

Licencing of ACTRIS (meta)data, and software

This document provides the recommendation for use of licenses on ACTRIS data, metadata, software and concepts as approved at the ACTRIS ERIC 1st General Assembly – 5th and 6th June, 2023

The document is edited by Cathrine Lund Myhre, director ACTRIS Data Centre, NILU

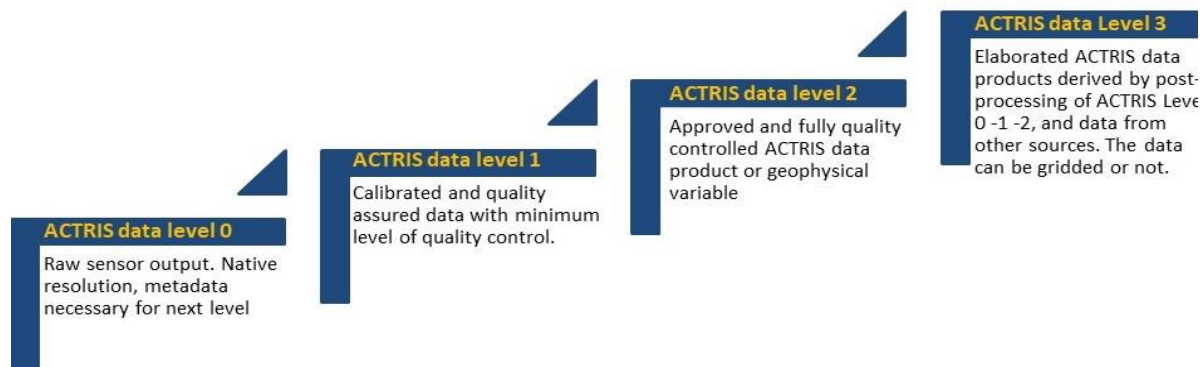
Version 1: 29 June 2022

Version 2: 10 May 2023 – adding a section about data levels.

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ACTRIS data levels



For description of ACTRIS data levels and products in more detail, see [ACTRIS data management plan](#).

Recommendations on the licenses for ACTRIS data, metadata, and software

Licenses		Comment
Data levels and data products		
Level 0 data	CC BY 4.0	Conclusion on recommendation made at RI com 8 th October 2021, Supported by IAC 4 th November, with no reported objections or concerns.
Level 1 data	CC BY 4.0	Conclusion on recommendation made at RI com 8 th October 2021. Supported by IAC 4 th November, with no reported objections or concerns.
Level 2 data	CC BY 4.0	Conclusion on recommendation made at RI com 11 th June 2021. Supported by IAC 4 th November, with no reported objections or concerns.
Level 3 data	Recommend CCBY4	Open from case to case: This will depend on the product, and need agreement with the collaborating data producer. The recommendation is to use the same as for level 2 data. Conclusion on recommendation made at RI com 8 th October 2021. Supported by IAC 4 th November, with no reported objections or concerns.
Legacy level 2 data	Recommend CCBY4	RI Committee strongly recommend CC BY 4.0 to keep homogeneous use of time series, back in time. Open for the NF to decide, when the contract with ACTRIS ERIC is signed. Supported by IAC 4 th November, with no reported objections or concerns. Supported at the NF forum meeting 10 th May 2022

Licenses Comment		
Metadata		
For level 1 and level 2 metadata	CCBY 4.0	Discussion at RI comm meeting 11 th November 2021. Conclusion and recommendation made the RI comm meeting 10 th June 2022. Not discussed at IAC
Software		
Software and digital tools developed by TC and/or DC	AGPL	GPL3 was discussed at RI comm meeting 11 th March 2022. Conclusion and recommendation made at RI comm meeting 10 th June 2022 for the GPL3. Then we decided to use a modified version “GNU Affero General Public License (AGPL)” which is compatible with GPL3 but do also take use of web services into account. Not discussed at IAC

Recommendations on the licenses for concepts used by community

ACTRIS develops concepts where the aim is that the concepts should be adapted and used in the full environmental community, across all fields and applications e.g. as new community standards.

License on concepts will be decided on case by case, but generally the aim is that this is used as wide as possible, not necessarily referenced back to ACTRIS in all cases.

