



Tropi-Dry DATA SHARING AND AUTHORSHIP AGREEMENT

I. Data sharing and management agreement

All data collected by the Tropi-Dry research network will be integrated into an on-line database, accessible to all network participants. This database will be managed by the project Secretariat at the University of Alberta, and will be accessible for data entry and consultation.

I.1.- Restricted and open access periods

The ultimate goal of Tropi-Dry's data collection effort is to provide open access to all data and analyses. For an initial period of time, however, access will be limited to researchers associated with the network. The objectives of a restricted access period are:

1. Quality control of the data by careful examination and analyses by network participants and the Secretariat.
2. Offer network participants the opportunity to produce the first set of publications using Tropi-Dry data.
3. Build a collection of basic references to serve as a framework for citing Tropi-Dry data.

Tentatively, we expect that the open access to Tropi-Dry data will begin three years after data collection ends (approximately by mid 2013).

In order to adhere to ethical guidelines for research on human subjects, access to social data will be considered on a case by case basis. Although summary statistics will be generally available according to the schedule described above, data that can be linked to particular individuals may be protected.

I.2.- Data sharing commitment

All Tropi-Dry researchers agree to follow the data gathering protocols established in the Manual of Methods. Data and metadata will be entered using the forms described in the Manual of Methods, and provided in electronic form to the project Secretariat based at the University of Alberta. The Secretariat, in turn, will aim to develop user-friendly on-line interfaces for data entry and consultation.

I.3.- Data submission deadlines

Project participants agree to submit annually by 1 June the complete datasets gathered by them or their associates. This will allow the Secretariat to fulfill IAI reporting requirements by the end of the annual project cycle, on 30 June each year. Funding for the following year is subject to the timely receipt and approval by IAI of the yearly report.

II. Authorship of manuscripts and other publications

II.1.- Right to be included as an author

Participation in at least two of the following entitles one to be included as an author of a manuscript:

- i. Study design
- ii. Fund raising
- iii. Data collection
- iv. Data analysis
- v. Writing

II.2.- Senior authorship

Senior authors are either the first or the corresponding author in a publication.

The Tropi-Dry research network encourages the participation of the largest possible number of associate researchers as senior authors. The idea is to distribute the work load evenly and provide recognition incentives to as many researchers as possible.

To be a senior author, one must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Be an expert or have demonstrated proficiency in the main subject of the article. In the case that a manuscript addresses several topics, the senior author should be an expert in at least one.
2. Be responsible for coordinating all the data analysis and writing tasks.
3. Review critically the contributions of the coauthors and integrate them into a coherent high quality product.
4. Be responsible for coordinating, in collaboration with other coauthors, the entire editorial process and communication with journal editors. Special attention will be given to responding to journal editors within the time limits of their request.
5. In the case that a manuscript is rejected, the senior author will propose two or three alternate journals for resubmission, and will initiate the new process. If it is considered that the referee comments merit substantial additional work, the senior author will coordinate it with the other coauthors.

6. If more than one coauthor share these requirements, they may be listed as joint senior authors.
7. A senior author can decide to transfer this responsibility to another coauthor, or be asked to do so by the SAB. If other coauthors are unsatisfied by the performance of the senior author, they should try to solve the problem amicably, and if this does not work raise the issue with the SAB for resolution.

II.3. Order of authors

The senior author will decide the order of coauthors based on their relative contribution to the preparation of the publication. If some or all of the junior authors make equal contributions, they will be listed either alphabetically or reverse alphabetically.

II.4. Manuscript endorsement

Before a group of Tropi-Dry participants embarks in the preparation of a publication, they must submit a proposal to the SAB. This proposal consists of:

1. List of authors, including senior author(s).
2. Working title.
3. Brief description of the main point and rationale of the publication.
4. Identification of the Tropi-Dry data sets that will be used.
5. A list of preferred journals or publishers.
6. Explicit agreement to acknowledge the publication as one in the series of contributions of the Tropi-Dry research network.

All Tropi-Dry publications approved by the SAB will include the following text in the acknowledgments: *“This is contribution XXX of the Tropi-Dry research network. This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) CRN II # 021 which is supported by the US National Science Foundation (Grant GEO-0452325). Logistical support by the University of Alberta is acknowledged.”* Other sponsors may be acknowledged as required.

The consultation process for publication approval by the SAB will be conducted electronically and expeditiously. Once a publication is accepted, the senior author will inform the Secretariat which will assign the respective final publication number. After publication, the senior author will submit a digital copy to the Secretariat for archiving.

During the period of restricted access to Tropi-Dry data, network participants are not allowed to use these data sets for the preparation of publications without explicit authorization by the SAB. Once the data are placed in the public domain anyone can use them for any kind of research, however, data access will be password protected and require on-line, free registration.

III. Conference presentations

Before a group of Tropi-Dry participants decides to make a presentation at a scientific meeting, they must submit a proposal to the SAB. This proposal consists of:

1. List of authors, including senior author(s).
2. Working title.
3. Brief description of the main point and rationale of the presentation.
4. Identification of the Tropi-Dry data sets that will be used.
5. Name, location, and characteristics of the audience.
6. Explicit agreement to acknowledge the presentation as one in the series of contributions of the Tropi-Dry research network.

The consultation process for presentations approval by the SAB will be conducted electronically and expeditiously.

All Tropi-Dry presentation approved by the SAB will include the following text in the acknowledgments: *“This is contribution XXX of the Tropi-Dry research network. This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) CRN II # XXX which is supported by the US National Science Foundation (Grant GEO-0452325). Logistical support by the University of Alberta is acknowledged.”* Other sponsors may be acknowledged as required. Tropi-Dry’s logo must be prominently visible.

Once a presentation is accepted, the senior author will inform the Secretariat which will assign the respective final publication number. After publication, the senior author will submit a digital copy of the abstract and presentation (e.g. PowerPoint file of talk or poster) to the Secretariat for archiving.

IV. Conflict resolution

The researchers of the Tropi-Dry network acknowledge that they are working in good faith and in a spirit of cooperation. Any misunderstanding or failure to comply with this agreement will be reviewed and resolved by SAB, in consultation with all those involved. All SAB decisions are final.

V. Final dispositions

Changes to the text of this agreement will be considered at plenary meetings of the Tropi-Dry network (years 3 and 5, 2009 and 2012, respectively), and must be submitted to SAB in writing at least one month in advance. Researchers within the network may submit amendment proposals.

This agreement will expire three years after the end of CRN II (30 June 2013).

Any issue not addressed explicitly by this agreement, will be considered and resolved by the SAB. All SAB decisions are final.

Approved at a plenary meeting of the Tropi-Dry research network, and signed by those present at Margarita Island, Venezuela, on 26 July 2006.

Felisa C. Amaya

Jean Paul Boj

Theresa Larwin

M. R. P. ...

Katy E. ...

Clayton ...

John A. ...

Maria ...

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Virginia ...