



GainForest Data Policy

Last Updated: 30th September 2024

Version & Revisions

This Data Policy was developed collaboratively by GainForest and the three elected community representatives of the Data Council 24/25. It is a living document that may be revised through discussions within the Data Council to reflect evolving needs, feedback, and best practices in data management.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the collection, use, and sharing of data between GainForest and community partners within its network. These standards ensure that data management practices are transparent, fair, and consistent. The policy promotes collaboration and shared responsibility, protecting the rights of community partners while ensuring that data is used effectively to support conservation efforts and community development.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1. Data Accessibility and Usability

GainForest is committed to ensuring that data and metadata are easily accessible and usable for all stakeholders.

- **Data** refers to the raw information collected through various methods, including surveys, sensors, and observations. This information serves as the foundation for analysis and decision-making.
- **Metadata** provides contextual information about the data, including its origin, format, structure, and relevant attributes. This context is essential for understanding and effectively using the data.

To facilitate access and integration, GainForest will offer guides and resources as needed. Unique identifiers and clear descriptions will be utilized to enhance data management across all platforms.



2.2 Informed Consent

Informed consent is a prerequisite for all data collection activities, particularly when involving, but not limited to, indigenous communities. This process ensures that participants fully understand and agree to the purpose, use, and sharing of their data.

When working with indigenous communities in specific countries, GainForest will comply with the data governance and consent requirements established by those nations. This includes adhering to any Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes mandated by local regulations and customary practices.

2.3 Cultural Sensitivity

The design of new technology tools by GainForest will involve collaboration with communities to ensure that these tools are culturally sensitive and aligned with local values and practices. This co-design approach fosters respect for community traditions and enhances the relevance and effectiveness of the technology.

2.4 Written Agreements on Data Management

All data collection and usage activities will be governed by written agreements that clearly outline the terms regarding data use, ownership, and payments related to Conservation Data Income (CDI). The specific tools used for CDI may vary based on the circumstances, and any changes will be communicated to community partners as outlined in the agreement.

2.5 Data Ownership

2.5.1 For tools associated with CDI Payments

GainForest and community partners will jointly hold intellectual property rights to data collected using tools supported by the Conservation Data Income (CDI) model. This data will be utilized solely for scientific research, marketing, licensing, fundraising, presentations, and analysis aimed at enhancing nature restoration and conservation efforts. Additionally, it will serve to demonstrate transparency and accountability to funders.

2.5.1.1 Duration

Intellectual property rights will be held for the duration of the partnership and will continue in perpetuity after its conclusion. Any extensions or modifications to these terms will be reviewed and mutually agreed upon by both parties as necessary.



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2.5.1.2 Remarks on Marketing

Data collected primarily to support scientific inquiries and assess the impact of community partners as environmental stewards may, in some cases, be used for marketing initiatives by GainForest and associated community partners. It is essential that these marketing efforts are carried out in a manner that avoids exploitation, misrepresentation, or harm to community members.

When used for marketing purposes, the data will be employed in ways that provide tangible benefits to community partners, such as facilitating access to relevant financial support, services, or information that directly addresses their needs. Only the data necessary for specific marketing objectives will be utilized, ensuring that the handling of data remains focused and avoids the use of excessive or irrelevant information.

2.5.1.3 Addition or Deletion of Data

Any additions or deletions of data must be mutually agreed upon by GainForest and community partners. This collaborative approach ensures transparency and alignment with our shared objectives.

2.5.2 For tools provided free of charge

Community partners retain ownership of data collected using tools provided at no cost. They agree to share this data with GainForest for visualization on the Green Globe. GainForest may also share this visualized data publicly to promote transparency and support conservation efforts.

Community partners are encouraged to use, share, and publish this data as they see fit. They may also seek additional funding opportunities based on the impacts measured with these tools.

2.5.2.1 Duration

Community partners shall maintain ownership of the data in perpetuity, provided they comply with all applicable laws and regulations of their country of origin. GainForest has the right to use and share the visualized data publicly for transparency and promotional purposes, as long as it aligns with conservation goals.

