The Scientific Data Stewardship (SDS) program seeks to advance our understanding of climate variability and change by introducing new and rigorous approaches to the generation and management of Climate Data Records (CDRs). For example, SDS program activities will seek to provide national leadership for satellite-based Climate Data Record generation by strengthening existing inter-agency cooperative efforts, by developing new relationships that exploit complementary capabilities within the satellite and in-situ data management communities, and by fostering the close, scientific attention to quality and detail needed to satisfy long-standing requirements for a Climate Data Record generation program characterized by consistency and continuity.

To operationally produce Climate Data Records, three functions must be achieved:

1) The observing system performance with respect to long-term applications must be monitored in real-time.

2) Authoritative, long-term records must be generated.

3) Metadata, direct observations, and fundamental records from satellite and supporting in situ platforms must be comprehensive, complete and preserved in perpetuity.

In FY 2008 SDS is soliciting proposals that support the routine, operational production of global CDRs of the atmosphere, oceans, and land surface on a routine and operational basis, with an initial emphasis on satellite observations, and in collaboration with experts in the climate community. Applicants must demonstrate that proposed CDRs have reached a critical level of maturity in science and data preservation to be considered for this Program.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2008 SDS priorities can be found at http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/sds.html. For further information, investigators should contact Bruce Barkstrom (bruce.barkstrom@noaa.gov, 828-271-4412), Jeff Privette (jeff.privette@noaa.gov, 828-271-4331), Bill Murray (william.l.murray@noaa.gov, 301-734-1243), or Chris Miller (christopher.d.miller@noaa.gov, 301-734-1241).