

Preliminary analysis of the responses to the questionnaire on WMO future climate database management systems (CDMSs)

Two questionnaires were sent to Members to find out what CDMS functions the Members want and which countries are prepared to offer their CDMS for sharing with other Members.

The first questionnaire dealt with the current status of CDMSs in the Member countries. Important questions included whether Members have developed or are developing CDMSs that they are prepared to make available to other Members and which Members are prepared to help with testing or enhancing of a new CDMS. The charts on pages 2 and 3 show a preliminary analysis of the replies to some of the items in the first questionnaire. The response has been most encouraging with replies from 95 Members. 84.2% of the Members replying are interested in using, testing or helping to enhance future CDMSs and 15 Members are offering to share their CDMSs (4 from RA I, 3 from RA II, 2 from RA V and 6 from RA VI).

The second questionnaire was in the form of three tables (A, B and C). All Members were asked to rank the functional requirements (listed in Table A) and support/ assistance requirements (listed in Table B) for a future WMO CDMS according to a scale of 4 (essential), 3 (useful - high importance), 2 (useful - low importance) and 0 (not required). In addition, those Members with CDMSs, that they are prepared to make available for use by other Members, were asked to complete as fully as possible the remarks columns of tables A, B and C (criteria and constraints) in order to describe their systems for evaluation purposes.

The replies received will be used by a meeting of the CCI Task Group on future WMO CDMSs to be held at the WMO, 3-5 May 2000. The purpose of this Task Group meeting is to propose how WMO should proceed to meet the varying needs of its Member countries who want to take advantage of the latest technology to manage their climate data. A number of countries do not need assistance because they already have well-developed CDMSs. Some of them are offering to share their systems or expertise with other Members. There is a second group that is successfully using a CDMS (CLICOM or other) and is interested in adopting a more modern system. There is also a third group of countries that has no operational CDMS in place and is in need of a basic, easy-to-use CDMS that requires minimum resources to purchase, operate and maintain. The challenge before the meeting will be to determine how to best take advantage of the latest technology and existing expertise in WMO to meet these diverse needs.

The meeting should use the replies to decide what functional requirements are needed in the future WMO CDMSs and which of the offered CDMSs meet these requirements sufficiently well to merit being part of the next in-depth testing phase for possible future use in the WMO Member countries. The meeting should decide on the strategy to use for testing as well as the detailed plans for the in-depth testing phase. In addition, the meeting should prepare an implementation plan that addresses the needs

of those countries with no operational CDMS and, for those operating CLICOM or other CDMS systems, facilitates migration to the new WMO CDMS(s).