2.5.3 Public Data Consent

Once data collected by community partners has been visualized and shared publicly by GainForest—through GainForest public platforms, promotional materials, or other public channels—it will be considered public. By agreeing to have their data visualized or shared



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publicly, community partners consent to its availability for public viewing, use, and further dissemination.

Community partners acknowledge that any data made public is no longer confidential and may be accessed or utilized by external parties. However, GainForest commits to ensuring that any public use aligns with the shared objectives of promoting transparency, conservation efforts, and the well-being of the community.

Community partners may request a review or removal of publicized data at any time. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with mutual agreement required for any data retraction or withdrawal from public domains.

2.5.3.1 Third Parties

Any data publicized by GainForest will include a clear disclaimer stating that the data is available for **non-commercial purposes** only. This disclaimer will be prominently displayed on GainForest's public platforms to ensure that anyone accessing the data understands its intended use for scientific research, education, transparency, or conservation-related activities.

Third parties may access and use the publicized data freely, provided it is strictly for non-commercial purposes. Any attempt to utilize the data for commercial activities will be prohibited unless explicitly agreed upon by both GainForest and the community partners.

3. Conservation Data Income (CDI)

3.1 Payment Structure

GainForest is committed to providing fair compensation to communities for data collection and the use of specific technological tools as part of the Conservation Data Income (CDI) model. This approach ensures that communities receive appropriate rewards for their contributions.

Details on compensation can be found in [Annex 1: Payment Guidelines and Onboarding Rewards for Community Partners](#), which includes the following:

- **Payment Guidelines:** This section outlines the compensation amounts for various types of data collection and specifies which tools are eligible for CDI payments.
- **Onboarding Rewards:** This section describes the incentives available for new community partners who complete their profiles and are listed on GainForest public platforms.

The payment structure document will be updated periodically to reflect any changes, and GainForest is responsible for communicating these updates to the community partners.



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3.2 Financial Literacy

GainForest is committed to providing community members with essential resources and basic training on cryptocurrency. This initiative focuses on helping individuals understand how to access, manage, and withdraw funds effectively. This includes guidance on using digital wallets, understanding transaction processes, and ensuring security in cryptocurrency transactions.

3.3 Alternative Funding

While Conservation Data Income (CDI) payments are an important component, GainForest encourages community members to explore additional funding sources. We will provide guidance on diversifying financial support and developing sustainable funding strategies beyond CDI payments.

4. Data Collection Guidelines

4.1 Use of GainForest Tools

4.1.1 Training Requirements

All community members will receive comprehensive training on using GainForest tools. On-the-ground training will be complemented with online training when necessary. Comprehensive guides will also be provided to ensure that everyone can collect high-quality data consistently and follow established procedures.

4.1.2 Data Quality Standards

GainForest will establish clear standards for data collection to ensure consistency and accuracy, covering aspects such as species identification, measurement units, and data recording methods. These quality standards will be communicated to all community partners, outlining specific guidelines and best practices. Community partners are responsible for adhering to these standards, ensuring that all collected data meets the required benchmarks for scientific validity and reliability.

4.1.3 Access to Revisit Data

GainForest will provide community partners with easy access to their raw data, allowing them to view and edit it as necessary. We are committed to gradually improving this capability through technological enhancements, which will enable more efficient data management and corrections over time.



