Socio-Ecological Observatory for the Southern African Woodlands (SEOSAW)

Data sharing agreement

Version 2.0   01 May 2018

Version 2.1   04 May 2020. Minor edits and update to SEOSAW citation.

1 Introduction

The SEOSAW project aims to establish an online data sharing platform for southern African woodland plot data, building on the established platform for forest plot data www.ForestPlots.net. The project involves collaboration between partners from across southern Africa and the rest of the world, who will make their woodland plot data available through the online platform.

To ensure that data originators maintain control over their data, and receive appropriate recognition for their data collection and research efforts, the SEOSAW project has developed a data sharing and authorship agreement that protects the rights of data originators, and encourages collaboration.

Members of the SEOSAW partnership contributed to the development of the SEOSAW agreement at the first SEOSAW project meeting in March 2017. A code of conduct for SEOSAW partners is provided below.

SEOSAW Partners Code of Conduct

This code of conduct aims to ensure cooperation, collaboration and trust among SEOSAW partners[1], and allow the scientific potential of the SEOSAW project to be realised.

Data Access

Contribution of a dataset to the SEOSAW platform[2], or transfer of data between SEOSAW partners, does not constitute a transfer of intellectual property rights. Data originators are, however, *required* to agree to the following terms for granting data access prior to allowing their datasets to be added to the SEOSAW platform:

- To make complete datasets and meta-data that meet minimum data quality requirements[3] available for upload to the SEOSAW platform;
- To allow all SEOSAW partners and the public to view basic meta-data, including plot locations, on the SEOSAW platform; and
- To make full datasets available for use through the SEOSAW platform to SEOSAW partners that fulfil the conditions for **Data Use** described in this Code of Conduct.

Data Use

All SEOSAW partners accessing data through the SEOSAW platform are *required* to agree to the following terms for data use, prior to using the data for scientific research:

- To inform all SEOSAW partners[4] of any plans to make use of data accessed through the SEOSAW platform for scientific research; and to invite and provide the opportunity for all SEOSAW partners to collaborate in the research by: i) Granting access to datasets on the SEOSAW platform, if the proposed research does not jeopardise the data originator's own research plans; ii) Contributing to the formulation of research questions; iii) Assisting with data analysis; or iv) Contributing to paper writing;
- To acknowledge the contribution of all SEOSAW partners to all scientific research carried out using data accessed through the SEOSAW platform, in line with the conditions for **Citation and Co-authorship** described in this Code of Conduct.

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[1] SEOSAW partners include all participants in the SEOSAW project, including partners who contribute data 'Data originators' and partners that aim to make use of the data for scientific purposes 'Data users'. [May be necessary to define a process for approval as a SEOSAW partner, so that the network can expand over time]

[2] The SEOSAW platform is an internet accessible system database designed to enable data sharing among SEOSAW partners

[3] The SEOSAW manuals provide guidance on the collection and management of data that meets these standards

[4] This can be done by email to: seosaw@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk

Citation and Co-authorship

All SEOSAW partners making use of data accessed through the SEOSAW platform for scientific research are *required* to agree to the following terms for citation and co-authorship in all scientific reports and articles produced using data accessed through the SEOSAW platform:

- To cite the original source of all datasets accessed through the SEOSAW platform that are used in the analysis;
- To offer co-authorship to all SEOSAW partners whose datasets make a material contribution to the analysis;
- To offer co-authorship to all SEOSAW partners who make a meaningful contribution to formulation of research questions, data analysis, or paper writing;
- To specify the contributions of all co-authors in the report or article[5]; and
- To cite the SEOSAW platform in the report or article using the agreed citation[6].

Support

To realise the scientific potential of the SEOSAW platform, ongoing support is needed for the management and development of the resource. All SEOSAW partners, and particularly leaders of integrative and comparative studies making use of data accessed through the SEOSAW platform are therefore *encouraged*:

- To contribute new data to the SEOSAW platform;
- To provide funding for re-census and expansion of the plot network;
- To contribute to the cost of database management;
- To fund training in plot measurement; and
- To fund and/or supervise research students from Southern African countries.

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[5] Using for example the guidelines described in: Tscharntke, T., Hochberg, M. E., Rand, T. A., Resh, V. H. & Krauss, J. Author sequence and credit for contributions in multiauthored publications. *PLoS Biol.* **5,** 0013–0014 (2007).

[6] Currently this is the NERC grant and the Miombo Network: "Coordination of The Socio-Ecological Observatory for the Southern African Woodlands (SEOSAW; https://seosaw.github.io) is supported by grant no. NE/P008755/1 from the UK NERC, and is an activity of the Miombo Network". This will be updated as new publications describing the network are produced.

Annex 1

Data sharing agreements reviewed when compiling this document

- ForestPlots.net code of conduct http://www.forestplots.net/en/code-of-conduct/code-of-conduct [accessed 16/02/17]*
- Ethical Code, Data Sharing & Publication Policy for RAINFOR Participants http://www.rainfor.org/upload/ManualsEnglish/RAINFOR_Policy_ENG_June09.pdf [accessed 16/02/17]
- Data Sharing & Publication Policy for Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere (LBA) Participants http://lbaeco-archive.ornl.gov/lbaeco/data/data_poldoc.htm [accessed 16/02/17]
- The Latin American and Caribbean Dry Tropical Forest Network (DRYFLOR) MoU – Data sharing and publications. 17 Sep 2013.
- PREDICTS – Authorship and dissemination of data http://www.predicts.org.uk/pages/contribute.html [accessed 16/02/17]
- Intellectual Property Guidelines for the TRY (Plan Trait Database) Initiative https://www.try-db.org/TryWeb/TRY_Intellectual_Property_Guidelines.pdf [accessed 16/02/17]

* The ForestPlots.net code of conduct is also adopted by the African Tropical Rainforest Observation Network (AfriTRON)