

AMMA-CATCH DATA POLICY : data access and use conditions

v1.0 : september 2011
v1.1 : march 2018
v1.2 : august 2021
v1.3 : july 2022

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

This data policy has been endorsed by the Executive Committee of the AMMA-CATCH observatory. 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 observatory is dedicated to long-term monitoring of climatological, hydrological and ecological changes in West Africa.

The observations started in 1990's and are carried out on 4 sites sampling the eco-climatic gradient characteristic of West Africa. They provide the basis for studying the interactions between climate, vegetation and water cycle in this region.

The AMMA-CATCH database gathers all the data collected by the observatory in order to provide a convenient and safe access for the whole scientific community.

Article 2. Rules

2.1 General principals

The database 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 database 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.

There are 3 types of user profile which have different rights depending on the types of data:

Profile	Condition of attribution of the profile	Account validation	Accessibility of data
Public	Open to everyone	Automatic and immediate	✓ : without restriction 🚫 : after 2-year embargo
Partner	Reserved for people	Under the responsibility of the	✓ : without restriction

	working with a member of the Observatory (student or project partner)	observatory's Executive Committee, it may take several days. While waiting for the validation of your partner account, you have a "Public" account	 : without embargo
Member	Responsible for at least one dataset	Accounts created directly by the observatory's Executive Committee	 : without restriction  : without embargo  : raw data to be validated

The different types of data rights aim to preserve an exclusive right for the members of the observatory and their partners regarding the work of criticism and analysis of the most recent data. This provision meets a twofold need: 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.

2.3 Registration

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

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.

The validation of public registrations is automatic and immediate.

The granting of membership or partner status is under the responsibility of the executive committee of the AMMA-CATCH observatory. In the meanwhile, the public profile is assigned.

2.4 Data use conditions

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

Each dataset has a DOI which is indicated to the user when it is downloaded.

For any publication using AMMA-CATCH data, authors are asked to :

Mandatory : cite the reference article **and** the DOI of the observatory

- (1) Galle et al. (2018). [AMMA-CATCH a Critical Zone Observatory in West Africa Monitoring a Region in Transition](#). Vadose Zone Journal, 17 (1), 18006.

- (2) *AMMA-CATCH (1990) "AMMA-CATCH : a hydrological, meteorological and ecological observatory on West Africa"*. IRD, CNRS-INSU, OSUG, OMP, OREME.
[doi:10.17178/AMMA-CATCH.all](https://doi.org/10.17178/AMMA-CATCH.all)

Optional : cite the DOI of each dataset used.

Co-authorship : depending on the contribution of the data to the scientific results obtained, the authors should either propose co-authorship to the data providers or at least acknowledge their contribution.

Suggested citation for dataset DOIs:

AMMA-CATCH (year): "Dataset title". IRD, CNRS-INSU, OSUG, OMP, OREM, doi :
10.17178/AMMA-CATCH.dataset-code

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 criticized, qualified and updated version of the dataset to the AMMA-CATCH database.

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.