

AMMA-CATCH DATA POLICY :

data access and uses conditions

September 2011

Revised version in March 2018

This document defines the rules for accessing and using the data available on line through the AMMA-CATCH database Web application.

This data policy has been endorsed by the Executive Committee of the AMMA-CATCH observing system. At any time, it may be revised to fit at best the AMMA-CATCH programme and database evolutions.

Article 1. Background

Funded by IRD and CNRS-INSU, the AMMA-CATCH observing system aims at documenting the long term variability of the climate and the water cycle as well as that of the associated continental surface conditions in West Africa. The observations started in the late 1980's and are carried out on 4 sites sampling the eco-climatic gradient generated by the West African Monsoon. They provide the basis for studying the interactions between climate, vegetation and water cycle in this region. The AMMA-CATCH data base gathers all the data collected by the observing system in order to provide a convenient and safe access for the whole scientific community.

Article 2. Rules

2.1 General principals

The data base provides access to two types of AMMA-CATCH data: i) the data directly collected by the AMMA-CATCH funded instruments and the data derived from these observations, ii) the value-added gridded products elaborated by the AMMA-CATCH teams from punctual data or data provided by other sources.

The data were originally collected for specific purposes and no warranty is given as to their suitability for use by the recipient. Neither the AMMA-CATCH direction, nor the Principal Investigator (PI) of each dataset can be held responsible for any damage, loss, claim, demand, costs or expenses directly or indirectly arising from the use, receipt or supply of data provided by the AMMA-CATCH data base in the framework of the data policy defined herein.

2.2 Access conditions

All data are freely accessible to all registered users of the database.

Each dataset is characterized by a status which specifies the data access conditions:

- **Public:** datasets downloadable in their entirety by all the users.
- **Public with embargo** (partially restricted): datasets downloadable in their entirety by the members of the observatory and their partners and with a slippery 3-year embargo period, starting on the date of the request for the other users.
- **Private access:** access reserved to members of the observatory.

The restricted access is intended at ensuring an exclusive access for a limited period of time (3 years) so as to allow a consistent work of criticism, analysis and validation of the most recently collected data with two objectives: i) ensuring the quality of the data produced prior to their

dissemination; ii) preserving the right of the Principal Investigator to publish the first scientific analysis of the data set.

The private access applies to data collected by other scientists and provided to AMMA-CATCH under specific agreements prohibiting any public distribution, or to elaborated data.

2.3 Registration

Downloading data requires an authentication of the user, whatever the status of the requested data (public or not). Consequently, users have to apply for registration prior to be granted access to the data base.

Registration is performed through filling out an online form in which the applicant will specify his identity and affiliation, as well as provide an abstract of the studies he intends to carry out with the data. The applicant has to formally accept the data policy.

Validating public registration status is automatic and immediate, while for member or partner status, it is under the responsibility of the executive committee of the AMMA-CATCH observatory. In the meanwhile a public status is offered.

2.4 Usage conditions

The AMMA-CATCH data is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License \(CC-BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

For any publication using AMMA-CATCH data, depending on the contribution of the data to the scientific results obtained, data users should either propose co-authorship to the data providers (doi work package leaders) or at least acknowledge their contribution.

The following sentence should appear in the acknowledgments of the publication:

« The AMMA-CATCH regional observing system (<http://www.amma-catch.org>) was set up thanks to an incentive funding of the French Ministry of Research that allowed pooling together various pre-existing small scale observing setups. The continuity and long term perenity of the measurements are made possible by an undisrupted IRD funding since 1990 and by a continuous CNRS-INSU funding since 2005.»

The download of a dataset will automatically trigger an e-mail to the dataset PI in order to inform him of the applicant's identity and give him the opportunity to contact him.

2.5 Principal Investigator's (PI) duties

It is the PI's responsibility to provide annually a a criticized, qualified and updated version of the dataset to the AMMA-CATCH database as well as to inform users of corrections that may have been made to the dataset.

2.6 Infringements

The non-compliance to the present data policy specifications will lead to the definitive and irreversible suppression of the database access for the user concerned. He will be asked by the database managers to delete all the copies of the datasets obtained from the database.

The Principal Investigators are invited to report any data misuse to the database managers.