

HyMeX Data and Publication Policy

September 3, 2010

Revised April 28, 2020 and extended until 2025

Executive summary

HyMeX (HYdrological cycle in the Mediterranean EXperiment) is an international programme that aims at a better understanding of the hydrological cycle and associated processes in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on extreme events. To achieve its goals, HyMeX has documented the characteristics of the Mediterranean atmosphere-land-ocean coupled system since 2010, with several observation campaigns contributing to the programme.

The data collected during the programme are gathered on a common database for secured, facilitated and enhanced availability. The HyMeX data and publication policy defines the access rules to the data in order to accommodate the data owner and user expectations at best.

HyMeX non public data are delivered to registered users only, for the sole purpose of scientific studies designed to meet HyMeX objectives, and educational activities related to the dissemination of HyMeX science. Commercial use and exploitation of HyMeX data are prohibited unless explicitly allowed by the data owner. The data received under the HyMeX policy shall not be redistributed to a third party without prior written permission from the data owner.

If a data user makes an effective use of a dataset retrieved, he/she shall establish direct contacts with the principal investigator(s) of the data in order to offer collaboration. Co-authorship of HyMeX dataset users and principal investigator(s) should be the rule for papers making extensive use of HyMeX data. In any case, the origin of HyMeX data used in publications shall be appropriately acknowledged and referenced.

Publications making use of HyMeX data should be sent to the HyMeX coordination as soon as they are submitted to a journal, conference or another organisation, and registered in the HyMeX bibliographic database once published.

1. Introduction

HyMeX (HYdrological cycle in the Mediterranean EXperiment) is an international programme that aims at a better understanding and quantification of the hydrological cycle and related processes in the Mediterranean. The present data and publication policy aims at developing the exchange and use of local, satellite and model data to foster collaborations through archiving of data in the HyMeX database (mistrals.sedoo.fr/hymex), part of the MISTRALS data portal. To this purpose, the HyMeX data policy details the mutual rights and obligations of data providers and users.

The present data and publication policy has been endorsed by the HyMeX ISSC in September 2010 for a ten-year period. This policy covers the data collected during the HyMeX LOP, EOPs, and SOPs¹. It may be revised in order to fit the HyMeX programme and database evolutions at best, as deemed necessary by the HyMeX ISSC. At the term of the initial period of ten years, the HyMeX ISSC decides to update the data policy and extend it for a further five years. The current data policy is planned to be valid until August 30, 2025.

¹ As referred to in the HyMeX International Science Plan.

The restricted access granted to non public data through this policy allows the sole and direct use of the data for scientific and educational activities.

Since the data are originally collected for specific purposes, no warranty is given as to their suitability for the use intended by the recipient. The database centers and the data providers have no liability for any loss, damage, claim, demand, cost or expense directly or indirectly arising from any use, receipt or supply of data under this agreement.

2. Definitions

In the context of this policy:

- *Data owners* are the agencies or institutes funding the data collection.
- *Principal investigators* are associated with an instrument or site from instrument deployment and data collection, to data processing and transfer to the database. A principal investigator is the scientist responsible for the instrument or site or any person (collaborator, student) that he/she may suggest.
- *Data providers* provide data to the database. They are either Data owners or principal investigators.
- *Core users* are HyMeX Data providers and scientists from institutions providing funding or in-kind support to HyMeX, according to the criteria set by the HyMeX ISSC.
- *Associated scientists* are not directly involved in HyMeX but in research and educational activities.

3. Data provider obligations

- The Data provider has to submit the quality-controlled data to the database within six (6) months of the data acquisition. For complicated or large datasets requiring extensive processing and quality control, exceptions can be permitted after examination by the HyMeX ISSC.
- The Data provider shall transfer their data to the HyMeX database free of charge. Access to the data by Core users or Associate users is free of charge.
- Unless otherwise decided by the Data provider, the datasets will be firstly reserved to Core users for the default period of three (3) years. After this period, the datasets will be opened to Associated scientists.
- A dataset within the HyMeX database can be opened to the public domain or to Associated scientists before the expiration of the initial period of exclusive use by the Core users. This can be done at the discretion of the Data provider for a particular dataset.
- A dataset can be updated at any time. The Data provider is responsible for providing the best quality version of the dataset to the HyMeX database. The data users having uploaded previous versions of the dataset will be informed of updates through automatic mailing.
- The Data provider has the responsibility to make all personal data (e.g. social enquiries) anonymous prior to data transfer to the HyMeX database.
- Principal investigators are invited to refer any data misuse to the database managers.

4. Registered data user obligations

- Metadata can be accessed by everyone.

- Public datasets can be accessed after registration on the MISTRALS data portal.
- To access a non public dataset, users have to fill in the on-line form describing the work intended with the HyMeX data requested. Access to the dataset is given by the dataset owner or contact for a period of three (3) years. Access is given to Core users only, or to Associated scientists depending on the status of the dataset.
- HyMeX data are delivered to registered dataset users for the sole purpose of scientific studies designed to meet HyMeX objectives or educational activities related to the dissemination of HyMeX science.
- Commercial use and exploitation of non public HyMeX data by the data user are prohibited, unless specific permission has been obtained in writing from the Data owner. The first contact for such an agreement is the dataset principal investigator whose name is mentioned in the metadata.
- No data transfer to third parties is allowed from any registered dataset user having received data under the HyMeX data policy.
- The agencies or institutions funding data collection and the database centres have to be acknowledged in any publication or communication using the data. For each dataset, the acknowledgement sentence to be used is given in the metadata and must be reproduced in any publication using the dataset.
- If the data user makes an effective use of the dataset retrieved, he/she shall establish direct contacts with the principal investigator(s) of the data in order to offer collaboration.
- Co-authorship of the data principal investigators and users should be the rule for papers making extensive use of HyMeX datasets. In any case the data user is expected to contact the principal investigator to agree on either co-authorship or acknowledgement.
- If a user notices that any personal data is left as such in a dataset, he/she should not use the information and report immediately to the dataset principal investigator whose name is mentioned in the metadata and to the HyMeX database center managers.
- Users having produced significant processed datasets or products based on the use of a dataset or product of the database should inform the database managers. If so decided by the HyMeX ISSC, the processed products should be provided to the database and disseminated to the registered users under the rules described herein.
- Any publication making use of a HyMeX dataset shall be transmitted in electronic form to the HyMeX Data provider or contact.
- Registered dataset users accept the obligations described herein attached to the use of the data. If a user breaks the data and publication policy rules, the database center managers will remove him/her from the registered dataset user directory and ask him/her to delete all the copies of the datasets he/she has obtained from the database.