



# **Policies Related to Scientific Data Repositories: Costa Rica**

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## **Version 1**



**International  
Science Council**

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**About the World Data System:**

Founded in 2008, the World Data System (WDS) is an affiliated body of the International Science Council (ISC). Its mission is to enhance the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of its member repositories and data services by fostering trusted communities of scientific data repositories. The WDS also aims to strengthen the entire lifecycle of data management, ensuring that high-quality data supports first-class research output. Additionally, it advocates for accessible data along with transparent and reproducible science.

**About the WDS series on Scientific Data Repository-related Policies:**

The World Data System (WDS) Policy Series reviews country-specific policies related to the governance of scientific data repositories at the national level. Documenting these policies comprehensively is critical to fostering global collaborations and advancing science for the common good.

To this end, WDS is committed to maintaining and continually updating a list of national Open Science policies pertaining to data repositories. Additionally, WDS will host periodic webinars featuring experts from multiple countries to discuss their unique perspectives on Open Science Policies and how they impact data repositories. These sessions aim to inform researchers and policymakers on how to navigate international policy landscapes effectively.

In developing this Open Science Policy Series, WDS's goal is to create avenues for sharing knowledge and enhancing global scientific collaboration efforts. Ultimately, we hope this approach will promote transparency and ensure that science continues to work towards the common good by leveraging diverse international expertise. Note that the papers in this series will continually be updated with new and emerging information as it becomes available. The World Data System welcomes your input on these documents, including textual updates, references, policy suggestions, and link corrections, by emailing [wds-ipo@utk.edu](mailto:wds-ipo@utk.edu).

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## Acronyms

CONARE	National Council of Rectors ( <i>Consejo Nacional de Rectores</i> )
CSUCA	Central American Higher University Council ( <i>Consejo Superior Universitario Centroamericano</i> )
MICITT	Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications ( <i>Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones</i> )
RDA	Research Data Alliance
PIRESIC	Plan for the Regional Integration of Higher Education in Central America and the Dominican Republic ( <i>Plan para la Integración Regional de la Educación Superior de Centroamérica y República Dominicana</i> )

# Introduction

The World Data System (WDS) Policy Series reviews country-specific policies related to the governance of scientific data repositories at the national level. Documenting these policies comprehensively is critical to fostering global collaborations and advancing science for the common good. To this end, WDS is committed to maintaining and continually updating a list of national Open Science policies related to data repositories.

In Costa Rica, substantial progress has been made toward establishing, consolidating, and enhancing scientific data repositories as part of broader national and regional efforts to advance open science and equitable access to knowledge. These developments demonstrate the dedication of multiple institutions to developing policies, guidelines, and infrastructure that support the management, sharing, and reuse of research data.

Collaborative work between national and Latin American bodies is an essential pillar in this process, since regional cooperation favors the integration of common practices, standards, and visions around data management. In this sense, initiatives such as the declarations and alliances promoted by Central American organizations reaffirm the importance of building collaboration networks that transcend borders and enhance the impact of research.

Making research data from Costa Rican institutions publicly accessible not only enhances transparency and academic quality, but also serves as a vital driver of national development. Greater data availability enriches decision-making processes, stimulates innovation, and creates new opportunities across scientific, social, and economic sectors.

Ultimately, research data should be seen as catalysts for change—capable of transforming realities by serving as strategic resources to address contemporary challenges. Promoting their openness, responsible use, and accessibility is therefore essential to strengthening science, education, and well-being in Costa Rica and across Latin America.

## Scientific Data Repository-related Policies

Policies related to specific scientific data repositories in Costa Rica include:

- **National Council of Rectors (CONARE):**

CONARE, in its repository, points out a series of policies that regulate the general operation of the repository so that it is efficient and adaptable to changes in the academic and technological environment, among these are:

- The documents contained may be viewed, downloaded, reproduced, and delivered to third parties, for educational, academic, research, and other non-profit purposes, as long as they are correctly cited and the integrity of the work is respected.
- Open data repository governance policies, role definition, data quality assurance, and access conditions.
- Content freely accessible without registration.
- Promote policies and collaborative actions for Open Science in Central America and the Caribbean.
- Promoting Open Science through university strategies.
- Promote FAIR data management in university institutions.
- Promote and strengthen quality repositories with free software and deposit respecting copyright.
- Generate open and accessible infrastructure to manage and disseminate knowledge.
- Consolidate standards of content conservation and visibility.
- Promote open access publishing (diamond and green route).
- Reform the evaluation of research with Open Science principles.
- Facilitate access to educational resources in open and reusable formats.
- Publish research results and methods on accessible platforms.
- Promote the openness of multilingual codes and systems.
- Viewing and downloading permitted for non-profit purposes with correct citation.
- Use of correct metadata for resource identification

### • **National Open Data Commission Guide**

The National Open Data Commission (2020) incorporated a guide to open the publication of open data as part of the institutional workflow, which generates different results. This guide is an instrument that will guide Costa Rican institutions in complying with the provisions of [Decree 40199-MP on the Opening of Public Data](#) and [Decree No. 40200-MP-MEIC-MC on Transparency and Access to Public Information](#).

The commission is aware that those who publish are aware of the state of affairs and the importance of the data asset. At the same time, the effort to improve the quality of the data facilitates consumption and generates new uses.

### • **CSUCA Open Science Declaration**

The Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA) unites universities from Central America and neighboring countries to advance higher education and public research for regional development. Historically, access to scientific knowledge in Latin America was limited by the print-based distribution of academic journals. The emergence of open access—defined by the [Budapest Declaration](#) (2002) and championed by organizations such as [UNESCO](#) and [RedALyC](#)—seeks to eliminate economic and legal barriers, democratizing knowledge and promoting educational and scientific equity.

Open Science, adopted as an inclusive framework by UNESCO in 2021, encourages broader access to and collaboration in global research. Several countries in the region have already enacted national laws supporting these principles. CSUCA actively supports these efforts through its Plan for Regional Integration of Higher Education in Central America and the Dominican Republic (PIRESC), which aims to increase the visibility and transfer of university-generated knowledge in service of sustainable development.

- **Executive Decree 40200 of 2017. Transparency and Access to Public Information**

The state is tasked with undertaking all necessary actions to safeguard the right of access to public information, recognizing it as a fundamental democratic right that strengthens governance, transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. The Government of the Republic is committed to decisively advancing this right in all its forms, viewing it as an essential instrument for building an open and transparent society.

- **CONARE Alliance with RDA**

One of Costa Rica's first steps toward implementing open data regulations was the establishment of an alliance between the National Council of Rectors and the Research Data Alliance (RDA). This agreement enables Costa Rican institutions to engage with global networks, facilitating the exchange of findings, best practices, data, and experiences across diverse fields of knowledge. By fostering international collaboration, this initiative strengthens and expands opportunities to address social challenges through shared solutions.

- **Provisions for the management of research data at Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica, apply to data generated through research programs, projects, and academic activities with a research component. INSTRUCTION UNA-VI-DISC-004-2024**

This instruction equips the advisory staff of the Vice-Rectorate for Research and the university libraries at Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica, with essential tools to guide good research data management practices in academic work. Additionally, it serves as a procedural reference for decision-making by academic unit authorities, the Center for General Studies, headquarters, and regional sections regarding the appropriate handling of various forms of institutional intellectual output that involve research data.

- **Initiatives**

Workshop held at the University of Costa Rica on June 25, 2024, titled: "Open Science for Costa Rica: an open and participatory dialogue for the construction of national public policy". The event was led by Ana María Catto, member of UNESCO's Global Steering Committee on Open Science, and organized by CONARE and the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications (MICITT).



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