

Data Provision and Coauthorship Policies

Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

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PECBMS outputs are increasingly used for policy-related and scientific purposes, so the EBCC Board developed policies on data provision and coauthorship for scientific and other publications. This document aims to set out guidelines to be followed when PECBMS partners use data provided by the National Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) schemes. This guideline aims to clarify with data providers how their information may be used and the process by which this occurs.

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 within the scientific community, and notably with policy and decision-makers in Europe, whom we aim to influence positively. With this aim in mind, we also established a procedure for determining coauthorship of publications based on the synthesis of national BBS data.

The PECBMS is a joint initiative of EBCC and BirdLife International, but since it 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 EBCC partners (PECBMS, Spatial Modelling Group) can legitimately use their data.

Second, it provides guidelines for a **Coauthorship Policy** to clarify procedures for data providers who may wish to be co-authors of scientific publications that use 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 the 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 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 create maps) or national species indices, allowing the 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, policymakers, EU, etc.).

2) 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 a national data provider) should be cited in publications whenever feasible.
- The providers of national data have the right to use aggregated outputs (e.g., European indicators) for their national purposes as they see fit. Regarding PECBMS outputs, '**EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife/CSO**' should be mentioned as a source of data, and we would appreciate feedback on the use of these outputs to be reported to the PECBMS coordination unit. The coordination unit can then record the use of outcomes and 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 owned by those initiatives. So, for example, the data source for the European species indices and indicators is given as follows: '**EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife/CSO**'.

2. Coauthorship Policy

In the early stages of writing 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 for 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 the data providers that their data may be used in a scientific paper and asking all potential contributors whether they wish to participate and for their input.
2. Ideally, potential contributors will be asked to contribute in the early stages of writing a scientific paper. In situations where this is not the case, for example, when opportunities for publication arise rapidly or highly novel results are unexpectedly found, data providers should be informed of publication plans 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 this purpose, the lead author shall send a detailed plan outlining the types of analyses that will be published (including preliminary results), enabling contributors to participate in subjects of interest. This also means that the potential contributor promises to follow the plan's timetable and that individuals who delay cannot act as co-authors. Suppose the leading author passes the preliminary phase and sends an

almost-ready manuscript (which is usually challenging to contribute to). In that case, all data providers willing to contribute shall be designated as 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 must report the realised use of the data in publications to the data providers.

Practicality and workability of multi-author papers with over 20 contributors (concerning correcting or commenting papers, signing agreements, etc.) must be considered, too. Finally, the named authors on papers should also represent EBCC inputs and interests where appropriate. In all cases, national data providers will be fully acknowledged for their data provision in the Acknowledgements 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 on scientific production, so coauthorship, when appropriate, will help secure the running of their national BBS schemes and build organisational reputations.

Data Provision and Coauthorship Policies are valid from 2018 to 2026.

The new agreement policy will be available for download at <https://pecbms.info/use-of-the-results/data-access-policy/>.