

DATA POLICY STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Purpose

These policy statements are intended to facilitate the full and open exchange of data between the Parties of the Institute pursuant to Article II of the Agreement Establishing the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, signed on May 13, 1992, in Montevideo, Uruguay. These statements were prepared in consonance with the goals of the Institute, and represent the Institute's opinion concerning the access of investigators and institutions participating at IAI programs to global change data which belongs to the Parties and Associated Institutions of the Institute.

Statements

1. The Inter-American Institute 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.
 - 2.1 Access to data bases, 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.
 - 2.2 All Parties should have free access to data, information and results obtained by IAI-funded programs for scientific purposes.
3. A fundamental principle of the Institute shall be a reciprocal relationship that will allow Parties the use of data, information, and results on an equal basis.
4. 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. A clearinghouse process should be established to prevent the purging and loss of important data sets. The Scientific Advisory Committee and the Director shall maintain an Action Plan in order to achieve said preservation.
5. Third parties shall only be able to use real-time data produced by IAI programs when previously authorized by the concerned Parties.

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.