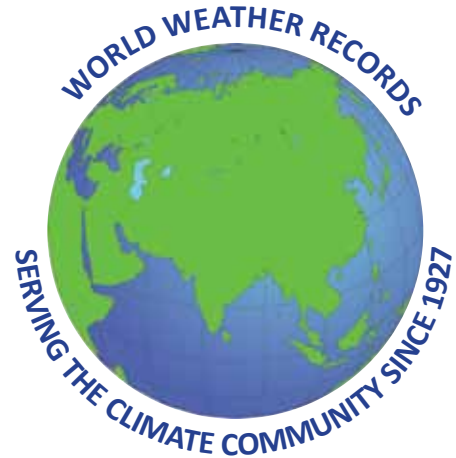


Assessing the Need for Annual Updates to World Weather Records



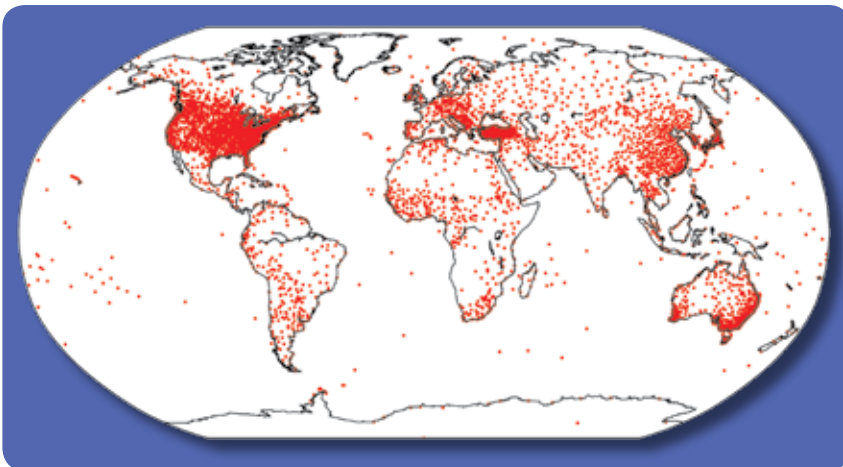
Meeting 21st Century Requirements for Climate Information

The first volume of World Weather Records (WWR) was published in 1927 following a recommendation from the International Meteorological Conference Committee. To provide long and homogenous series of observations in the form of monthly means of pressure, temperature and precipitation.



Serving the Climate Community

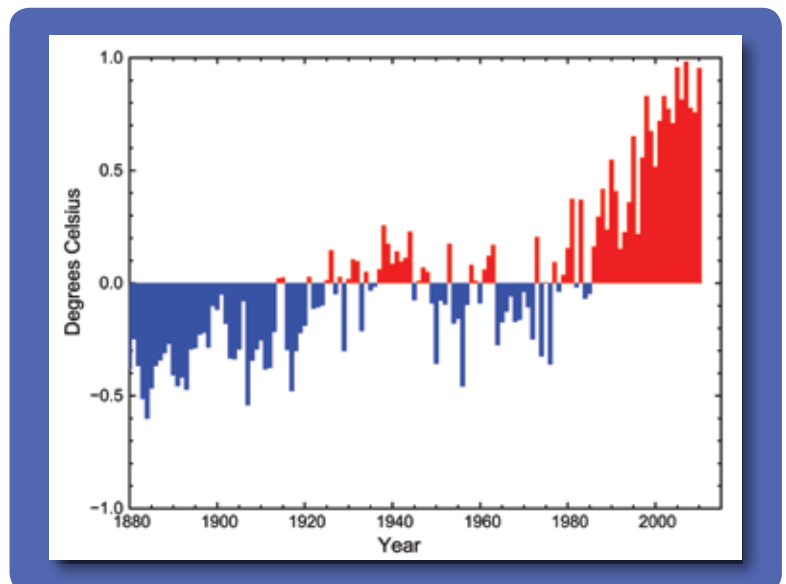
- World Weather Records data are the foundation for understanding global and regional climate variability and change.
- More than one-third of the 1990s station data in global datasets, such as the Global Historical Climatology Network–Monthly, come from World Weather Records, greatly enhancing climate analyses.



