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The AMMA information system

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The AMMA information system aims at expediting data and scientific results communication inside the AMMA community and beyond. It has already been adopted as the data management system by several projects and is meant to become a reference information system about West Africa area for the whole scientific community.

The AMMA database and the associated on line tools have been developed and are managed by two French teams (IPSL Database Centre, Palaiseau and OMP Data Service, Toulouse). The complete system has been fully duplicated and is operated by AGRHYMET Regional Centre in Niamey, Niger.

The AMMA database contains a wide variety of datasets:
- about 250 local observation datasets, that cover geophysical components (atmosphere, ocean, soil, vegetation) and human activities (agronomy, health...) They come from either operational networks or scientific experiments, and include historical data in West Africa from 1850;
- 1350 outputs of a socio-economics questionnaire;
- 60 operational satellite products and several research products;
- 10 output sets of meteorological and ocean operational models and 15 of research simulations.

Database users can access all the data using either the portal http://database.amma-international.org or http://amma.agrhymet.ne/amma-data. Different modules are available. The complete catalogue enables to access metadata (i.e. information about the datasets) that are compliant with the international standards (ISO19115, INSPIRE...). Registration pages enable to read and sign the data and publication policy, and to apply for a user database account. The data access interface enables to easily build a data extraction request by selecting various criteria like location, time, parameters... At present, the AMMA database counts more than 740 registered users and process about 80 data requests every month

In order to monitor day-to-day meteorological and environment information over West Africa, some quick look and report display websites have been developed. They met the operational needs for the observational teams during the AMMA 2006 (http://aoc.amma-international.org) and FENNEC 2011 (http://fenoc.sedoo.fr) campaigns. But they also enable scientific teams to share physical indices along the monsoon season (http://misva.sedoo.fr from 2011).

A collaborative WIKINDX tool has been set on line in order to manage scientific publications and communications of interest to AMMA (http://biblio.amma-international.org). Now the bibliographic database counts about 1200 references. It is the most exhaustive document collection about African Monsoon available for all.

Every scientist is invited to make use of the different AMMA on line tools and data. Scientists or project leaders who have data management needs for existing or future datasets over West Africa are welcome to use the AMMA database framework and to contact ammaAdmin@sedoo.fr .