

Global Groundwater Monitoring Network

Data policy

This document describes the principles of the Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN) regarding data sharing. It is followed by the guidelines about acquisition, access and dissemination of hydrological data in the GGMN.



IGRAC is the UNESCO Global Groundwater Centre, it also works under the auspices of WMO, it is a corporate IAH partner and it is financially supported by the Government of the Netherlands.



The International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building.

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1. Global Groundwater Monitoring Network

The Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN) is a participative, web-based network of networks, set up to improve quality and accessibility of groundwater monitoring information and subsequently our knowledge on the state of groundwater resources. GGMN is a UNESCO/WMO programme, implemented by IGRAC and supported by many global and regional partners. The programme includes a development of a network of skilled hydrogeologists, processing of monitoring information and optimisation of monitoring networks.

IGRAC, the International Groundwater Resource Assessment Centre facilitates and promotes international sharing of information and knowledge required for sustainable development, management, and governance of groundwater resources worldwide. IGRAC is UNESCO's Global Groundwater Centre that operates under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization and in close cooperation with the International Association of Hydrogeologists. Since 2003, IGRAC has been providing independent content and process support, focusing on transboundary aquifer assessment and groundwater monitoring.

2. Principles of data acquisition and sharing

1. The GGMN operates according to principles of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO with the aim of encouraging the widespread use of hydrological data for national, regional and global studies (see text box below).
2. Members and other data providers are encouraged to contribute to improve quality and accessibility of groundwater monitoring information, by contributing to the GGMN quality controlled, hydrological data, together with meta-information on the monitoring stations. Members and other data providers that already provide data via online databases are encouraged to connect their information systems to the GGMN system via web services.
3. Ownership of the data transmitted to the Global Groundwater Monitoring Network remains with the data provider.

IGRAC acknowledges WMO Resolution 25, Cg XIII (Geneva, May 1999) – Exchange of Hydrological Data and Products:

A basic requirement for advancing research is free and unrestricted international sharing of high-quality, long-term, and standardized data and information products. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is committing itself to the fundamental principal 'to broadening and enhancing, whenever possible, the free and unrestricted international exchange of hydrological data and products.'

IGRAC acknowledges UNESCO Resolution XX-2 (Paris, June 2012) - Contributions to the Global Groundwater Information System

UNESCO Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) welcomes IGRAC's participative Global Groundwater Information System as an effective tool to improve international monitoring and assessment of groundwater resources, and its services provided to Member States. UNESCO-IHP invites Member States to actively contribute to the Global Groundwater Information System and to encourage the use of the system by the national agencies in monitoring and assessing groundwater resources. UNESCO-IHP encourages UN agencies to provide their support in advancing the use of the Global Groundwater Information System in international projects and in harmonizing connections among their various programmes.

3. Access principles for GGMN registered users/member states

Registration and use of the GGMN software application is free of charge. Member states¹ that would like to make use of the GGMN application may gain access after consultation with IGRAC. IGRAC will then provide the member access to a password protected environment in the GGMN application. This allows users to upload, interpolate, aggregate and analyse the groundwater data. The data provider determines the level of data accessibility by third parties, as follows:

1. **Open access** - Groundwater level data and meta-information² on monitoring station are publically available³ in GGMN.
2. **Limited access** - Only meta-information on monitoring station are viewable in GGMN. If information on groundwater level data is requested by third parties IGRAC will proceed according to the Principles of dissemination of data (see 3. Principles of dissemination of data).
3. **Restricted access** - Groundwater level data and meta-information on monitoring station in GGMN are available only to the data provider. If information on groundwater level data is requested by third parties IGRAC will proceed according to the Principles of dissemination of data (see 4. Principles of dissemination of data).

4. Principles of dissemination of data

1. Data submitted to GGMN and stated 'open access' are considered public domain and can be accessed via the GGMN portal by the public.
2. Data submitted to GGMN and stated 'limited access' can be disseminated for non-commercial use⁴ only upon an official request to IGRAC at no cost.
3. Data submitted to GGMN and stated "restricted access" will not be disseminated; however the name of the data provider will be sent to eligible institutions upon request.

5. Data requests

Groundwater data available in the GGMN can be requested via IGRAC. Data are only delivered for non-commercial use, after the party signs the User Declaration (see below). The User Declaration prescribes, among others, that data will not be transferred to third parties. Use of data and information from GGMN requires acknowledgement of the GGMN operational body (IGRAC) and/or the original data-providers according to the available meta-information.

¹ Member states, the countries, usually represented by their government or national agencies.

² Meta-information on monitoring stations include the GPS location, monitoring station name, name of data provider.

³ Publically available data in the GGMN means that the data are viewable and downloadable from the GGMN web-application.

⁴ Non-commercial is defined as "not primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation."

User Declaration

The undersigned declares that he/she understand and agrees to the GGMN Data Policy and is responsible for the use of the data provided by IGRAC. The undersigned agrees to use the data under the following conditions:

1. The GGMN data with limited access are not transferred either in part or total to third parties or to the general public, in any form, without the written consent of IGRAC.
2. The data (with limited access) will not be used for commercial purposes without the written consent of IGRAC. IGRAC itself will obtain clearance from the respective data providers prior to the release of data for commercial purposes.
3. Use of data requires acknowledgement of the GGMN operational body (IGRAC) and/or the original data-providers according to the available meta-information.
4. Disclaimer, While IGRAC makes every effort to eliminate errors from the database, there may be errors in the data unknown to IGRAC. Neither IGRAC nor data provides can be held responsible for the consequences of the use of GGMN data.

I, as authorized researcher/representative of the requesting organization, agree to the conditions stated above.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Place and date: _____

Signature: _____