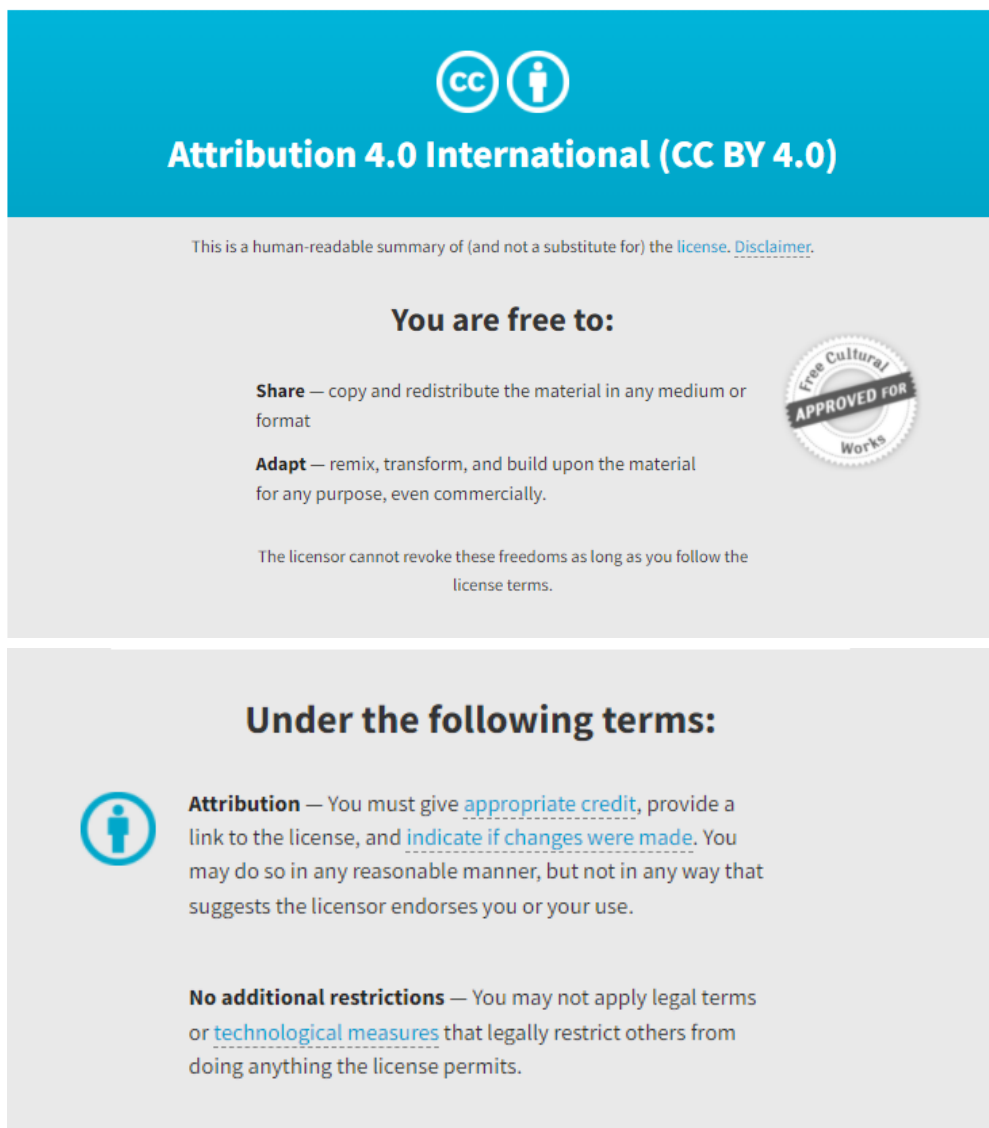
Licenses Comment		
Concepts for community		
ACTRIS Vocabulary: https://vocabulary.actris.nilu.no/skosmos/en/	CC0	Vocabulary is a concept for the whole community. It is a goal that the ACTRIS vocabulary is used as broad as possible, e.g. within other networks. It might be a threshold to require attribution to ACTRIS every time the vocabulary is used. This can also be added at a later stage, if that is warranted Supported by RI comm at the meeting 10 th June 2022. Recommendation made by ACTRIS DC leader, and In-Situ DS unit leader leading the work with vocabulary within ENVRI-FAIR.

Annex I: Links to the licenses recommended within ACTRIS

Creative Commons CCBY4

Please see [CCBY4](#)

Human-readable summary:



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The GNU Affero General Public License

The [GNU Affero General Public License](#) is based on the [GNU GPL](#), but has an additional term to allow users who interact with the licensed software over a network to receive the source for that program. We recommend that people consider using the [GNU AGPL](#) for any software which will commonly be run over a network. The latest version is version 3.

Essential properties:

- Gives end users 4 freedoms: run, study, share, and modify the software.
- Waiver of liability.
- Written by Richard Stallman, founder of Free Software Foundation
- Copyleft license: derivative work must be distributed under the same or compatible license, also when web services are used.

For ACTRIS:

- ACTRIS cannot be held liable if software is faulty.
- External partners modifying the software need to publish their changes under the same license, i.e. ACTRIS benefits from partners work.
- ACTRIS should keep the leading role in the software project.