



The AMMA Data and Publication Policy

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Motivation

The African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analyses (AMMA) is an international project which aims to study in collaboration with African scientists the monsoon system from its geophysical aspects to its socio-economic impacts. The multidisciplinary analysis of the observations is a key element of the AMMA strategy. It is in this perspective that the data and publication policy was designed.

Backgrounds

- The policy has been established considering the existing consortium agreement of the AMMA-EU on the one hand and the free data access proposed for other instruments deployed on the other hand.
- This chart only covers data (including quick looks) collected during AMMA field experiments during the period 2005 - 2007 by institutions and individual scientists participating in the project. All pre-existing know-how is excluded.
- The access given to the data by this chart only covers the sole and direct use of the data in the framework of the scientific objectives of AMMA. This categorically excludes the redistribution of data to third parties and the usage for commercial applications.

Rules

- Data producers have to provide the data to the data base 2 months after data acquisition. For complicated datasets requiring a lot of processing and quality control, exceptions will be permitted after examination by the ISSC. The data set can be updated at any time. All knowledge will be disseminated at the very latest on 31st December 2009.
- Any data is accessible on request and royalty free to all AMMA participants within the limits of the scientific objectives of the project. The agencies which have built AMMA need to be acknowledged in any case with the sentence: "Based on an French initiative, AMMA was built by an international scientific group and is currently funded by a large number of agencies, especially from France, UK, US and Africa. It has been the beneficiary of a major financial contribution from the European Community's Sixth Framework Research Programme. Detailed information on scientific coordination and funding is available on the AMMA International web site <http://www.amma-international.org>".
- Users of the data base are expected to contact the producer/owner of the data in order to propose collaboration. To ensure this happens, any access to a data set (or a sub-data set) will automatically trigger an e-mail to the owner of the data so that he/she is aware of who intends to use the data and can contact that person if needed. This also allows the owners of the data to inform their users of any evolution in the dataset.
- Depending on the data type (operational or not), the « production age » and the actuality of a scientific collaboration, any publication will have to be either co-signed by the data provider or at least his contribution acknowledged. For research data collected less than 24 month ago a co-authorship should be considered to the owner of the data.
- Any publication related to AMMA has to be submitted to the Project Office (PO) as soon as it is submitted to the journal, conference or other organization.. At this point any partner can object to the publication and a conciliation procedure is followed.

- The database users are encouraged to report regularly to the AMMA community (through the PO) the studies carried out with the data. At the latest after 2 years a report will be required to reevaluate the access to the database.
- The data access procedure for interested scientists is under the authority of the ISSC of AMMA. Previous to any access, an application including an abstract describing the intended work will have to be submitted to the ISSC. If conflicts do occur, they will be resolved at the level of ISSC including the national and pan-national Committees of AMMA. If a conflict is not solved, it will be addressed to IGB.
- The chart will be signed by all scientists who request access to the AMMA data base.

PROCEDURE

- Scientists performing scientific studies in AMMA wishing to get access to data from the data base fills in the following form and submits it to the PO by email
- PO informs the ISSC who gives his agreement
- PO informs the Scientist that a user account is open.