

JRS BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION DATA SHARING POLICY

The JRS Biodiversity Foundation (“Foundation”) believes that open access to biodiversity information and knowledge by all stakeholders is essential to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Foundation is committed to the principle of free and open access to the results of its grant-funded projects for the benefit of biodiversity conservation, science, and society. This principle, held by numerous international bodies, applies to the management of and provision of access to project data, metadata, tools, and the resulting datasets, analyses and publications in digital and print media (“Data”). The Foundation supports fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of biodiversity Data, but may approve as an exception to its general policy the patenting of grant-funded discoveries when intellectual property protection facilitates the development of products that benefit biodiversity conservation and society, and supports the access to discoveries by people who need them the most. The Foundation requires that the biodiversity informatics output of its grants such as datasets, decision tools, and software is openly and freely available in formats that promote maximum re-use.

This policy applies to any projects principally funded by the Foundation or project products made possible by Foundation funding. *The Foundation provides an exception to this policy to GBIF for biodiversity data in sites that the sub-grantees consider sensitive for conservation or is used for management purposes and is not commonly made public.*

These projects shall:

1. Provide maximally unrestricted public access to and use of all Data, including project data, metadata, tools, and project results. Tools include software and other applications developed for data capture, access, sharing, visualization, analysis, modeling, and other uses. Any exceptions must be requested from and approved by the Foundation in advance.
2. Provide such access in a timely fashion, i.e., either during the grant period or, maximally, within one year after the expiration/completion of the grant period. Any exceptions or delays must be requested from and approved by the Foundation in advance.
3. Employ, by default, the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license that permits research products to be freely copied and re-used. The Foundation recognizes that governments and institutions may legally subject different data outputs and research products to different types of licensing and policies (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/).
4. Employ established and preferably open-source software applications, community standards, and repositories to manage and provide access to these data and results, and to ensure their long-term availability.
5. Acknowledge the sources of data used in research and abide by the terms and conditions under which those original data were obtained.

Therefore, all proposals to the Foundation require,

1. Description of a data and metadata management, sharing, and access plan that addresses how the project will meet policy requirements 1–5. The Foundation will provide guidance to grantees in developing knowledge-sharing plans and will work with grant-funded projects to foster best practices in fulfilling its policies.

2. Evidence that sub-grantees or subcontractors will comply with the project’s data management and knowledge-sharing plan.
3. Description of goals, milestones, and indicators that provide quantitative and qualitative measures of compliance with the five terms of the above policy as well as progress toward and achievement of knowledge sharing plans.

The Foundation provides an exception to the above requirements, for GBIF has well-developed data management, data-sharing and knowledge-sharing policies in place.

Each grantee covenants and agrees to disclose to the Foundation any of the grantee organization’s policies that may conflict with or supersede the Foundation’s policy for sharing Data that results from any Foundation-funded proposal before executing the Agreement.

Please address questions regarding the Foundation’s Data Sharing Policy to Matthew V. Cassetta, Executive Director at director@jrsmdiversity.org or 571-347-0545.

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| I have read and understood the Foundation’s Data Sharing Policy. | I have read and understood the Foundation’s Data Sharing Policy. |
| Principal Signature | Organizational Officer Signature |
| Printed Name | Printed Name |
| Date | Date |