

# Data Provision and Co-authorship Policies

## PanEuropean Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

[www.pecbms.imfo](http://www.pecbms.imfo)

**PECBMS outputs are increasingly being used for policy-related and scientific purposes so that the EBCC Board decided to develop policies on data provision and co-authorship for scientific and other publications. The aim of this document is to set out guidelines to be followed when PECBMS partners use data provided by national breeding bird survey (BBS) schemes. The purpose of this paper is to clarify with data providers how their information might be used and the way in which this happens.**

In many circumstances, it is advantageous for the results of analyses based on these data to be published in scientific and other publications. This raises the scientific profile and standing of the EBCC and PECBMS with the scientific community and importantly with policy and decision makers in Europe who we wish to influence positively. With this aim in mind, we also set out a procedure for deciding on the co-authorship of publications based upon the synthesis of national BBS data.

The PECBMS is a joint initiative of EBCC and BirdLife International, but since there is large overlap in the EBCC national delegates and BirdLife Partners, and also for simplicity, the EBCC has taken the lead in drafting these procedures.

First, the document provides a **Data Provision Agreement Policy** applicable to all national data providers (not all delegates) to clarify how their data can be legitimately used by EBCC partners (PECBMS, Spatial Modelling Group).

Second, it provides guidelines of a **Co-Authorship Policy** to clarify procedures for data providers who might wish to be co-authors of scientific publications using their data in part.

### 1) Data provision Agreement Policy

First, the ownership of data provided by national coordinators of BBS schemes to EBCC initiatives (such as the PECBMS, or Spatial Modelling Workgroup), lies solely with the national data providers. Such data cannot be delivered to third parties without full consultation and agreement of the national providers. Even so, all approaches to EBCC for national data will be passed on to the relevant country contacts for them to deal with as they see fit. The provided national data can be either raw data (allowing e. g. the PECBMS to produce national indices, or the Spatial Workgroup to produce maps), or national species indices allowing production of supranational indices or other derived information.

Provision of national data implies agreement by national data providers for EBCC initiatives:

- 1) To use and communicate on aggregated data (such as pan-European, multiple-country species trends and maps, and national or supra-national indicators) for the wider audience (e. g. media, policy makers, EU etc.).
- 2) To conduct explorative analyses of data for scientific purposes to better understand and interpret patterns and trends in the outputs described above. Such exploration may be further developed in the form of scientific papers or other publications.

- The use of national data in any such output must include proper and due acknowledgements of national data providers and whenever possible also supporters of the national BBS schemes. One paper per country referring to a national BBS (suggested by national data provider) should be cited in publications whenever it is feasible.
- The providers of national data have rights to use aggregated outputs (e. g. European indicators) for their own national purposes as they see fit. In the case of PECBMS outputs, **'EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife/CSO'** should be mentioned as a source of data and we would appreciate feedback on use of these outputs to be reported to the PECBMS coordination unit. The coordination unit is then able to keep a record of the use of outputs and can report these to EBCC and the PECBMS Steering Group.
- External data requests, i. e. outside of the EBCC or the PECBMS networks, for aggregated information such as supranational trends and indices, including data requests for commercial uses, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the EBCC Executive Committee, or the PECBMS Steering Group.
- Outputs generated by EBCC initiatives based on synthetic analysis and combinations of national data are deemed to be owned by those initiatives. So for example, the data source for the European species indices and indicators is given as: **'EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife/CSO'**.

## 2) Co-authorship Policy

In the early stages of writing of scientific papers or reports, all national data providers (for data used in the paper or report) will be informed of the use of their data. All are potential contributors to scientific papers that use the data they provided to an EBCC initiative, and all should be asked if they wish to become involved.

- 1) The leading author of the scientific paper or report is responsible for informing data providers that their data may be used in a scientific paper, and in asking all potential contributors whether they wish to participate and for their inputs.
- 2) Ideally, potential contributors will be asked to contribute in the early stages of the writing of a scientific paper. In those situations where this is not the case, for example, when opportunities for publications arise very rapidly, or highly novel results are found unexpectedly, data providers should be informed of plans for publications as soon as possible.
- 3) Active involvement in the process of writing the scientific paper is needed to justify coauthorship; this involvement can concern either theoretical or methodological aspects, data analyses, interpretation of results, or contributing to the writing. For that purpose, the leading author shall send a detailed plan on what kinds of analyses are to be published (including preliminary results), hence enabling contributors to take part to subjects on their interests. This also means that the potential contributor promises to follow the time table of the plan, and that delaying persons cannot act as co-authors. If the leading author passes the preliminary phase and sends an almost ready manuscript (that is usually difficult to contribute), all data providers willing to contribute shall be co-authors.
- 4) Co-authors will be informed of the submission and revision process by the leading author, so that they can also comment on revised versions of the manuscript and remain fully informed of progress.

5) EBCC and the leading authors have a duty to report the realized use of the data in publications to the data providers.

Practicality and workability of multi-author papers with over 20 contributors (with respect to correcting or commenting papers, sign agreements etc) must be considered too. Finally, the named authors on papers should also represent EBCC inputs and interests where this is appropriate. In all cases, national data providers will be fully acknowledged for their data provision in the Acknowledgments section of any paper or report, as long as this is allowed by the relevant journal/publication. The EBCC is aware that most national data providers work in scientific/research fields and that their funding will depend to some degree on scientific production so that co-authorship when appropriate will help in securing the running of their national BBS schemes and building organisational reputations.

**Data Provision and Co-authorship Policies are valid during the years 2018–2020.**

*New agreement policy will be decided and downloadable at <https://pecbms.info/use-of-the-results/data-access-policy/>.*