DATA GOVERNANCE, AUTHORSHIP AND COLLABORATION PROTOCOL
Network of Community Socio-Ecological Observatories
Red de Observatorios Socioecológicos Comunitarios
ROSEC

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Central Principle

Knowledge generated through ROSEC results from multiple contributions. Recognition should reflect the work, knowledge, data, experience and participation that make that knowledge possible, regardless of who provided the funding.

ROSEC is committed to promoting a culture of good faith, transparency, recognition and collaboration, ensuring that researchers, technicians, students, Indigenous communities and other participants are fairly recognized for their contributions.

1. Purpose

This protocol establishes the basic principles for data use, recognition of contributions, authorship, publications and collaboration within ROSEC.

Its purpose is to ensure that knowledge generated through research and monitoring is used transparently, responsibly and collaboratively, recognizing the scientific, technical, territorial and community contributions that make its generation possible. The protocol is based on good faith, trust and respect among participants.

2. Who does it apply to?

This protocol applies to all individuals and organizations contributing to ROSEC's work, including:

- Researchers and professionals.
- Leaders and collaborators of the observatories.
- Students.
- Field assistants and technicians.
- Participating institutions.
- Indigenous communities and territorial organizations.
- Other people contributing knowledge, data, work or resources.

3. Fundamental Principles

3.1 Transparency

People participating in research should, as far as possible, know how data will be used and what products are expected to be generated.

3.2 Recognition of contributions

Every significant contribution should be recognized. Contributions may include:
• Formulation of research questions and research design.
• Data generation, collection and management.
• Fieldwork.
• Site identification and monitoring.
• Ecological and territorial knowledge.
• Indigenous or community knowledge.
• Analysis and interpretation.
• Writing and substantive review.
• Methodological development.
• Scientific management and coordination.

Research funding is an important contribution, but it does not by itself determine ownership of data or authorship of publications.

4. Data and Contributions

Data generated within ROSEC should retain information about who generated them, where and how they were obtained, and under what conditions.

Where possible, data should be accompanied by metadata identifying:
• Site and date of collection.
• Framework project and methods used.
• People responsible for collection.
• Participating institutions and communities.
• Limitations or conditions of use.

Access to and use of data must respect agreements established with those who generated or provided them and the specific conditions of the territory.

5. Authorship and Publications

Authorship will be determined by contribution, not solely by position, institutional affiliation, availability of funding or hierarchical status.

A person may be considered a co-author when they have made a substantive contribution to the knowledge presented in the publication, including contributions related to:
• Data generation.

- Research design.
- Ecological or territorial knowledge.
- Analysis.
- Interpretation.
- Methodological development.
- Writing or substantive review.

Author order will be agreed among the people participating in the publication, taking their contributions into account.

People whose contribution does not meet the threshold for authorship should receive appropriate acknowledgment in the acknowledgments section or through another suitable form.

6. Indigenous Communities and Local Knowledge

ROSEC recognizes that socio-ecological knowledge generation may depend on the participation of Indigenous communities, territorial organizations and people with local ecological knowledge.

When there is a substantive contribution to knowledge, interpretation, research design, data generation or research, the appropriate form of recognition, participation and, where applicable, co-authorship should be discussed with the participants. Their contribution should not be treated merely as logistical support.

Participation by Indigenous communities and individuals must respect their consent, their own norms and the conditions agreed for the use of information.

Culturally sensitive knowledge must not be published or shared without the appropriate authorization.

Results should be returned to communities in accessible and understandable formats unless there are justified reasons not to do so.

7. Use and Publication of Data

ROSEC data may be used for research, monitoring, publications, training and proposal development, while respecting:
- The conditions under which the data were obtained.
- The contributions of those who generated them.
- Agreements with communities and organizations.
- Protection of sensitive information.
- Applicable ethical and legal obligations.

No person should unilaterally use collectively generated data, analyses or products to present themselves as the sole author or person responsible for work that substantially depends on the contributions of others.

When ROSEC data are used for new research or a proposal, the people who made relevant contributions to their generation should be informed and involved where appropriate.

8. Proposals and Funding

The use of data, results, methodologies or products developed by ROSEC to prepare research or development proposals must be carried out transparently.

Obtaining funding does not erase the prior contributions of other participants or automatically determine who should participate in the resulting research.

When a proposal is built on work, data or relationships developed collectively through ROSEC, relevant collaborators should be involved in the design and implementation of the project, according to their interests and availability.

The distribution of responsibilities and resources in a funded project should, as far as possible, reflect the roles and contributions agreed among participants.

9. Protection of Sensitive Data

Information that could create ecological, social or cultural risks should not be published. This may include:

- Precise coordinates of sensitive species.
- Locations of vulnerable natural resources.
- Culturally sensitive information.
- Personal information.
- Other data whose disclosure could harm people, communities or ecosystems.

Where necessary, data may be aggregated, anonymized or restricted.

10. Resolution of Differences

ROSEC will seek to resolve differences related to data, authorship or recognition through direct and good-faith dialogue among the people involved.

When necessary, participants may request mediation by the ROSEC coordination or by independent persons agreed upon by the participants.

11. Review of the Protocol

This protocol may be reviewed periodically by ROSEC members to adapt it to new experiences, projects, participants and needs of the network.