

VWSG Policy on data access and use (December 18, 2017)

Background:

The VWSG and its partners have invested an enormous amount of resources (both physical and financial) into the generation of the huge database on banding, recovery and sighting information about waders.

Wherever possible the members and partners are analysing and reporting through various publications on the outcomes of this data. However, there is also ample opportunity for others to get involved in assisting in this analysis and publication.

Over the years the management of this has been handled appropriately by Clive and others but under the new management of the VWSG it has been considered appropriate that we formulate a policy on this subject so that we are all clear on the basis on which people may seek to access this data.

The following policy is intended to meet that need.

VWSG Data Access Policy:

That VWSG make data available to potential users provided:

1. The person/s requesting data provides the VWSG with a brief (1-2 paragraph) summary of their planned project or data exploration. *
2. When substantial data are involved, VWSG become a co-author (through relevant individual/s). If no co-authorship, then due acknowledgement be given to VWSG.
3. VWSG get an opportunity to review how data are used to ensure it is being used appropriately.
4. Where data are being utilised in a funded project or for commercial uses, a financial contribution would be expected to offset some of the costs in accumulating the data. #
5. Access to the data does not conflict with other ongoing analyses or publications.
6. A summary of the finished publication (and full version where possible), be made available for circulation to VWSG members and for reporting against permits.
7. There remains the flexibility for the VWSG to grant access to data by interested and trusted people who seek to explore and better understand what the data is telling us i.e. an applied outcome is not always essential.

* This summary should be extensive enough for us to understand what they have in mind, but also brief enough to be circulated around the VWSG committees.

Charges may be for data management and extraction and/or field operations. In some instances, other particular costs may need to be recouped. Ultimately this will be a negotiated outcome between the VWSG and the data seeker.

Protocols for the use of VWSG data

To assist in the practical execution of the above principles, the following protocols will apply:

1. Any requests for the use of data held by VWSG shall be made to the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Currently (2018) this is Danny Rogers. Upon receipt of a request Danny will seek advice from other SAC members where needed. If there is disagreement over the use of the data, the full SAC will be involved in developing a majority view on how to handle the request.
2. The SAC will oversee the data supply (generally through the Database Manager (Joris Driessen)) as well as the review of analyses and draft publications This will be done through the SAC Chair in the first instance. Any limitations or possible misinterpretations with the use of the data will be clarified at this stage.
3. Co-authorship is encouraged as it recognises significant contributions in at least two of the following areas:
 1. Conception/genesis and experimental design of the project
 2. Collection of the data
 3. Analysis and interpretation of the data
 4. Writing the paper
 5. Revision of the manuscript in a significant way
4. Agreement on co-authorship will be reached at the initial stage (usually prior to analysis) and will be documented.
5. A list of current papers being worked on will be maintained by the SAC. An annual review of progress toward paper publication will be conducted by the SAC with a view to encouraging further work, offering support where needed or to reassign the task if needed/possible.