

DATA AND MATERIALS SHARING POLICY

Pollution and Diseases — International Scientific Journal

<https://pollution-diseases.org>

Pollution and Diseases is committed to promoting transparency, reproducibility, and open scientific communication. Authors are expected to make all data, materials, code, and related research outputs available whenever ethically and legally feasible. This policy outlines expectations for data sharing and the proper handling of sensitive or restricted materials.

1. General Principles

The journal encourages compliance with the **FAIR principles**:

- **Findable:** data should be discoverable through persistent identifiers.
- **Accessible:** data should be openly available or available upon request.
- **Interoperable:** data should follow community standards when possible.
- **Reusable:** data should include sufficient metadata and documentation.

Data sharing enhances reproducibility, accelerates scientific progress, and supports global collaboration.

2. Data Availability Statement (Required)

All articles must include a **Data Availability Statement (DAS)**.

This statement should explain:

- where data can be accessed,
- which data are shared,
- any restrictions or limitations,
- repository links and DOIs.

Examples:

Open Data:

“Data supporting the findings of this study are available in Zenodo at DOI: xxx.”

Restricted Access:

“Data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request due to privacy or ecological protection concerns.”

No Available Data:

“No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.”

3. Acceptable Data Repositories

Authors should deposit data in recognized repositories, such as:

3.1. General Repositories

- Zenodo
- Figshare
- Dryad
- OSF (Open Science Framework)

3.2. Domain-Specific Repositories

- GenBank
- PANGAEA
- GBIF
- Environmental Data Initiative
- EarthChem
- EPA data archives

3.3. Institutional Repositories

University or research institute archives are acceptable.

3.4. National or Government Repositories

e.g., European Open Data Portal, USGS, NOAA.

All repositories must provide persistent identifiers (e.g., DOI).

4. Types of Data to Be Shared

Authors should share all data relevant to supporting the findings, including:

- raw and processed datasets,
- field measurements,
- laboratory data,
- statistical analysis files,
- geospatial shapefiles or GIS layers,
- code and scripts (e.g., R, Python, MATLAB),
- methodological protocols,
- photographs, maps, and figures,
- historical datasets used in the study.

Supplementary materials should be clearly labeled and documented.

5. Sensitive, Restricted, or Ethical Data

The journal acknowledges that some data cannot be shared openly due to:

5.1. Human Subjects and Privacy

Data involving individuals must comply with:

- GDPR,
- HIPAA,
- national privacy laws,
- informed consent agreements.

5.2. Protected Species or Locations

Geospatial data may pose risks to:

- endangered species,
- culturally sensitive areas,
- protected ecosystems.

In such cases, authors may:

- mask coordinates,
- reduce spatial resolution,
- provide data only upon reasonable request.

5.3. Legal or Institutional Restrictions

Some datasets may be restricted by:

- agreements with data providers,
- government regulations,
- intellectual property concerns.

These restrictions must be clearly stated in the DAS.

6. Code, Software, and Computational Reproducibility

Authors must share:

- analysis scripts,
- computational workflows,
- custom software used in the study.

Repositories such as GitHub, GitLab, or Bitbucket are acceptable if paired with a versioned archive (e.g., Zenodo DOI).

Software should include:

- version information,
- dependencies,
- installation instructions,
- usage examples.

7. Materials Sharing

Authors must make available:

- research materials,

- experimental protocols,
- field sampling methods,
- original images or scans,
- chemical or biological materials (when legally permitted).

For materials that cannot be freely distributed, authors must describe how access can be granted (e.g., Material Transfer Agreement).

8. Historical and Archival Data

When using historical materials:

- provide full bibliographic details;
- ensure clarity on original and edited components;
- share digital scans when possible;
- follow the journal's Repository Policy.

9. Exceptions to Data Sharing Requirements

Exceptions apply when:

- data contain personally identifiable information;
- disclosure risks cultural, ecological, or political harm;
- legal or contractual limitations exist;
- data ownership belongs to third parties.

Authors must explain these limitations explicitly.

10. Editorial Evaluation

Editors assess data availability as part of manuscript screening.

Manuscripts may be returned to authors for:

- incomplete Data Availability Statements,
- missing datasets,
- insufficient documentation.

In severe cases, lack of data may prevent publication.

11. Reviewers and Data

Reviewers may:

- request access to data for validation;
- assess the completeness of shared materials;
- raise concerns about missing or inconsistent datasets.

All data shared with reviewers must remain confidential.

12. Post-Publication Data Integrity

If concerns arise after publication:

- editors may request raw data,
- authors must cooperate promptly,
- corrections or retractions may be issued following COPE guidelines.

13. Licensing of Data

Unless restricted, data should be shared under a license compatible with reuse, such as:

- **CC BY 4.0**,
- **CC0**,
- **Open Data Commons** licenses.

Licensing must be stated in the repository entry and in the article.

Conclusion

The *Pollution and Diseases* Data and Materials Sharing Policy ensures transparency, reproducibility, and long-term preservation of scientific outputs. The journal encourages responsible and open sharing practices that support global research on pollution and disease.