



Copyright and Intellectual Property Policy

1. Introduction

At the [Resilience Institute for Sustainability and Environment \(RISE\)](#), we recognize that ideas, research, and creative works are not just institutional assets - they are the lifeblood of innovation and national progress. The purpose of this policy is to protect and manage the intellectual and creative outputs of RISE, ensuring that our work serves both the public good and the rights of those who create it.

This policy aligns with the **Copyright Law of the Republic of Liberia (1997)** and reflects international conventions such as the **Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works** and the **WIPO Copyright Treaty**. It provides clear guidance on how ownership, use, and sharing of intellectual property are to be handled across our diverse programs and partnerships.

2. RISE Ethos and Guiding Principles

RISE is founded on values that go beyond compliance. Our principles - **resilience, inclusion, sustainability, transparency, collaboration, and evidence** - also inform how we manage knowledge and creativity. We believe that ideas flourish when shared responsibly, and that protecting intellectual work is part of respecting human effort and integrity.

This policy, therefore, seeks to balance two imperatives:

- **Safeguarding creators' rights;** and
- **Ensuring that knowledge generated by RISE contributes to Liberia's environmental and developmental transformation.**

3. Ownership of Works

a. Works Created within RISE

All materials, research outputs, training modules, designs, maps, data sets, publications, software, and media content developed by staff, consultants, or collaborators using RISE's resources or under its projects belong to the Institute. This ensures consistency, accountability, and institutional continuity.

b. Independent Works

If a staff member or collaborator produces work entirely outside their RISE responsibilities and without institutional resources, that work remains their personal property. However, when such work aligns with RISE's mission, the Institute may seek a **non-exclusive license** to share or adapt it for educational or public benefit - always with due acknowledgment.

c. Collaborative and Donor-Funded Works

When RISE produces work jointly with partners, donors, or government institutions, ownership and usage rights will be governed by **a formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding**. These agreements will be guided by fairness, transparency, and respect for all parties' contributions, consistent with Liberian law.

4. Recognition of Authorship and Moral Rights

Every creator deserves recognition. RISE honors the **moral rights** of all authors - the right to be named and the right to protect their work from misuse or distortion.

Even when copyright ownership rests with RISE, the individual creator's contribution will be credited in all appropriate forums, unless they request anonymity.

5. Use and Dissemination of RISE Materials

RISE's work is designed to inspire learning, policy innovation, and community empowerment. Accordingly:

- **Internal Use:** Staff and affiliates may use RISE materials for research, teaching, and capacity-building consistent with the organization's mission.
- **External Use:** Partners, institutions, and the public may use RISE content with **written permission** or under a **Creative Commons license (Attribution–Non-Commercial–Share Alike)** where indicated.
- **Prohibited Uses:** RISE materials must not be sold, altered, or redistributed for commercial purposes without explicit authorization.

Each publication or digital output will bear the notice:

© [Year] **Resilience Institute for Sustainability and Environment (RISE). All Rights Reserved.**

6. Fair Use and Educational Sharing

Consistent with the spirit of education and development, RISE supports **fair use** for:

- Teaching and academic research.
- Critique, review, and commentary; and
- Public awareness campaigns that advance environmental sustainability.

However, users must always credit RISE as the source and refrain from altering the substance or message of the work.

7. Registration and Legal Protection

To ensure that our intellectual outputs are safeguarded under national and international law, RISE shall:

- Register significant works with the **Liberian Copyright Office**, under the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs, and Tourism.
- Maintain digital archives and institutional repositories for research and publications; and
- Pursue legal remedies in cases of infringement or unauthorized exploitation of RISE materials.

8. Open Knowledge and Public Access

RISE believes that knowledge is most powerful when it is shared responsibly. As an institution devoted to **inclusive and sustainable environmental governance**, we will make selected research, data, and learning tools publicly available through **open-access platforms**, while ensuring proper attribution and ethical use.

Where appropriate, RISE may adopt **Creative Commons licensing** (e.g., CC BY or CC BY-NC-SA) to encourage innovation, collaboration, and transparency.

9. Data, Digital, and Technological Outputs

Environmental and geotechnical data generated under RISE projects remain the property of the Institute. Any data sharing will be done through **formal agreements** that safeguard accuracy, confidentiality, and acknowledgment.

Software tools, online platforms, and multimedia developed by RISE are similarly protected under copyright and digital rights laws.

10. Compliance and Enforcement

All RISE staff, consultants, and partners are expected to understand and uphold this policy. Violations - including unauthorized copying, sale, or modification of institutional materials will result in disciplinary action and, where necessary, legal proceedings under the **Copyright Law of Liberia (1997)** and relevant international conventions.

11. Periodic Review

The field of intellectual property is dynamic. RISE will review this policy **every three years**, or sooner if required by changes in law or institutional direction. All amendments must be approved by the **Board of Directors** and communicated to staff and partners.

12. Effective Date and Authority

This policy takes effect upon approval by the **Board of Directors of RISE**. It reflects our shared commitment to protect the creative work of our people while ensuring that knowledge generated through RISE continues to serve Liberia and the world.

Approved by:

Board of Directors, Resilience Institute for Sustainability and Environment (RISE)

Date: _____ November 7, 2025 _____