



DATA ACCESS POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Drought Research Initiative (DRI) Data Access Policy has been established to promote and govern the access of data collected within the DRI research area by government and university collaborators, partners, and non-participants.

DRI embraces as open an approach as possible to the exchange and access to data for scientific and noncommercial/non-profit uses. This approach must respect the rights of the data originators who have invested considerable effort in obtaining and/or generating data. For this reason, policies for those participating in DRI are different from those not participating or contributing to the project. These policies are described in the following sections. All relevant terms are defined in Section 7.

This data access policy must be reviewed on an annual basis. At that time, the policy may be modified to improve its usefulness.

2. REQUESTS FROM DRI INVESTIGATORS

Requests from DRI Co-Investigators (Co-Is), Collaborators, and Partners will be given priority over Non-participants in the project. Access to datasets for DRI research will be unrestricted to Co-Is and Collaborators. Requests will be made through one of the DRI Information Managers.

Operational datasets from the Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC) climate archive are now freely available for public access. Use of data obtained from the climate archive is still governed by the MSC Data Product License Agreement (Appendix B). DRI Co-Is and Collaborators are urged to read this agreement carefully. Access to the data will be available from the password protected portion of the DRI WWW site. This will ensure that only DRI Co-Is and Collaborators have free access to these operational datasets.

3. REQUESTS FROM NON-PARTICIPANTS

Requests for data from the research community (national and international) at large are invited, but requests by Non-participants need to be approved on a case-by-case basis. Non-participants may become DRI Collaborators by teaming with a DRI Co-I, who will subsequently apply to the DRI Science Committee for permission for recognition of the new DRI Collaborator. Alternately, Non-participants or their organizations may apply to the DRI Science Committee to become a DRI Partner (following the DRI Partnership Policy).

Operational datasets from the Environment Canada MSC climate archive are available from the Climate Information Branch of Environment Canada on the public web site. Similarly, archived model output data may be obtained from the Canadian Meteorological Centre web site. Charges for special requests of additional data may apply.

4. REQUESTS FROM COMMERCIAL ENTITIES

Permission for anyone (Co-Is, Collaborators, Partners or Non-participants) to use DRI datasets for commercial/profitable purposes must be given by the DRI Science Committee.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Any use of DRI datasets, by DRI participants (Co-Is, Collaborators, and Partners) or Non-participants, requires citation in any resulting publications of the DRI dataset. Appropriate citations are included with many of the DRI datasets. If you would like to cite data for which a citation is not provided, please contact one of the DRI Information Managers for help in citing the data.

Acknowledgement of the use of DRI data should also be made using a statement with the following format: "The [***] data in this paper were provided by the Drought Research Initiative (DRI)." where [***] refers to the actual DRI data used.

6. DEFINITIONS

6.1 DRI Dataset

A DRI dataset can be:

- observational gridded data, the grid resulting from DRI-funded work, or
- model derived output resulting from DRI-funded work.

6.2 DRI Co-Investigator (Co-I)

A DRI Co-Investigator (Co-I) is defined as one whom:

- has been funded through the CFCAS grant to DRI, and
- has been recognized as such by the DRI Science Committee.

6.3 DRI Collaborator

A DRI Collaborator is defined as one whom:

- is working collaboratively with a DRI Co-I, and
- has been recognized as such by the DRI Science Committee.

6.4 DRI Partner

A DRI Partner is defined as one whom:

- contributes scientifically or operationally to DRI, but is not a DRI Co-I or Collaborator, and
- has been recognized as such by the DRI Science Committee.

6.5 Non-Participant

Non-participating researchers include any researchers who are not DRI Co-Is, Collaborators, or DRI Partners. Non-Participants include the general public.

Appendix A

The DRI Network Data Policy

The DRI Network data policy statement is intended to be used as a basis for establishing the national policy concerning access to DRI data, and to promote internationally the mutual access to DRI data where appropriate. It was adopted by the Drought Research Initiative (DRI) Science Committee on 24 May 2006. The policy statement is as follows:

1. The DRI Network requires an early and continuing commitment to the establishment, maintenance, validation, description, accessibility, and distribution of high-quality, long-term data sets.
2. Full and open sharing of the full suite of data sets for all DRI researchers is a fundamental objective.
3. Preservation of all data required to meet DRI research objectives is required. A clearinghouse process should be established to prevent the purging and loss of important data sets.
4. Data archives must include easily accessible information about the data holdings, including quality assessments, supporting ancillary information, and guidance and aids for locating and obtaining the data.
5. National and international standards should be used to the greatest extent possible for media and for processing and communication of global data sets.
6. Data should be provided at the lowest possible cost to DRI researchers in the interest of full and open access. This cost should, as a first principle, be no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution. Agencies should act to streamline administrative arrangements for exchanging data among researchers.
7. Data should be made openly available beyond an initial reasonable period for quality control.

Appendix B

Limited use software and data product license agreement for Meteorological Service of Canada supported research projects

The Government of Canada (Environment Canada) is the owner of all intellectual property rights (including copyright) in this software and data product. You are granted a non-exclusive, non-assignable and non-transferable license to use this software and data product subject to the terms below.

This software and data product are temporarily provided to you by Environment Canada for the sole purpose of carrying out the Meteorological Service of Canada supported research project entitled:

DROUGHT RESEARCH INITIATIVE: _____.

As such, this software and data product constitutes a contribution by Environment Canada to the above noted research project. Environment Canada shall be cited as a contributor in any publications resulting from this project wherein the products were used.

This software and data product remain the property of Environment Canada. Upon the completion of the project, or in the event you cease to be involved in the project, the product shall be returned to Environment Canada and any temporary copies of the product destroyed.

This license is not a sale of any or all of the owner's rights. This product may only be used by you for the Atmospheric Environment Program supported research project identified above and you may not rent, lease, lend, sub-license or transfer the data product or any of your rights under this agreement to anyone else. You may not develop for commercial sale any other product derived from this product.

You may not transfer this product to or store it in any electronic network for use by more than one user unless you obtain prior written permission from Environment Canada.

This product is provided "as-is", and the owner makes no warranty, expressed or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will the owner be liable for any indirect, special, consequential or other similar damages. If you fail to comply with any term of this agreement you may be liable to the licensor for breach of contract.

It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that your use of this product complies with these terms and to seek prior written permission from Environment Canada for any uses not permitted or not specified in this agreement.

ANY USE WHATSOEVER OF THIS SOFTWARE AND DATA PRODUCT SHALL CONSTITUTE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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