



SCAR Action Group RINGS

Endorsement procedure, requirements, and recommendations



Version 0.5 (26 October 2023)
based on discussion at a RINGS workshop in Trieste

Version 0.7 (19 November 2023)
including revisions based on inputs from SCAR

Version 1.0 (15 December 2023)
including revisions based on Action Group member reviews

The RINGS Action Group can endorse projects that will accomplish key science deliverables that will advance the RINGS research goals. The purpose of this endorsement is:

1. to confirm that the proposed project is expected to advance the goals and values of the RINGS community;
2. to promote collaboration between projects in order to maximize the impact of research towards RINGS's goals;
3. to ensure that data acquired towards the RINGS goals will be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) throughout the science community.

The following procedures, requirements and recommendations have been established to determine eligibility for endorsement.

Endorsement procedures

Prospective project leaders are encouraged to contact the RINGS Action Group Steering Committee (RINGS SC) at the earliest opportunity to facilitate the coordination of individual projects, both in science and logistics, which may ultimately meet RINGS's goals. To formally request endorsement, project leaders should submit a short description and information on the project as defined below as early as possible in the planning process (a minimum of two weeks before proposal submission) through the web form.

The RINGS SC will consider the proposal, and ask for clarification, if necessary, before deciding on endorsement. A letter of endorsement or rejection will be sent from the chair of the RINGS SC. Endorsement can be rescinded in an extreme case as described below, if the RINGS SC finds that a project fails to fulfill the requirements of the endorsement.

Requirements

- **Relevance**
Projects must provide measurements or analyses relevant to the RINGS Action Group. Novel projects can be endorsed if they demonstrate significance to RINGS goals, which are clarified on the [RINGS website](#) and in a community review paper in preparation.
- **Collaborative practices and sharing geographical information**

Field-based projects are to share survey plans with RINGS SC:

- Upon proposal submission: polygon(s) of the survey region must be shared, survey lines should be shared if available.

- Upon approval by the funding/governing body of fieldwork: polygon(s) of the survey region should be published on RINGS website to promote collaboration and optimization of plans.
- Upon completion of each survey season: accomplished survey lines should be submitted for publication on the RINGS website.

Non-field-based projects must share with RINGS SC:

- Upon application: the geographic extent of the study area
- Upon approval by funding/governing body: the geographic extent (polygon) of the study area to be published on the RINGS website to promote collaboration and optimization of plans.

- **Core Values**

The project leader will make every effort to ensure that conduct of the project is in adherence to the RINGS “Shared Values and Guiding Principles.” Upon application, the project leader acknowledges the RINGS Shared Values and Guiding Principles. When the project is funded, all project members should read and understand the “Shared Values and Guiding Principles” document and register their acknowledgment using an online tool set by the RINGS SC.

- **Sharing data and results**

The project commits to adhere to the [SCAR Data Policy](#). Proposed projects will be asked to identify the repository that will host their data and give a timeline for data submission in their request for endorsement.

RINGS emphasizes the following elements:

- Open data: processed, quality-controlled, geotagged data as well as high-level data products (e.g. radar data as well as derived thickness products) should be archived with a DOI from an established data repository. Availability on institutional websites or “on request” is not considered open access.
- Timely data publication: in order for data to support the greater RINGS community efforts, data must be made available as soon as possible, and in all cases within 2 years of data acquisition. Data have to be publicly accessible at the time of publication of results.

- **Compliance and governance**

All project leaders and members agree to be guided by relevant policies set out by SCAR, which will be highlighted to them by the RINGS SC.

Recommendations to best support RINGS’s goals

In addition to the requirements for endorsement, the following practices are strongly encouraged to best support the RINGS’s goals.

- **Relevance:**

- Incorporating insights from the [first RINGS workshop](#) (June 2022 in Tromsø) for required and desirable measurements, analysis, instrument suites, resolution and flight line spacing and location. These guidelines are being summarized in a community review paper.

- **Cooperative practices and sharing geographical information**

- Collaborating between projects for integrated data products.
- Collaborating between adjacent surveys to provide overlapping survey segments.
- Collaborating across disciplines to support circumpolar sampling.
- **Core Values in practice**
 - Sharing of codes of conduct of institutions and National Antarctic Programs with the RINGS SC as well as between national and international collaborators on projects. These documents can be used to guide expectations for behavior in many aspects of the professional environment (e.g. field safety, data availability, publishing protocols).
 - Ensuring all project members, including field personnel, acknowledge the RINGS shared values and guiding principles.
- **Sharing data and results: open science**
 - Agreeing on a reasonable timeline for data sharing within the project and publicly to maximize data usage, enhance accessibility to anyone, and encourage transparent collaboration.
 - Developing publication plans early and share them openly with project members to ensure inclusion of the appropriate project members.
 - Following principles of open science with all science products and outcomes, including field data, model results, and code.
 - Sharing acquired data as early as possible, for example within 6 months of acquisition to allow time for processing and quality control.
 - Collaborating between projects for early data releases. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that researchers using data released by others within 2 years of original acquisition reach out to collaborate with the acquisition team. This provides a particularly valuable opportunity for early career researchers to develop professional networks and collaborations within the RINGS community.

This document will be revisited at least once every year and modified as needed based on the community consensus and evolving guidance from SCAR, as RINGS parent body.