



Our ref.: G/GRDC

GENEVA, 8 July 2004

**Subject:** Support of the operation of the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC) through the institutionalized exchange of hydrological discharge data

**Action required:** Support the operation of GRDC by supplying historical hydrological data

Dear Sir/Madam,

First I would like to express my high appreciation to all Members contributing to the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC), that operates under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), by the regular transfer of hydrological data. These data are very important for global hydrological and climate research and monitoring, and I am very glad to see that so far more than 140 Members have contributed to this unique global discharge database. The purpose of this letter is to thank you and ask you to kindly continue your support.

The information provided so far by National Hydrological Services (NHSs) to the GRDC has been crucial to fulfil both scientific and societal needs related to water and climate. This exchange of data is essential for a better understanding of the regional and global water cycle, for monitoring freshwater resources, climate variability and trends and their impact on water resources, and for defining the adaptation strategies for sustainable water resource management at all scales.

As you may recall, the GRDC was established at the Federal Institute of Hydrology, Germany, in 1988, under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and is supported by WMO Resolution 21 (Cg-XII, 1995) and Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII, 1999) on the Exchange of Hydrological Data and Information. The NHSs are its principal data providers. GRDC further provides these data to major international research programmes like HWRP, WCRP's Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX), the Climate and the Cryosphere (CliC) Project and to projects like the Global Terrestrial Network for Hydrology (GTN-H), supported by WMO, UNESCO, UNEP, GCOS, GTOS and ICSU. For downscaling of GCMs, in order to predict climatic change at basin level it is necessary that data are sent in a more timely fashion to the Centre. This will help the scientific community to incorporate the latest trends in discharge flows in their studies and also support identification of adaptation strategies for sustainable water resource management. The data are provided to the scientific community under its well-established and recognized data dissemination policy based on Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII). GRDC also provides valuable analytical and monitoring products, which would not have been possible without the hydrological data and information provided by the NHSs.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6029)

cc: Presidents and vice-presidents of regional associations )  
Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives ) (for information)  
Director of GRDC )

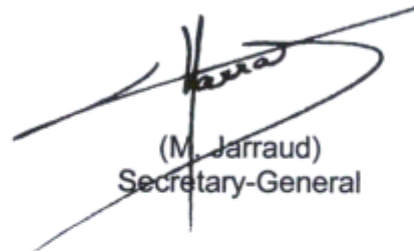
The examination of the GRDC data archive shows that, in many cases, the data deliveries are not regular and data for most of the available time series do not cover the last 10 to 15 years, due to various types of delays.

I therefore encourage Members to continue to provide all possible hydrological data to the GRDC and in particular to explore mechanisms for a regular, institutionalized and timely supply of such data. In turn, GRDC is dedicated to make every necessary effort to provide informative feedback on the use and usefulness of the data in the various major programmes and projects of WMO that contribute to the aims and objectives of the Organization.

Details of data exchange mechanisms should be coordinated directly with GRDC. The Centre is more than willing to provide metadata information on the data stored from each Member. Such information is also available from GRDC's Webpage (<http://grdc.bafg.de>), or through direct contact by e-mail to [grdc@bafg.de](mailto:grdc@bafg.de)

Thank you in advance for your continued support to this important project.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General