

Memorandum of Understanding for Operation of the IPCC Data Distribution Centre

17th March, 2021

1. Context

The IPCC Data Distribution Centre arose out of decisions at the fourteenth session of the IPCC Bureau [IPCC Bureau 1997] and the XIIIth IPCC Plenary (Maldives, 22-28 September 1997) [IPCC 2017]. At the same time an IPCC Task Group was created to oversee the DDC. The governance of the DDC was reviewed by an Ad-Hoc task force in 2017/18, resulting in revised guidance and objectives ([Decision IPCC-XLVII-9](#) Future of the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis based on document [IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 9](#)).

The work of the DDC is carried out by institutions with appropriate expertise in curation of climate and related data and scenario products.

2. Objectives

2.1 Objectives of the DDC

The objectives of the DDC are set out by Annex 2 of the report on the 47th Session of the IPCC Plenary:

The DDC will, contingent on the availability of resources:

2.1 Archive and provide transparency, traceability, and stability of data and scenarios used by the IPCC in its reports, available at the DDC or elsewhere.

2.2 Archive and provide transparency, traceability, and stability of data and scenarios underpinning key figures and tables, and headline statements in the IPCC reports.

2.3 Collaborate as appropriate with data centers that hold data or provide functions relevant to the IPCC in a transparent manner, under the guidance of the TG-DATA and the Working Group Bureaus (WGBs), to provide information via IPCC websites relevant to data and scenarios.

2.4 Curate new data sets unavailable elsewhere and link to external data sets of relevance.

2.5 Improve accessibility to Data Distribution Centre materials for supporting IPCC authors and external users, especially in developing countries.

2.6 Contribute to a sustainable structure established and approved by the IPCC to provide observed and model data and information relevant at regional scales.

Objectives of the MoU

1. Set out the framework for joint operation of the DDC, to enable efficient collaboration among the partners;

2. Create transparency about roles and responsibilities, and provide a mechanism for managing roles, identifying gaps, allocating resources, etc;

Extending the membership of the DDC

This MoU can be revised and extended, including addition of new partners, as requested by TG-DATA.

3. Undertakings of the Undersigned DDC Partners

- To support the objectives of the DDC as set out by the IPCC 47th Plenary;
- To seek and deploy resources targeted at those objectives;
- To establish and maintain a framework for efficient collaboration;
- To apply best practices in data curation to the IPCC datasets, and promote the best practices in the IPCC community, e.g., through coordination with the World Data System of the International Science Council (ISC-WDS).

4. Current Partners

Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA)

CEDA (Centre for Environmental Data Analysis) is a division in the RAL Space department of the UKRI Science and Technologies Facilities Council (UK). CEDA runs data services for the environmental research community in the UK, including data centres and a cloud facility for data analysis.

Head: Victoria Bennett

url: www.ceda.ac.uk

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)

CIESIN (Center for International Earth Science Information Network) is part of the Earth Institute at Columbia University (New York). CIESIN specializes in on-line data and information management, spatial data integration and training, and interdisciplinary research related to human interactions in the environment. CIESIN operates the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), a regular member of the ISC-WDS.

Director: Robert S. Chen

url: <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/>

German Climate Computing Centre (DKRZ)

DKRZ (Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum GmbH) is a non-profit and non-commercial limited company. DKRZ provides central services for German climate and earth system research, and runs the World Data Center Climate (WDCC). DKRZ has joined the Coalition for Publishing Data in the Earth and Space Sciences (COPDESS).

Director: Thomas Ludwig

Url: www.dkrz.de / www.wdc-climate.de

Spanish Research Council (CSIC)

CSIC (Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas) is a public research body governed by the laws of Spain. PTI-Clima is a network of CSIC research centers working in climate and it specializes in on-line data and applications and cloud facilities for

data analysis. CSIC is joining the federation for supporting the Interactive Atlas and related activities and will maintain its collaboration until June 2023 unless the Parties by mutual consent decide to extend its duration.

