



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: OBS/WIS/DMA/CDMS

GENEVA, 8 September 2014

Subject: WMO specifications for Climate Data Management Systems (CDMS)

Action required: To note the information contained below and to provide feedback and comments on CDMS specifications

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to Resolution 16 (Climate data requirements) of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress, the Commission for Climatology (CCI) Expert Team on Climate Data Management Systems (ET-CDMS) - in collaboration with the WMO Information System Data Management Applications Division (WIS-DMA) - developed modern specifications of CDMSs.

I am glad to inform you that the Commission for Climatology, at its sixteenth session (3-8 July 2014, Heidelberg, Germany), welcomed and endorsed the *WMO Climate Data Management System (CDMS) Specifications* publication (WMO-No. 1131). The publication establishes a framework for defining and standardizing the architecture and functionality required for modern CDMSs. It will therefore greatly facilitate harmonized approaches for climate data management worldwide which will improve the international exchange of climate data and its analyses in support to WMO Programmes.

With respect to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the specifications will contribute to strengthening the Observation and Monitoring pillar, and creating a modern technological environment for building the data foundation of the Climate Service Information System of the GFCS (GFCS/CSIS). In this regard, commonly applied specifications will ease the use of standardized software tools for calculating statistics and generating products at national levels. Furthermore capacity-building and training in data management and basic data analyses are expected to become more efficient by referring to globally consistent CDMS specifications.

The publication also supports climate adaptation efforts by responding to the recommendation of the GCOS Workshop on Observations for Adaptation to Climate Variability and change (26-28 February 2013, Offenbach, Germany; cf. GCOS-166) to develop infrastructure to support data rescue and promote data rescue and data management as essential climate tasks.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6792)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of technical commissions) (for information)
Presidents of regional associations)
Prof. S. Briggs, Chair, GCOS Steering Committee, ESA, UK)

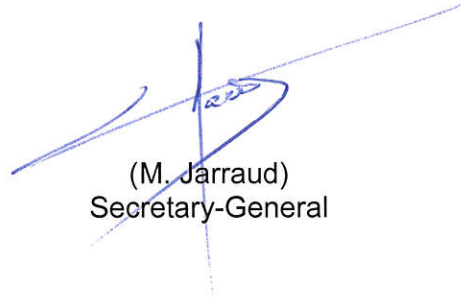
The CDMS Specifications will be updated regularly. Members are kindly invited to provide feedback and comments to Mr Peer Hechler, Scientific Officer, WIS/DMA (phechler@wmo.int), who is designated to coordinate the interactions with the ET CDMS. It is also desirable to provide a name of a contact person from your Service with whom technical details can be addressed.

Members are requested to gradually implement the CDMS Specifications in the course of the coming years, and to share them with CDMS developers. Discussions have been initiated to properly reflect the CDMS Specifications in the WMO Technical Regulations.

The CDMS Specifications publication can be accessed online through the WMO library (<http://library.wmo.int>) or at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcdmp/CDM_3.php.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Jarraud', is written over a large, light blue diagonal line that spans across the signature area.

(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General