

# **Intellectual Property Guidelines for the TRY Initiative**

## **(IGBP-QUEST-DIVERSITAS)**

**Approved in Workshop Plenary 21 March 2008, modified and approved at  
Workshop Plenary 18 October 2009 and 26 March 2011**

**These guidelines will be revised periodically and as a consequence it will be modified or ratified. All data custodians will be informed of modifications and will have the right to ratify or withdraw their participation.**

The following guidelines apply to issues of data ownership and intellectual property within TRY. TRY is an IGBP-QUEST-DIVERSITAS Initiative, in coordination with the Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany.

These guidelines were elaborated by the Coordination of TRY, on the basis of documents produced by Sandra Díaz, Sandy Harrison, Sandra Lavorel, Colin Prentice, Mark Westoby and Ian Wright. They were discussed and approved in plenary at the TRY Workshop “Improving the representation of biodiversity in large-scale vegetation modeling: A global plant trait database”, held in Paris, France, on 19-21 March 2008. Modifications were discussed and approved in plenary at the TRY Workshops held in Cape Town, South Africa, 17-18 October 2009 and in Paris, France, 25-27 March 2011.

We define two stages of collaborative work that will involve the use of the TRY collective global database of plant traits:

Stage 1: Data from the TRY database are available for data-contributors and modelling projects, depending on permission of the respective data custodians.

Stage 2: Transfer of data to the wider scientific community.

An individual that directly contributes data to TRY is called a custodian. A custodian may be a person that owns the original data or may act as a representative of all individual contributors in a collective dataset. TRY will only deal with the custodian or deputy custodian identified at the moment of dataset submission.

### **Access to data**

Each custodian of data on plant traits will retain the right to be informed of any TRY activity that may involve his/her data, and will have the opportunity to negotiate whether his/her data can be used, and whether general guidelines of authorship need to be modified in that particular case. Exceptions are cases where the custodian has explicitly made data fully available for public use without any further need to contact him/her.

Custodians retain the rights to withdraw their data at any time. Exceptions to this rule are data, which are in the public domain either because the authors have explicitly made them so or because they have been made available through a publication that fully displayed them.

Custodians should choose one of the following options how their data and property rights are handled after the submission of data:

Stage 1:

1: These data remain the intellectual property of ... (contact name of custodian and deputy custodian), who should be contacted each time a TRY initiative has the potential to involve them. Participation will be negotiated in each specific case.

2: These data remain the intellectual property of ... (contact name of custodian and deputy custodian). The data are available without the need for specific permission in each single case. The custodian will be informed by the TRY database management at least four weeks before the release of data. If no objection is raised at this time, it will be assumed that the custodian has given permission to use these data for the proposal in question.

Stage 2:

3: These data are in the public domain. The only conditions for use are the submission of a proposal to TRY (but no need for approval), citation of the following source: ... (detailed reference of source), citation of the standard TRY reference and acknowledgement of the TRY Initiative.

The data owner may, at any time, change the accessibility status of her/his data. We encourage a gradual transfer of data that have been contributed to the TRY initiative from stage 1 to stage 2.

In the case of collective datasets that contained data that originally belong to several other people, it will be the custodian's responsibility to solve intellectual property rights and authorship rules within the group of contributors. TRY will not take responsibility for data mishandling on the part of the custodians.

## **Data Requests**

Individuals or groups of individuals that would like to use the TRY database for a scientific project, such as a new model development, the testing of hypotheses about links between traits, etc., should submit a proposal to TRY, describing the aims, basic methods and the portion of the database they would require.

With respect to data under stage 1 only proposals submitted or solicited by data-contributors and proposals for a modelling purpose will be considered.

The proposal will be considered by the members of the TRY Coordination and Steering Committee. These are not meant to judge the scientific quality of the proposal, but rather to make sure that (1) there is a reasonable link between objectives, expected outputs and data requested; (2) that the rights of all parties involved are respected; and (3) that the applicants are eligible to obtain data according to the rules specified in this document.

When several proposals that could potentially benefit from each other are submitted, the TRY Coordination and Steering Committee will facilitate links between them, but ultimately the decision of collaborating, merging, or competing will remain with the authors of the proposals. Only the names of the applicants and title of the project will be made public on the TRY homepage. The proposal should contain: (1) title; (2) short rationale (one or two paragraphs); (3) objectives; (4) expected contribution

(what new advancements will arise as a result of the proposed work); (5) estimated time of delivery of results; (6) detailed and justified list of traits; (7) regional coverage needed or list of species (8) explicit statement that the proposal members know and accept these intellectual property guidelines.

The TRY database management will give the proponent the list of individuals that must to be contacted and consulted about data availability, work allocation, and authorship arrangements. The proponents will then submit a proposal agreement to TRY, approved by all the relevant custodians. TRY will then release the data to the authors of the proposal.

The TRY database management will release the data on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although every effort will be made to satisfy queries as fast possible, this service will be subject to time, labour force and funding availability. If the number of submitted proposals temporarily surpasses the capacity to deliver data, proposals most relevant to IGBP-FTI original objectives (as judged by the TRY Coordination and Steering Committee) will have priority.

