somewhere in the terms of use:

Right now it seems like any acknowledgement such as

“Yilmaz Acar, Florence Goutail, [... - up to 100 names?] for providing total column ozone data.”

“The World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Center for providing total column ozone data.”

Or the combination of the above would be legal. No one would know that these data have anything to do with GAW.

4. Proposal

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4.1. Recommended text for a new data use policy:

The data reported to WDC*** as contribution to the WMO GAW programme are available free of charge for non-commercial and scientific use. GAW data are available with open access and with no login/after a simple registration procedure at http://***. Every use of these data shall acknowledge the data providers, the world data center, and the GAW programme with the following statement:

“The data used in this publication were obtained as part of the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme of the World Meteorological Organisation and were retrieved from the World Data Center for *** (http://***). We are grateful to all data providers for making these measurements and delivering their data to the WDC.”

If substantial use is made of data from individual stations, an offer of co-authorship shall be made through personal contact with the data providers or owners.

4.2. Proposed policy for NRT delivery (GAW report 189):

The following main principles are applied to the access/use of the data submitted to the data portal. These rules were formulated with the intent to protect ownership of the data by the station manager. The MACC project welcomes any relaxation of these rules towards free access.

The exact terms of agreement can be negotiated with each participating station:

- I. Data are exclusively used for fast validation of MACC forecast products.
- II. The access to the data server is restricted. Data files are only accessible by the respective GAW site and the MACC GAW validation team (MGvt).
- III. One month after submission, the data can be deleted from the server by request of the respective site.
- IV. The MACC validation team will regularly check WDCGG for final or updated data sets. In case final or revised data sets are available, the “fast delivery” data set will be deleted in agreement with the respective GAW site. These fully calibrated and quality controlled data sets shall replace the “fast delivery” data sets for additional validation of archived forecast or reanalysis products.
- V. Validation products (plots) will be available for the GAW and MACC community.
- VI. In the case of data use for analysis of “interesting episodes” or any other scientific application, co-authorship on the respective publication should be offered to the data providers.