



## Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

### Policy Guidelines for Data Dissemination

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#### 1. Background

The Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) is a joint initiative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States launched in 2010. RICCAR is implemented under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and further derives its mandate from resolutions adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology and the ESCWA Ministerial Session. Additional information on RICCAR and its contributing partners is available at [www.riccar.org](http://www.riccar.org).

RICCAR outputs and constituent databases are based on an integrated assessment methodology that includes:

- Regional climate modelling (RCM) outputs for the CORDEX-MENA Domain (Arab Domain), which is among the domains included in the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) of the World Climate Research Programme, and the Mashreq Domain.
- Regional hydrological modelling (RHM) outputs for the surface water basins in Arab States, including the land and water areas of surface water basins that are shared or transboundary in nature that include areas external to the Arab region.
- Integrated vulnerability assessment (VA) outputs for various sectors across the Arab region covering the 21 Arab States included in the MENA/Arab Domain and Mashreq.

RICCAR assessment outputs are available in the [Arab Climate Change Assessment Report Main Report](#) and its [Technical Annex](#), and the [Future Climate Projections for the Mashreq Region: Summary Outcomes](#) technical report.

#### 2. Principles of data acquisition and access

2.1. Users may request bias-corrected regional climate modeling (RCM) outputs for Arab and Mashreq Domains and regional hydrological modeling (RHM) outputs for the Arab Domain. Available output variables are described in the RICCAR Technical Note [Regional Climate Modelling and Regional Hydrological Modelling Applications in the Arab Region](#) and [Future Climate Projections for the Mashreq Region: Methodology](#) prepared by SMHI.

- Temperature, precipitation, and hydrological outputs are available with daily frequency from 1950 to 2100 for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 at the scale of 50x50 km. Extreme climate indices are available both annually and seasonally for the same period. The Mashreq Domain outputs for SSP5-8.5 scenarios are generated through mid-century. An additional ensemble for SSP2-4.5 will be available towards the end of 2023.
- RCM and RHM ensembles for the reference period, near-century, mid-century, and end-century are available for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 at the scale of 50x50 km.

2.2. Users may also request socio-economic geospatial data used for the integrated vulnerability assessment (VA), described in the RICCAR Technical Note [Integrated Vulnerability Assessment: Arab Regional Application](#) prepared by ESCWA, ACSAD and GIZ.

2.3. Requests for data will be considered by ESCWA primarily with a view to informing policy development, encouraging further research, and supporting education and training in this topic area.

### **3. Dissemination of data from RICCAR**

3.1. Data is available to data users free of charge and under the conditions set forth in points 3.2 to 3.7 below.

3.2. Requests for data must reach the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in writing and include the completed Data Request Form, which is attached for this purpose. The provision of data by ESCWA will be decided on a case by case basis.

3.3. By signing the Data Request Form, the data user(s) listed in the form and affiliated institution agree in writing that the data received are not transferred to third parties, including other individual researchers at the same institution working on a research or study project not listed in the form. The data supplied from RICCAR is released solely to the data user(s) listed on the request form and for the purposes identified there within upon identified access.

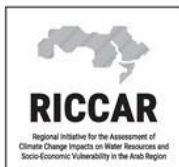
3.4. The data shall not be used for commercial purposes.

3.5. The data user(s) agrees that ESCWA may inform the members States of the League of Arab States and RICCAR collaborating partners about the use for which data from RICCAR has been requested and will transfer the names and addresses of the data user(s) to these States and collaborating partners, as may be requested.

3.6. ESCWA can make available subsets of data from RICCAR on a request basis to support specific research and study projects, as stated above. Requests for the entire database or substantial parts of it cannot be entertained.

3.7. Data or data subsets approved for dissemination will be provided in the electronic format deemed suitable for dissemination by ESCWA based on the request made. The transfer of data on external hard drives will only be considered on a very exceptional basis.

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## Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

### Data Request Form

Individuals and institutions requesting data should request in writing by completing and signing this form. Kindly submit the request to the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies (ACCCP) at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) via email to [ESCWA-ACCCP@un.org](mailto:ESCWA-ACCCP@un.org) with a copy to [tomaszkiewicz@un.org](mailto:tomaszkiewicz@un.org)

#### A. Lead data user(s)

Name of lead data user (individual) submitting the request:	
Position Title/Department:	
Affiliated institution:	
Street address:	
Mailing address (if different from above):	
Email:	
Telephone: +	Fax: +
Name, affiliated institution and email of associated data user(s):	

#### B. Nature of the data request

Geographic area of study (region, coordinates):
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Data requested (including frequency, time period, and climate scenario):

Reason for the data request:

Brief summary of the research or study project:

Anticipated plan for dissemination of work drawing upon RICCAR data (optional)\*:

*\* Lead data users are invited to inform ESCWA of links to their work drawing upon RICCAR datasets, which could be disseminated to interested parties through the RICCAR Regional Knowledge Hub ([www.riccar.org](http://www.riccar.org)).*

### **C. Declaration of the data user**

The undersigned data user, who serves as lead researcher or the lead representative of the requesting party, declares that he/she is aware of the RICCAR Policy Guidelines for Data Dissemination and is responsible for the appropriate use of the data provided by ESCWA based on these guidelines.

The undersigned agrees to use the data under the following conditions:

1. The data provided are not transferred either in part or in total to third parties or to the general public (e.g., by electronic media), except to those listed as associate data users in this Data Request Form.
2. The data will not be used for commercial purposes.
3. The data will be not accessible to unauthorized persons and, after completion of the specified research or study projects outlined in this request form, the data will be kept separate from the general database or data processing facilities that may be generated or made available on CD-ROM or other medium associated with the research or study project.
4. After completion of the research and parts thereof drawing upon the data supplied from the RICCAR, information about the results will be made available to ESCWA as well as a copy of the publication(s) arising from the use of the data or parts thereof.
5. Unless specified otherwise by ESCWA, in all publications the source of the data for the MENA/Arab Domain will be fully cited as: "RICCAR. 2017. *Arab Climate Change Assessment Report*. Beirut, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2017/RICCAR/Report."

Unless specified otherwise by ESCWA, in all publications the source of the data for the Mashreq Domain will fully cite the RICCAR Mashreq Region Data Portal (<https://gis.riccar.org>), unless specifically referencing the following technical report: "Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). 2021. *Future Climate Projections for the Mashreq Region: Summary Outcomes*. RICCAR Technical Report, Beirut. E/ESCWA/CL1.CCS/2021/RICCAR/TECHNICAL REPORT.7."

Disclaimer: While the RICCAR contributing partners and assessment authors made every effort to eliminate errors from the data compiled and presented multiple differing values for certain parameters when contradictory information was obtained from different sources, there may be errors in the data unknown to the authors. Neither ESCWA nor its RICCAR partners can be held responsible for the accuracy or correctness of data taken from published sources or provided by member States, nor for consequences related to the use of the RICCAR data.

I, as principal researcher/lead representative of the requesting party, agree to the conditions stated above:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place & date: \_\_\_\_\_