



Consortium Open Access and Data management Policy FAQs

1. What do I need to do with my research data in order to comply with the open access policy?

All data outputs based on primary data – data that was directly produced by an experimental or observational procedure – should be deposited and archived in ICRAF institutional repositories, accompanied with relevant metadata. This includes data that underpins a publication and datasets collected by research projects. Most datasets for projects and publications will be archived on [Dataverse](#) while spatial datasets will be archived in the [Landscapes portal](#).

2. What is the timeline before which archived data is made open access?

Datasets will be made available to the public 12 months after completion of the project or 6 months after the publication the data replicates is published.

3. I am collecting panel/longitudinal data sets or I'm conducting long-term trials. What do I do?

It may not be useful or desirable to provide such data to the public, since the study is still on going or there are no meaningful intermediate results. The data should still be archived internally on our repository, though access will be limited to team members only, during the duration of the study.

4. I'm negotiating a new project with partners, what do I need to consider?

In agreements between the Centre and partners/collaborative institutions, the partners should be made aware of the Centre's [Research Data Management](#) and [Intellectual Assets](#) policies and the Consortium's [Open Access](#) policy and [Intellectual Assets](#) (IA) principles. Any agreements should always be consistent with these policies. Therefore, you cannot sign a contract where any provisions in the agreement will restrict the data being made open access. If in doubt, please contact [Anne Munene](#), Ag Head of Contracts and Grants Unit.

5. Are there any exceptions to making data open access?

The CGIAR's IA principles and Open Access policy spell out certain conditions where exceptions may be allowed. However, this will always be the exception and not the rule. If you have a difficulty making your data open access, you should discuss it with [Paul Baraka](#), Data Manager at RMG.

6. For my publication, I have been analysing data that is owned by a partner institution. What do I do?

The ICRAF researchers who are involved with that research will need to inform the Centre, by writing to [Anja Gassner](#), Leader, RMG, detailing whether the data is publicly accessible or how the data is being made publicly accessible

- If it is publicly accessible, information should be provided to RMG about where people can access the data e.g. a URL link. Dataverse is compliant to the Open Archives Initiative protocol for metadata harvesting (OAI-PMH) and therefore the data can be deposited in the partners archive and linked into ICRAF's Dataverse.
- If for some reason it is not publicly accessible, then this would require justification as to why an ICRAF researcher was involved in that research and how, despite a lack of data sharing, the public goods nature of the research could be ensured.
- If our research is adding value to the restricted data and data products are produced as outputs, the researchers should agree with the partner on how the data products will be made publicly accessible.

7. Are there any consequences for non-compliance to the open access policy?

The Consortium office will carry out evidence-based review of the implementation of the open access policy on annual basis. Though there may be a transition period, non-compliance could lead to sanctions in the projects' funding allocations (Window 1/2) in the subsequent year.

8. I'm starting a new project, what will help me adhere to the policy?

At the beginning of the project, please indicate on GMIS the datasets you plan to generate during the course of the project. Then contact [Paul Baraka](#) to assist you in planning how data will be collected, stored, preserved and finally shared with other researchers at the appropriate time.