



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: OBS/WIS/DMA/DEWCE

GENEVA, 8 July 2015

Annex: 1

Subject: Survey on Definition of Extreme Weather and Climate Events

Action required: Survey to be completed **no later than 31 August 2015**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may be aware that the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17) discussed under agenda item 4.1.4 “Climate issues”, the report of the Commission for Climatology (CCI) including, inter alia, its work on providing guidance on the definition and tools for monitoring extreme weather and climate events including heat waves, cold waves, heavy precipitations, dry spells, sand storms, etc.

Congress emphasized that this is critical for supporting Members’ operational climate services including climate early warning/climate watches, climate prediction; for supporting research and studies on climate extremes, their attribution and impacts; and for supporting high-level policy processes such as the UNFCCC, the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Congress urged early finalization of this important work with recommendations on and formulation of agreed definitions and tools for appropriate consideration to be included or referenced in the WMO Technical Regulations.

To this effect, the CCI Task Team on the Definition of Extreme Weather and Climate Events (TT-DEWCE) is currently undertaking a survey on definitions which are being used in different parts of the world for extreme weather and climate events with particular emphasis made on heat waves, cold waves, extreme heavy rainfall and drought. Once we have received the survey results, the Task Team will consider whether to recommend one or more standard definitions as a basis for international reports. To help us in this task, we would appreciate it if you could complete the attached survey and send it by e-mail to Mr Omar Baddour, Chief, Data Management Applications Division ([OBaddour@wmo.int](mailto:OBaddour@wmo.int)) **no later than 31 August 2015**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lengoasa', written over a horizontal line.

(J. Lengoasa)  
for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6856)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives



## WMO Survey on the Definition of Extreme Weather and Climate Events

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Country: .....  
Name of the focal point: .....  
E-mail: .....  
Telephone: .....

### QUESTIONS

1. Does your country have a specific definition of a heatwave or extended cold spell? If so, what is it? (If your country uses multiple definitions – for example, different definitions in different places or regions – please state this).  
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2. Does your country have any standard indices which you use for the monitoring of heatwaves or extended cold spells? If yes, what are they?  
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3. Does your country routinely report on the occurrence of heatwaves or extended cold spells?  
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4. Does your country have any warning service for heatwaves or extended cold spells?  
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5. Does your country routinely monitor drought? If yes, what index or indices do you use for monitoring drought?  
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6. Does your country have any standard indices for reporting on extreme heavy rainfall? If so, what are those indices, and what time period do they cover?  
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7. Are there any scientific papers or other reports documenting your country's monitoring or forecasting of extreme weather/climate events, such as heatwaves, cold spells, heavy rainfall or drought? (If so, please give references or a link if possible).  
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8. Does your country have a website for reporting information on extreme climate events? (If yes, please give the address).

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9. Does your country produce routine monthly, seasonal or annual climate summaries? (If yes, please give the web address, if available).

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10. Does your country have any unmet needs for information on extreme climate and weather events for which you think support from WMO would be useful (if yes, please give details)

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