

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale  
Organización Meteorológica Mundial  
Всемирная метеорологическая организация  
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية  
世界气象组织

**Secrétariat**

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Ref.: 26470/2022-12 S/CMP

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11 November 2022

Annexes: 2

Subject: WMO Centennial Observing Stations

Action required: Submit information for WMO recognition of up to five centennial meteorological observing stations at your earliest convenience **but not later than 10 February 2023**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to [Resolution 4 \(EC-73\)](#) – WMO recognition mechanism for long-term observing stations, which aims at highlighting the importance of long-term observing stations and strengthening the provision of their station metadata and observational data. To date, 291 centennial observing stations have been recognized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) covering all six WMO Regional Associations and Antarctica. A number of well received national and local celebration events and media activities have been organized by Members in recent years to help maintain in operation the centennial observing stations by raising their profile as a science enabler and societal treasure. WMO is committed to continue the centennial stations initiative and is in the process to broaden the recognition mechanism to hydrological and marine observing sites. A test phase has been conducted successfully in 2022 ([assessment report](#)) and its outcome and recommendations are planned to be submitted to the nineteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress in May 2023 (Cg-19) for endorsement.

Information on the WMO recognition mechanism for long-term observing stations including lists of recognized and candidate stations, recognition criteria etc. are available [online](#). Furthermore, WMO recently issued the brochure [Centennial Observing Stations – State of Recognition Report 2021](#), (WMO-No. 1296).

I would like to seek your collaboration on this important initiative and invite you to submit information of up to five (additional) meteorological long-term observing stations (candidate stations) of your country or territory, which meet the criteria as per [Annex 1](#). This invitation is for meteorological candidate stations (including upper air observing stations) from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other station operators.

The Advisory Board for the Recognition of WMO Long-term Observing Stations will assess responses and submit recommendations for consideration by Cg-19. WMO will provide by email certificates and a standardized model for a metal/brass plate (to be manufactured by the Member if desired) for each recognized station.

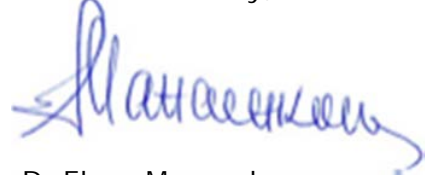
To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

Your response **not later than 10 February 2023** is much appreciated. Please use one updated template ([Annex 2](#); a WORD version can be downloaded from the [WMO website\\*](#)) for each individual observing station.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the WMO Secretariat (Mr Peer Hechler, Scientific Officer, S/CS/CMP) at [wcdmp@wmo.int](mailto:wcdmp@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,



Dr Elena Manaenkova  
for the Secretary-General

Ref.: Z6470/2022-12 S/CMP

\*Click on WMO Recognition mechanism and then click on Self-assessment template for nomination of candidate stations.

## RECOGNITION CRITERIA FOR CENTENNIAL METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVING STATIONS

Ref.: 26470/2022-12 S/CMP

1. The observing station was founded at least 100 years ago, observing at least one meteorological element since then, and is in operation as an observing station at the date of nomination;
2. Periods of inactivity of the observing station shall not exceed 10%;
3. The minimum historic station metadata for the full duration of station operation shall contain actual or derived geographical coordinates including elevation, known changes of station name and/or station identifier, identified meteorological element(s) and its unit(s) as well as the observing schedule(s);
4. Any known observing station relocation or change in the measurement technique have not significantly affected the climatological time-series data;  
Note: Documented data homogenization for the observing station is considered compliant with criterion 4;
5. All historic observational data and metadata have been digitally archived or will be rescued. Members shall share their plans for data rescue, if applicable;
6. The observing station shall be operated according to WMO observing standards according to the *Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WMO-No. 1160) and the *Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation* (WMO-No. 8);  
Note: Explanatory information shall be provided for those stations that do not meet current WMO observing standards;
7. The current environment of the observing station has been classified or will be classified according to the siting classification defined in the *Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation* (WMO-No. 8). Members shall share (i) the metadata attached to the siting classification in the appropriate WMO metadata repository (currently OSCAR) or (ii) their plans to classify the observing station, if applicable;
8. The observed and measured data shall be subject to routine quality control procedures according to current WMO guidelines and practices. The quality control processes as well as its results shall be well documented.  
Note: A brief description of the routine quality procedures at the observing station shall be included in the references/remarks column;
9. Members shall do their utmost to maintain nominated stations according to the above recognition criteria;
10. <sup>1</sup>Historic observation data and metadata have been or will be made available for scientific research according to [Resolution 1 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#) - WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data. Members shall share their plans for data availability, if applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> Criterion updated in 2022 to replace references to [Resolution 40 \(Cg-XII\)](#) and [Resolution 60 \(Cg-17\)](#) by [Resolution 1 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#).