4.1.4 Equipment Management

GainForest will address equipment needs through two approaches:

a) **Provision of Free Equipment**

GainForest will provide certain essential tools at no cost to support community partners.

b) **Equipment Access for Specialized Tools**

For specialized or expensive tools, GainForest will implement systems to ensure access while promoting accountability. The management of these tools is structured as follows:

i) **Trust-Based Allocation**

Tools may be allocated based on a pre-established level of trust, particularly when a strong relationship exists. Eligible community partners will be those with a proven track record of reliability.

ii) **Data Payment System**

This system incentivizes the collection of high-quality data, offering compensation based on the volume and quality of data collected. Community partners may earn ownership of hardware (e.g., drones, AudioMoths) through their contributions, which will count towards offsetting hardware costs. Specific milestones and terms for hardware ownership will be detailed in customized project-based agreements.

iii) **Self-Purchased Equipment**

GainForest encourages community partners to invest in their own equipment, fostering independence and adaptability. Tailored recommendations will be provided based on project needs, along with ongoing software support and technical assistance for any self-purchased equipment.

Detailed information, including specific guidelines for each approach, is available in [Annex 2: Equipment Management Overview](#).

4.1.5 Tool Enhancements

GainForest is committed to continuously improving the usability and accessibility of its tools based on feedback from community partners. Technical enhancements will be implemented gradually, reflecting our dedication to addressing the needs of users. While we aim to prioritize these improvements, the feasibility and alignment with our core values will influence the implementation process. Although specific changes cannot be guaranteed, we will actively pursue enhancements within these constraints.



5. Data Verification

GainForest is committed to enhancing the integrity and quality of data through the establishment of programs focused on data verification. This includes developing guidelines for quality checks and addressing any issues with faulty data. Community partners will be invited to participate in these initiatives, ensuring collaboration and shared responsibility in maintaining data standards.

6. Data Publication and Sharing

6.1 GainForest Public Platforms

6.1.1 Data Privacy

GainForest and community partners will comply with the GainForest Data Privacy Policy. To ensure the responsible publication of data on the Green Globe platform, GainForest has established guidelines that specifically address the sensitivity of biodiversity data. Community partners are responsible for evaluating the sensitivity of their data and making informed decisions about what information should be shared or withheld in accordance with these guidelines. Please refer to the [Data Publication Guidelines](#) for detailed instructions.

6.1.2 Community-Controlled Data

GainForest is committed to exploring technological improvements that empower communities to manage how their data is displayed. This includes the ability to opt out of sharing any data that may present potential risks to them or their interests.

6.1.3 Proof of Conservation Data Income on the GainForest Public Platforms

Providing proof of Conservation Data Income (CDI) is essential for maintaining transparency in fund distribution. Community members have the option to remain anonymous if they prefer. They can choose to anonymize both the amount of CDI received and their identities, thereby protecting their privacy while still contributing to overall conservation goals.

6.1.3.1 Options for Anonymity

Community members may choose to remain anonymous or receive public recognition. If they opt for anonymity, both the amount of CDI received and their personal details will be



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anonymized. This choice ensures that sensitive information is managed securely while preserving the integrity of the data-sharing process.

6.1.3.2 Data Handling

Data will be anonymized or aggregated upon request to protect privacy and uphold security standards, in line with the community member's preferences.

7. Hypercerts data policy

Data used as conservation impact evidence through Hypercerts is public but controlled by community partners. The use of this data for motives beyond the Hypercerts, requires explicit agreement from the community partner organization that produced that data

Data collected through GainForest's CDI framework, and used as conservation impact evidence through Hypercerts are public, following CDI's Public Data Consent policy.

8. Conclusion

GainForest is committed to regularly reviewing and updating its data policy to address emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring our practices remain relevant and effective. This policy has been developed in collaboration with input from the Data Council, which consists of GainForest and elected regional representatives from the GainForest community network. We actively seek and value feedback from our community partners, fostering a collaborative approach to refine our data management practices. This ongoing dialogue allows us to address any issues that arise and continuously improve our policies and procedures.



9. Annexes

Annex 1: Payment Guidelines and Onboarding Rewards for Community Partners

This document outlines the payment guidelines for tools used by GainForest's community partners under the Conservation Data Income (CDI) model. It provides baseline payment rates and categorizes tools based on their eligibility for CDI payments.

Pricing Policy

The payment rates listed in this document serve as baseline rates. While these rates cannot be reduced, they may be increased based on the specifics of individual projects or partnerships. Any adjustments to the baseline rates will be communicated clearly and agreed upon before implementation.