No individual or group, including the coordination team, will have access to the whole TRY database through a single proposal.

Upon approval and data delivery the applications have 18 months to perform the analysis and submit a manuscript. After this time they lose their mandate to use the data, but it is possible to be granted an extension period of six months after a re-application.

The data user has no right to pass the data to third parties or use it for other purposes not stated in the original proposal. Redistribution of data obtained via TRY is prohibited.

### **Authorship**

Authorship will be negotiated among the participants for each individual proposal. The following are general guidelines, which could be modified by consensus within each individual proposal.

Custodians of data that account for 10% or more of the dataset released by TRY in an individual proposal should be offered authorship.

Contributors of data that account for less than 10% of the dataset used in an individual proposal, and that actively contribute to its development (conceptual development, methodological development, etc.).

The TRY database managers (Jens Kattge, Gerhard Bönisch) should be offered authorship.

When in doubt, an inclusive, rather than a restrictive criterion should be applied.

### **Citation of data sources**

The references of individual datasets, as indicated by the custodians, should be cited in the methods section of any product that involves the dataset.

The standard reference of the TRY initiative, including all data contributors at time of manuscript submission, should be cited in the methods section of any product that

involves the TRY collective global database of plant traits. This reference is currently (to be updated once a volume and page numbers have been attributed):

Kattge, J., S. Díaz, S. Lavorel, I. C. Prentice, P. Leadley, G. Bönsch, E. Garnier, M. Westoby, P. B. Reich, I. J. Wright, J. H. C. Cornelissen, C. Violle, S. P. Harrison, P. M. v. Bodegom, M. Reichstein, B. J. Enquist, N. A. Soudzilovskaia, D. D. Ackerly, M. Anand, O. Atkin, M. Bahn, T. R. Baker, D. Baldocchi, R. Bekker, C. Blanco, B. Blonder, W. J. Bond, R. Bradstock, D. E. Bunker, F. Casanoves, J. Cavender-Bares, J. Q. Chambers, F. S. Chapin, J. Chave, D. Coomes, W. K. Cornwell, J. M. Craine, B. H. Dobrin, L. Duarte, W. Durka, J. Elser, G. Esser, M. Estiarte, W. F. Fagan, J. Fang, F. Fernández-Méndez, A. Fidelis, B. Finegan, O. Flores, H. Ford, D. Frank, G. T. Freschet, N. M. Fyllas, R. V. Gallagher, W. A. Green, A. G. Gutierrez, T. Hickler, S. Higgins, J. G. Hodgson, A. Jalili, S. Jansen, C. Joly, A. J. Kerkhoff, D. Kirkup, K. Kitajima, M. Kleyer, S. Klotz, J. M. H. Knops, K. Kramer, I. Kühn, H. Kurokawa, D. Laughlin, T. D. Lee, M. Leishman, F. Lens, T. Lenz, S. L. Lewis, J. Lloyd, J. Llusià, F. Louault, S. Ma, M. D. Mahecha, P. Manning, T. Massad, B. Medlyn, J. Messier, A. T. Moles, S. C. Müller, K. Nadrowski, S. Naeem, Ü. Niinemets, S. Nöllert, A. Nüske, R. Ogaya, J. Oleksyn, V. G. Onipchenko, Y. Onoda, J. Ordoñez, G. Overbeck, W. A. Ozinga, S. Patiño, S. Paula, J. G. Pausas, J. Peñuelas, O. L. Phillips, V. Pillar, H. Poorter, L. Poorter, P. Poschlod, A. Prinzing, R. Proulx, A. Rammig, S. Reinsch, B. Reu, L. Sack, B. Salgado-Negret, J. Sardans, S. Shiodera, B. Shipley, A. Siefert, E. Sosinski, J.-F. Soussana, E. Swaine, N. Swenson, K. Thompson, P. Thornton, M. Waldram, E. Weiher, M. White, S. White, S. J. Wright, B. Yguel, S. Zaehle, A. E. Zanne, C. Wirth. 2011. TRY – a global database of plant traits. *Global Change Biology*, 17:2905–2935.

## **Acknowledgement**

The host institution of the database (MPI-BGC Jena) and the international funding networks supporting TRY (IGBP, DIVERSITAS, GLP, NERC, QUEST, FRB and GIS Climate) should be acknowledged. The recommended acknowledgement of the TRY initiative is:

“The study has been supported by the TRY initiative on plant traits (<http://www.try-db.org>). The TRY initiative and database is hosted, developed and maintained by J. Kattge and G. Bönsch (Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany). TRY is/has been supported by DIVERSITAS, IGBP, the Global Land Project, the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) through its program QUEST (Quantifying and Understanding the Earth System), the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research (FRB), and GIS "Climat, Environnement et Société" France.”

**Any issues not contemplated in these guidelines will be considered by the TRY Coordination and Steering Committee.**