



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

**OPEN DATA POLICY AND PRINCIPLES
OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH**

Purpose

This open data policy and principles document is intended to facilitate the full and open exchange of data and information between the Parties, Principal Investigators (PIs) and other stakeholders of the Institute pursuant to Article II of the *Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research* (IAI), signed on 13 May 1992, in Montevideo, Uruguay. This document also notes that the IAI requires a continuing commitment from Grantees and PIs to the establishment, maintenance, validation, description, accessibility, and distribution of high-quality data that results from research supported by IAI grants.

This policy and principles were prepared in consonance with the goals of the IAI, and represent the IAI's view concerning the access of investigators and institutions participating in IAI programs and projects to global change data generated by IAI funded projects. This document fully acknowledges that such data and information belong to the Parties. This document also acknowledges that some information contained herein originated from the Belmont Forum *Data policy and principles*, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University *Open data Policy*, and the *International Open Data Charter*.

Policy

1. The IAI requires an early and continuing commitment to the: establishment, maintenance, validation, description, accessibility, and distribution of high-quality, long-term data sets.
2. Full and open sharing of the full suite of global change data sets between the Parties to the IAI Agreement is a fundamental objective.
 - a) Access to databases, information, and results obtained by institutions and scientists during activities previous to or external to programs funded by the IAI may be facilitated on a case-by-case basis among the Parties by a Memorandum of Understanding, taking into account the fundamental objective of the Institute: the full and open sharing of data related to global change research.
3. Data, information and results generated by IAI-funded programs and projects should be fully described and submitted to the IAI Directorate for inclusion in the IAI Open Data Catalog.
4. A fundamental principle of the IAI shall be a reciprocal relationship that will allow Parties the use of data, information, and results on an equal basis.



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5. Preservation of data needed for global change research is required. Procedures and criteria for setting priorities for data acquisition, retention, and purging should be developed by the Parties. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Science Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) in collaboration with the IAI Executive Director shall develop an Action Plan in order to achieve such preservation.
6. Principal investigators may request initial periods of exclusive data use. In each particular case, the Institute shall explicitly define the duration of the exclusive use period.
7. Data should be provided at the lowest possible cost to global change researchers in the interest of full and open exchange of data. This cost should be no more than the marginal cost of fulfilling a specific user request. Associates of the Institute should act to streamline administrative arrangements for exchanging data among researchers.
8. Data archives must include easily accessible information about the data holdings, including quality assessments, supporting ancillary information, and guidance for locating and obtaining the data.
9. International standards should be used to the greatest extent possible for media and for processing and exchange of data sets.

Principles

10. Whenever possible, and as appropriate, data and information should be published according to the following principles:
 - a) Open by default:
Data should be open by definition unless otherwise specifically restricted due to privacy, security or other such criteria.
 - b) Timely and comprehensive:
Timeliness increases the value of the data. As much as possible data should be provided in its original, unmodified form.
 - c) Accessible and usable:
Data should be described using metadata. Adherence to international metadata standards is strongly encouraged. Data should be machine readable. Data should be free of charge, under an open license, as appropriate and subject to national legislation.
 - d) Comparable and interoperable:
Data should adhere to international data and information exchange standards.



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- e) Improved governance and citizen engagement:
Data and information should be available to policy makers and the public to assist in the adoption of better informed public policies.

- f) Inclusive development and innovation:
Data should spur inclusive sustainable development.