



RAPID-WATCH data policy



An important aim of RAPID-WATCH is to ensure that the data from the RAPID observing system is made available to the wider climate change science community as soon as possible after collection.

To facilitate this the following data policy has been recommended by the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) in discussion with PIs of the RAPID-WATCH observing system and PIs of projects funded under the data exploitation AO, and agreed by the Project Executive Board (PEB). It will apply to data¹ from all projects funded through RAPID-WATCH:

- Data from the RAPID-WATCH observing system should be lodged with the RAPID-WATCH Data Centre (RDC) as soon as possible and in general no later than 6 months after acquisition², together with such metadata as are defined under the RAPID-WATCH Data Management Plan (DMP).
- Model output and data-model syntheses deemed to be of wider interest should be lodged with the Data Centre according to agreed schedules³, and no later than the end of the project,
- Free and open access⁴ to all RAPID-WATCH data will be available to anyone accepting the terms and conditions for data use via the Data Centre web portal.
- Users of RAPID-WATCH data are required to acknowledge RAPID-WATCH in any published work making use of the data. Within 3 years of the data being collected users are also expected to acknowledge the PI and/or co-workers (as appropriate) in any resulting papers.
- The RAPID-WATCH data policy will apply to all projects funded by NERC⁵ under RAPID-WATCH (2008-2014), and to all data from the observing system at 26 North and the WAVE arrays in the Deep Western Boundary Current (DWBC), including data from the period funded by RAPID (2001-2007),. Data from other projects funded under RAPID will continue to be subject to the RAPID data policy.
- PIs and/or co-workers failing to comply with the RAPID-WATCH data policy would be subject to appropriate sanctions.

NOTES

1. RAPID-WATCH data includes all observations from the RAPID-WATCH observing system at 26 North and in the DWBC (including data acquired during RAPID 2001-2007); model output from projects funded under the RAPID-WATCH Exploitation AO and deemed to be of wider interest; data syntheses and data-model syntheses carried out as part of projects funded by RAPID-WATCH.

2. As soon as possible after acquisition: the date of acquisition is the date on which the data was downloaded from an instrument; in the case of instruments recovered during a cruise, the acquisition date will be the end-date of the cruise. The time-scale for lodging data with the RDC may vary between data types; some data (for example, real-time data) could go directly to a data centre but the overall aim is to keep the time-scale as short as possible. All data from measurements are to be calibrated and banked within 6 months, but in exceptional circumstances (agreed in advance with the PEB) data may be submitted later than this. This is to ensure that data acquired are available to the RAPID-WATCH and wider climate change communities on a time scale that allows data use to be considered as part of the observing system review in 2011.

3. Schedules for delivery of model output agreed between the Data Centre, the PIs and the PEB will be linked to project milestones to ensure that where possible model output and

model-data syntheses may be taken into consideration as part of the observing system review in 2011.

4. Free and open access: unrestricted access for any use, including academic, non-profit and commercial, free of any charge except the cost of data provision.

5. The RAPID-WATCH data policy will be applied to projects funded by NERC: PIs of collaborating projects in the USA and Canada will not be expected to comply with the terms of this data policy, but will be encouraged to do so, and the RDC will provide the necessary support to make this possible.