



## TAHMO Data Access Policy

### Audience

This document is intended for all partner organizations, research organizations, private researchers, students, partner government entities, commercial users, business startups and any others (including 3rd parties) with interest in accessing or using data from TAHMO's data repositories or products derived from the same.

### Objective / Purpose

This policy outlines requirements for granting and revoking access to data and or related software and hardware interfaces.

### Scope

This policy covers all environmental or meteorological data and related software or hardware products maintained by TAHMO or a party acting on behalf of TAHMO. The policy does not apply to private owners of stations maintained by the organization unless they wish to access data beyond their geographic scope. Requests for purchase of a private weather station are outside of the scope of this policy and shall be handled separately by the TAHMO contact person for stations. This policy also does not apply to situations in which the requested data is not available.

### Policy

Access to data is as broad as possible, consistent with the classification of the data access, role(s) and responsibilities of the user, and level of training. Data will be classified according to the nature of its intended use or user as per the standards defined in this document. This policy will be governed by the Data Access Matrix (with data classifications and data access roles). The matrix will be updated from time to time as the need arises.

### Data Access Classification

TAHMO offers data to four (4) classes of users. The data access classification is categorized into **(1) Researchers, (2) Commercial/Business, (3) Government and (4) Schools**. Details regarding each class are stated as follows;

#### Class 1: Researchers

- Research organizations and other stakeholders in the research community are given free data access to meteorological data of their choice for research applications. In this access class, data access is strictly given via the data portal. (<https://portal.tahmo.org>)
- Users have access to data in CSV file format only.

- Users have a free quarterly (3-months) data access which is renewable upon evidence of research work done (publication etc.). Users will be required to provide citations/publications relating to their research acknowledging TAHMO as one of their data sources by referring to *Van de Giesen, Nick, Rolf Hut, and John Selker. "The trans-African hydro-meteorological observatory (TAHMO)." Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water 1, no. 4 (2014): 341-348, doi: 10.1002/wat2.1034.*
- Comprehensive access to all stations for all times and variables can only be granted under special circumstances after special review.
- Research use does not allow for sharing of the data to any other person or organization.

### **Class 2: Commercial/Business**

- A special API access is provided to businesses and startups to access data.
- Under class 2, access is either given via the API or data portal depending on client requirements or preference.
- API access is only available to commercial users whose applications (web/mobile) require continuous access to the TAHMO data repository.
- For purposes of product development, free API access is given up to 2 seasons (approximately 12 months) beyond which the client and TAHMO have to work on a payment agreement.
- Commercial users should provide a pathway to commercialization that covers a fee to maintain the TAHMO network. Free data cannot be provided for one-off comparisons or calibrations.
- Data charges are computed per station based on duration of request and number of parameters, per request
- Commercial users that prefer a partnership/MoU that leads to co-development or co-ownership are also given a chance if this arrangement proves to be more sustainable.
- Commercial users will be granted data access so far as they are not in direct competition with the National Meteorological Agencies with regards to the national market. Alternatively if they can provide an MoU or an Agreement with the National Meteorological Agency for their work in the country of interest, then they will be granted access under this commercial terms.

### **Class 3: Government**

- This is based on MoU with Meteorological Agencies and other government institutions in a hosting country.
- Under this class access to data in all forms is given and capacity building is also available to government stakeholders.

#### Class 4: Schools

- This category is intended to promote research and innovation for nonprofessionals. Access is free with only a requirement to acknowledge TAHMO as a source of data used in the research.
- Universities and schools that host stations have unlimited access to data from the station (s) hosted by their institution.
- Students (graduate and supervised undergraduates) also have an option of requesting for temporary (not exceeding 1 academic year) access to TAHMO data, software and hardware platforms for purposes of testing their innovation(s) or research.
- Students will not be granted access to all stations in the network. A limited geographic scope will be provided at all times.

**Table 1: Data Access Summary**

Access Class	Access Requirement(s)	Available file format	Payment
(1) Researchers	Acknowledgement of TAHMO as the data source in the publication(s) with access expiring after one month use and renewable upon evidence of citation(s) or research.	CSV	Free monthly access. with up to 30 new data exports.
(2) Commercial or Business	For purposes of product testing, free API access is given up to 2 seasons (approximately 12 months) for not more than 1 country beyond which the client and TAHMO have to work on a payment agreement.	CSV, JSON, API	Payment Required per station per data request. With unlimited access.
(3) Government	MoU with Meteorological Agencies and other government institutions in a hosting country.	CSV, JSON, API	N/A
(4) Schools	Acknowledgement of TAHMO as the data source in the research or hosting a station. Limited in geographic scope to data request.	CSV	N/A

#### Sharing and use of data outside the agreed terms

Data accessed from TAHMO ***cannot be sold or passed on to other users without the explicit permission from TAHMO*** in writing whether in their original or modified formats or in the form of derived products. Any breach of this will attract legal action.