Note: Data will only be eligible for payment if it passes GainForest's quality assessment.

Category	Tool
Tools Eligible for CDI Payment	AudioMoths
	Drones
	Camera Traps
Tools Not Eligible for CDI Payment	ODK App
	Taina
Tools Discontinued	e-DNA



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Tool Payment Structure and Updates

Tool	Previous Payment Structure	Current Payment Structure	Usage Guidelines
AudioMoths	\$0.01 per minute of recorded data	Rate: \$0.01 per minute of recorded data Daily Cap (Normal Deployment): Maximum of 200 minutes of active recording per day	Recording Settings: • Normal Deployment: 1 minute of active recording every 5 minutes, typically for 2-3 weeks. AudioMoths should be placed in different locations to maximize coverage and collect diverse data on wildlife activity. • Special Deployment: 55 seconds of active recording every 60 seconds, for shorter durations See Sub-annex 1(A) for detailed compensation structures
Drones	\$0.05 per MB of orthomosaic	\$0.05 per MB of orthomosaic For special deployments, the payment structure will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will require approval from the Data Council. This ensures that compensation is aligned with project needs and specific circumstances.	• Regular Deployment: Drone data collection should be done once a month for the same area to maintain consistency and minimize overuse. • Special Deployment In cases requiring closer monitoring (e.g., special monitoring, suspicion of illegal activity), drone flights can be increased to a



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			maximum of 5 times a month for the same area.
Camera Traps	\$0.05 per image captured by a wildlife camera trap	\$0.05 per image captured by a wildlife camera trap	Wildlife camera traps should be placed in different locations to maximize coverage and collect diverse data on wildlife activity.
ODK App	\$50 for the first 100 verified tree data (later discontinued)	• No payment; community partners use their own KoboToolBox and have full access to their data. • Data shared with GainForest will go through a two-tier data cleaning process: a) Community partners are responsible for cleaning their data according to ODK guidelines in KoboToolBox. b) Data is then reviewed by an ODK Data Quality Fellow before being publicized on Green Globe.	• Dense Forests: Not recommended. • Tree Planting: Suitable. • Mangroves: Can be used but best supplemented with drone pictures.
Taina	No previous payment structure	No payment	N/A



Sub-annex 1(A): Detailed Compensation Structures for AudioMoths

Overview:

The compensation for recorded data will follow a rate of \$0.01 per minute. However, to ensure fairness and manage costs effectively, GainForest applies a cap system that varies based on the deployment duration and recording settings.

The cap system is designed to ensure that compensation remains within reasonable limits while accommodating different deployment scenarios. The recording setting defines the data volume expected and thus influences the cap applied.

1. Normal Deployment Compensation

Conditions:

- **Usual Duration:** 2-3 weeks
- **Recording Setting:** 1 minute of active recording every 5 minutes
- **Daily Cap:** Maximum of 576 minutes per day
- **Total Cap:** Capped based on the deployment period (see Table A(1))

Table A(1): AudioMoths Compensation Cap for Normal Deployment

Deployment Period	Daily Cap	Total Cap
1 day	\$5.76	\$5.76
2 days	\$5.76	\$11.52
3 days	\$5.76	\$17.28
4 days	\$5.76	\$23.04
5 days	\$5.76	\$28.80
6 days	\$5.76	\$34.56
7 days	\$5.76	\$40.32
8 days	\$5.76	\$46.08
9 days	\$5.76	\$51.84
10 days	\$5.76	\$57.60



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11 days	\$5.76	\$63.36
12 days	\$5.76	\$69.12
13 days	\$5.76	\$74.44
14 days	\$5.76	\$80.64
15 days	\$5.76	\$86.40
16 days	\$5.76	\$92.16
17 days	\$5.76	\$97.92
18 days	\$5.76	\$103.68
19 days	\$5.76	\$109.44
20 days	\$5.76	\$115.20
21 days	\$5.76	\$120.96

2. Special Deployment

Conditions:

- **Usual Duration:** Shorter periods (less than 2 weeks)
- **Recording Setting:** 55 seconds of active recording every 60 seconds
- **Compensation:** Payment structure will be crafted according to the specific case and will require approval from the Data Council.
- **Assessment:** Each special deployment will be assessed case by case, based on project needs, data volume, and specific circumstances.



