

Comments to the Author:

When I went to the Zenodo page for the boundary conditions data I saw, "You may request access to the files in this upload, provided that you fulfil the conditions below. The decision whether to grant/deny access is solely under the responsibility of the record owner."

*This wording is imposed by the Zenodo data platform.*

The data should be made fully publicly available. There is little point promoting an experiment for the climate community to use if the boundary forcing data is not available! Is there a reason why you cannot make the data available?

*The boundary forcing data are available! A restriction is imposed simply so that we can keep track of people who have downloaded this version of the data in case we need to make any further changes before making the data available on input4mips. We hope you agree that it would not be sensible to release the data without this safeguard.*

It is appreciated that you make the point that the version on input4mips may not be identical to the version discussed in the paper. However, rather than state "Preliminary forcing data for testing " ... are available on Zenodo, you should clearly state that the exact version of the boundary forcing discussed in the paper is the one that is available on Zenodo. Your wording suggests that you are not confident that the data are correct. This is concerning and I am inclined to hold the paper until the boundary conditions are finalised. It is generally required that experiments described in GMD papers should have already been performed by at least one model. Please can you confirm whether this is the case for your experiments.

*We have taken a lot of care to produce the forcing dataset (this has already delayed publication of the paper by several months) and do not expect it to change. The experiments have indeed been performed by two models. However, it is of course possible that an issue could arise before the official version of the data is released on input4mips. To further delay publication of the PAMIP protocol by holding the paper until the data are available on input4mips would be inconsistent and unfair given that many other CMIP6 protocol papers have already been published without this requirement.*

Whatever the answer to the above, it would be appropriate to create a version number for the current boundary conditions and to refer to this in the paper, and also on the Zenodo page. This is the norm for generic GMD experiment description papers, but it has not been enforced for all the CMIP6 experiments. However, as you seem to have a high expectation that the data will change, I think it would be a good idea here.

*The data has already been given a version number (version 2) on the Zenodo page. We now refer to this in the manuscript as requested. Furthermore, we have replaced*

*the original statement “Preliminary forcing data for testing are available” with “The latest version (version 2) of the forcing data, which we have presented here, is available”, reflecting more accurately our expectation that the data are unlikely to change.*