



CGMS-35, NOAA-WP-38
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Discussed in WGII

DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CLIMATE DATA RECORDS

In response to CGMS Recommendation 34.10

The ITWG has fostered the international collaboration of product development for TOVS and ATOVS for over 15 years. The Climate Working Groups at the International TOVS Study Conferences (ITSCs) has met and produced reports and recommendations on a regular basis since the early 1990s. We recommend the CGMS reference the ITSC Working Groups reports for the recommendations of the Climate Working Group.

In response to action items from ITSC-XV, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center has populated the ITWG web site with initial content for the Climate Working Group. We recommend other Space Agencies review this page and provide content as appropriate.

Efforts to produce CDRs are scattered amongst many international organizations. In particular, the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX) Radiation Panel (GRP) has coordinated production of essential climate variables for over 20 years. In addition, there is a new initiative to organize the operational production of CDRs through the Regional/Specialized Satellite Centers (R/SSC) for Climate Monitoring. We recommend that the ITWG continue its efforts to host a Climate Working Group at its meetings and to coordinate its work with these other international groups. We do not recommend an expansion of the current ITWG activities beyond the TOVS and ATOVS as other international efforts are already in place to do this. Instead we recommend closer coordination of the existing and emerging international efforts to enhance communication and reduce duplication.

NOAA efforts to produce CDRs is evolving from an ad hoc research program to an operational program that will produce CDRs on a routine basis. The Scientific Data Stewardship (SDS) Program seeks to support the routine, operational production of Climate Data Records (CDRs) for data from the atmosphere, oceans, and land surface. This production requires collaboration between experts in the climate community and experts in data management, and must be informed by user feedback on the accessibility and usability of the produced CDRs.

As part of the SDS Program, NOAA is establishing a web site to provide comprehensive information on the status of CDRs and links to products. This web site will also be linked to the ITWG Climate Working Group site. Rather than provide a limited list to CGMS as a reporting item, we recommend CGMS members contribute to the effort to more comprehensively provide information on CDRs by providing feedback to the SDS web site.