Annex 2: Equipment Management Overview

This document outlines GainForest's approach to equipment management, including the provision of free equipment and the implementation of a loan system for specialized or expensive tools.

Provision of Free Equipment

GainForest provides essential tools at no cost to ensure community partners have the necessary resources for their work. These tools include:

Tool	Description	Access
ODK App	Used for tree data collection on Android devices.	• Download for free from the Google Play Store. • KoboToolBox is available for free for data management.
Taina	Open-source tool available via Telegram.	Access via the Telegram bot.

Equipment Access for Specialized Tools

GainForest facilitates access to specialized and expensive tools for community partners through two main approaches: trust-based allocation and a data payment system. These systems ensure that community partners can utilize essential equipment while maintaining accountability.

- **AudioMoth**
- **Drone**
- **Camera Trap**

1.Trust-Based Allocation

In certain cases, tools may be provided to community partners based on an established level of trust. This approach is typically used when a strong, ongoing relationship exists between GainForest and the community partner, and there is confidence in the proper use and care of the equipment. The determination of whether a community partner is deemed trustworthy and eligible to receive such tools shall be at the sole discretion of GainForest.

Eligibility

Community partners who have demonstrated reliability and responsibility in past collaborations may be eligible for this trust-based allocation.



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2. Data Payment System

The Data Payment System incentivizes community partners to collect and submit high-quality data by offering compensation based on the amount and quality of data provided. Rather than relying solely on GainForest for both hardware and software, this system shifts the focus to data production, allowing partners to earn hardware ownership based on their data contributions.

Software Provision

GainForest provides access to software tools necessary for processing, analyzing, and publicizing the collected data. These tools ensure that the data meets the required standards for transparency and usability.

Hardware Ownership through Data Contributions

In specific projects, community partners have the opportunity to earn ownership of hardware, such as drones, AudioMoths, and camera traps. Hardware is not provided directly; instead, partners work towards ownership by consistently submitting high-quality data over the project's duration.

Even when community partners are eligible for Data Payment System (CDI) compensation, they may not receive direct payment if they are using their data submissions to offset the cost of purchasing hardware. The value of data contributions used to "pay" for the equipment will be considered as part of their hardware investment. This approach ensures that hardware ownership is integrated into their data collection efforts.

Project-Based Agreements

Hardware ownership and related agreements are formalized through separate, project-based agreements. These agreements specify the data milestones that partners must achieve within a defined timeline. Each agreement is customized to meet the specific goals and requirements of the project.

3. Self-Purchased Equipment

GainForest encourages community partners to invest in their own equipment, such as drones, AudioMoths, and camera traps, to enhance their data collection capabilities. By purchasing their own equipment, partners gain full ownership and control, promoting independence and adaptability in their projects.

Equipment Recommendations

Recommendations for equipment are provided on a case-by-case basis, tailored to the specific needs of each project. GainForest offers personalized guidance to help partners select equipment that is best suited to their unique requirements and project objectives.



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Software Provision

GainForest continues to provide access to software tools necessary for processing, analyzing, and publicizing the collected data. This ensures that data collected with self-purchased equipment meets the required standards for transparency and usability. Partners using their own equipment will still benefit from GainForest's software support to maximize the effectiveness of their data.

Technical Support

GainForest offers technical support for partners using self-purchased equipment, including:

- Case-by-case advice on choosing appropriate equipment based on project specifics.
- Assistance with initial setup and calibration to ensure optimal performance of the equipment.
- Support for resolving any technical issues that may arise during equipment use.