Head (Vice President for International Affairs): Elena Dominguez Cañas

url: <http://www.csic.es> , <http://pti-clima.csic.es>

5. Signatures

The undersigned commit to the undertakings listed in section 3 above.

Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA)

STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Campus, Didcot
OX11 0QX, UK

www.ceda.ac.uk

Division Head: Victoria Bennett

Signature: 

Date: 13 April 2021

German Climate Computing Centre (DKRZ)

Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum DKRZ GmbH
Bundesstrasse 45 a
D-20146 Hamburg, Germany

www.dkrz.de

Director: Thomas Ludwig

Signature: 

Date: 14.04.2021

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)

Columbia University, Lamont campus
61 Route 9W, PO Box 1000
Palisades, NY 10964 USA

www.ciesin.columbia.edu

Director: Robert S. Chen

Signature: 

Date: 13 April 2021

Spanish Research Council (CSIC)

Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

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Calle Serrano 117,
28006, Madrid, Spain

Vice President for International Affairs: Elena Dominguez Cañas
(authorized to this effect by the Presidency of CSIC by Decision 21/01/2021)

Signature:

Date:

6. Annexes

6.1 References

1. IPCC 1997: Report of the 13th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Maldives, 22 & 25-28 September 1997.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session13/thirteenth-session-report.pdf>
2. IPCC Bureau, session 14 (Maldives, 21st September 1997): report not published.
3. IPCC 2018: 47TH SESSION OF THE IPCC: Decisions adopted by the Panel, 13–16 March 2018, Paris, France: [Decision IPCC-XLVII-9](#)
4. ATF-TGICA 2018c: REPORT BY THE AD HOC TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE TASK GROUP ON DATA AND SCENARIO SUPPORT FOR IMPACT AND CLIMATE ANALYSIS, 47th session of the IPCC. [IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 9](#)

6.2 Procedures for maintaining current page content

The DDC web site (www.ipcc-data.org) contains a wealth of information. The content can be split into four broad categories:

- **Dataset pages**, which describe a specific dataset and provide links to data files or to archive pages which in turn lead to the files;
- **General pages** describing the role and history of the DDC;
- **Thematic pages**, which provide detailed discussion of specific subject areas;
- **Guidance pages**, giving help on specific topics or linking to documents.

The **dataset pages** should contain clear factual information about the datasets.

Maintenance of these pages (e.g. repairing links to 3rd party websites) is the responsibility of a designated partner. Addition of new datasets should be agreed by all DDC partners and by a representative of the IPCC Technical Support Unit (TSU) of one of the Working Groups.

The TSU representative should confirm the relevance of the dataset to the IPCC. e.g.

http://www.ipcc-data.org/sim/gcm_monthly/AR5/index.html,
<http://sedac.ipcc-data.org/ddc/sres/index.html>.

General pages will be maintained by CEDA. Changes which maintain the existing scope of the pages will be agreed by the 3 partners. New pages will only be added after discussion with TG-DATA. e.g. http://www.ipcc-data.org/ddc/ddc_about.html.

Thematic pages present many challenges. Where possible, the content needs to be either regularly updated to maintain relevance or clearly archived so that it is easily identified as past content, representing a view which was valid at the time of publication. Changes should be discussed with TG-DATA before implementation. e.g.

http://www.ipcc-data.org/observ/ddc_co2.html,
http://sedac.ipcc-data.org/ddc/ar5_scenario_process/index.html.

Guidance pages exist both for technical information about data formats and for general science topics. The technical pages can be maintained by the responsible data centre, with review by other partners when a significant change is made (e.g. http://www.ipcc-data.org/sim/gcm_monthly/INFO/formats.html). General science guidance should only be modified after discussion with TG-DATA (e.g. <http://www.ipcc-data.org/guidelines/pages/reporting.html>).

Significant changes and additions should be reported annually to TG-DATA meetings.