**WMO CANDIDATE CENTENNIAL OBSERVING STATION SELF-ASSESSMENT  
TEMPLATE FOR METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVING STATIONS**

Ref.: 26470/2022-1.2 S/CMP

Important notes:

- Please send the filled-in template (one template for one observing station) to [wcdmp@wmo.int](mailto:wcdmp@wmo.int)
- Station operators are encouraged to provide sufficient information in the 'references/remarks' column to facilitate the assessment by the Advisory Board. Station operators are encouraged to attach additional documentation and photos to be made available publicly, however, this additional information is not core to the assessment.
- Information in the self-assessment template **MUST BE TYPED** (handwritten information cannot be processed). A WORD version of the template can be downloaded from [the WMO website](#) (-> WMO Recognition Mechanism -> Self-assessment template for nomination of candidate stations).
- Station operators are invited to consider filling in the template in English in order to accelerate the recognition assessment.
- The correctness of the information provided in the template is under the sole responsibility of the station/network operator. The Advisory Board performs its assessment based on the completed template considering additional global information. The information provided by the station operator in the template will be made available publicly for user review.
- Station operators shall assign a WIGOS Station Identifier to all nominated stations and populate OSCAR (<http://oscar.wmo.int>) with the minimum station metadata according to criterion 3 below.

**1. Current station information**

Station name	
Start of observations (year)	
WIGOS Station Identifier and other current station identifiers, where available	
Station latitude and longitude <sup>2</sup>	
Station elevation <sup>2</sup> (meter above MSL)	

<sup>2</sup> Cf. [Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation](#) (WMO-No. 8) – *Coordinates of the station*

Country/Place		
WMO Region		
Institution		
Name of contact person		Email address

## 2. Mandatory criteria

Criteria	Compliance (Yes/No)	References/Remarks
(1) The observing station was founded at least 100 years ago, observing at least one meteorological element since then and is in operation as an observing station at the date of nomination.		
(2) Periods of inactivity of the observing station shall not exceed 10%.		
(3) The minimum historic station metadata for the full duration of station operation shall contain actual or derived geographical coordinates including elevation, known changes of station name and/or station identifier, identified meteorological element(s) and its unit(s) as well as the observing schedule(s).		
(4) Any known observing station relocation or change in the measurement technique have not significantly affected the climatological time-series data. Note: Documented data homogenization for the observing station is considered compliant with criterion 4.		
(5) All historic observational data and metadata have been digitally archived or will be rescued. Members shall share their plans for data rescue, if applicable.		

Criteria	Compliance (Yes/No)	References/Remarks
<p>(6) The observing station shall be operated according to WMO observing standards according to the <i>Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System</i> (WMO-No. 1160) and the <i>Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation</i> (WMO-No. 8).</p> <p>Note: Explanatory information shall be provided for those stations that do not meet current WMO observing standards.</p>		
<p>(7) The current environment of the observing station has been classified or will be classified according to the siting classification defined in the <i>Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation</i> (WMO-No. 8). Members shall share (i) the metadata attached to the siting classification in the appropriate WMO metadata repository (currently OSCAR) or (ii) their plans to classify the observing station, if applicable.</p>		
<p>(8) The observed and measured data shall be subject to routine quality control procedures according to current WMO guidelines and practices. The quality control processes as well as its results shall be well documented.</p> <p>Note: A brief description of the routine quality procedures at the observing station shall be included in the references/remarks column.</p>		
<p>(9) Members shall do their utmost to maintain nominated stations according to the above recognition criteria.</p>		
<p>(10) Historic observation data and metadata have been or will be made available for scientific research according to <a href="#">Resolution 1 (Cg-Ext(2021))</a> - WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data. Members shall share their plans for data availability, if applicable.</p>		