The 9th Series of World Weather Records (1991-2000) include data from 193 countries and every continent.

WWR Progression and Change

- Period of record data through 1920 were included in the 1st Series of WWR. Since that time, successive volumes have been produced each decade, and today the 10th Series of WWR covering 2001-2010 is in the early stages of development.
- In the 1960s the first digital data archiving began, the WMO became a sponsor, and WWRs began to be published in 6 separate volumes; today one for each WMO region.
- In the 1970s one nation in each of the WMO Regional Associations began to serve as Regional Collectors of WWR data.



Time series of annual land surface temperature anomalies

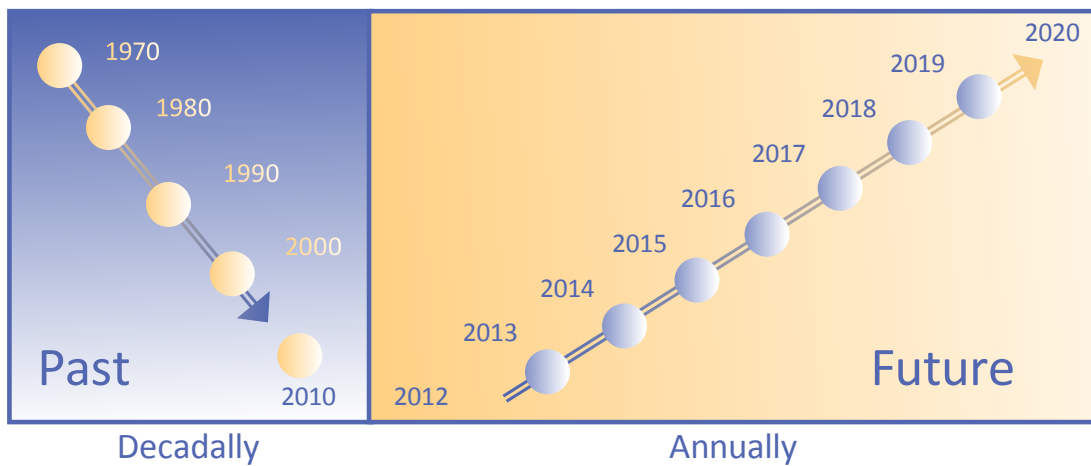
WWR Requirements in the 21st Century

Data from 2001-2010 for many WWR stations will be unavailable to the international community until the 10th Series of WWR is completed in 2012.

The fast pace of decision making needed for assessment, planning, adaptation, mitigation, and response to climate change as well as major weather and climate disasters requires more readily accessible climate information.

Advances in communication technology over the past 20 to 30 years now make it possible to exchange data with greater efficiency and timeliness than scientists in the 1930s ever envisioned.

While once-a-decade development of World Weather Records has well served the climate community's needs for almost a century, today we have both the technological capability and the need for annual updates to World Weather Records.



Benefits of Annual Updates to World Weather Records

- Data can be efficiently and consistently incorporated into climate monitoring activities to provide perspectives on the State of the Earth's climate.
- Climate assessments including IPCC reports will benefit greatly from timely access to temperature, precipitation, and pressure observations.
- Up-to-date information will aid climate change planning and adaptation activities.
- Data will be available to support the climate needs of public and private decision makers.
- Member States will be able to establish routine procedures to support annual updates that will not require lengthy reallocation of personnel resources as is currently required for decadal updates.
- An important part of efforts to enhance climate observations and monitoring within the Global Framework for Climate Services.



For additional information please contact the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme at wcdmp@wmo.int or the World Data Center for Meteorology at wdcamet@noaa.gov.