



Monitor data download user guide

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Introduction

Ecological survey data collected using the Monitor app is now available to download from MERIT.

Data can be accessed via the data set summary tab in your MERIT project (downloads available for MERIT Project administrators and Grant managers).

Data download instructions

To download your survey data from the Biodiversity Data Repository (BDR), navigate to the project's data set summary tab. Click the download button in the "Actions" column (



) for the relevant data set summary. Select the preferred data file type.

The file will download onto your computer and can be opened in appropriate software for analysis.

FAQs

Which users can download the ecological survey data from MERIT?

Project Administrators and Grant Managers

When will my data be available for download in MERIT?

Data sets will be available for download approximately 30 minutes after successful syncing from the Monitor app.

Which modules do not have data downloads enabled?

- Plot Selection and Layout*
- Recruitment (Survivorship protocol)
- Camera Trapping
- Targeted Surveys (Metadata collection protocol)
- Vertebrate Fauna
- Invertebrate Fauna
- Fire Severity
- Soils

* Plot Selection and Layout protocols are not surveys, so no data can be downloaded. EMSA plots can be viewed and downloaded from the MERIT sites tab.

This list will be updated on the data set summary page as TERN and the BDR add more EMSA modules to the BDR.

What file formats are available?

Currently, you may select a GeoJSON file (to be opened with GIS software) or Turtle file (the graph database file).

An XLSX format for Monitor data download will be available in mid-2026.

How can I access my photos?

Photos uploaded via the Monitor app can be accessed via links in the GeoJSON files. The link to the files is in the 'archivedAt' field (e.g. <https://bdrpubliccool.blob.core.windows.net/>...). Each photo has its own link. You will need to download each photo from each link.

What are the links included in the GeoJSON files?

Some of the links are for downloading photos (see 'How can I access my photos?' above). There are also links included in the 'uri' and 'isPartOf' fields. These are the unique identifiers in the BDR knowledge graph and are not active links.

My data file isn't available in MERIT

For a download button to appear, the BDR must have the module data available (see 'Which modules do not have data downloads enabled?') and at least 30 minutes must pass after the data was synced in Monitor (see 'When will my data be available for download in MERIT?').

If the download button is still unavailable, please contact ltmp@dcceew.gov.au

How can I download the project extent or EMSA plot shapefiles?

You can download this data from the Sites tab of your project.

To download the project extent or an EMSA site shapefile, click on the site name in the table (for example, 'Monitor project extent' or 'CTTRASEH9998 - Control (Core)'). Click the 'Download ShapeFile' button. A zipped file will download onto your computer.

To open in GIS software (for example, QGIS), you will need to add the zipped file as a vector layer.

Why is my survey data file empty?

Surveys with no observations recorded cannot be downloaded at this time (the files will be empty). When the XLSX file format is available, the file metadata can be downloaded.

If you believe that the file should contain observations, please contact ltmp@dcceew.gov.au

I have found an error in my data; how can I fix it?

Please submit a ticket to the [EMSA helpdesk](#).

Can I download all my survey data at once?

This feature is currently unavailable in MERIT.

How do I analyse my data?

The Long-term Monitoring team are developing guidance for descriptive statistics.

We are continuing to explore opportunities to develop EMSA and are working on a range of visualisation and analysis tools for EMSA data. If you would like more information or would like to be involved, please contact the Long-term Monitoring team (ltmp@dcceew.gov.au) or TERN (emsa_support@adelaide.edu.au) for more information.

Version control

Version	Date	Version update overview
1.0	1 December 2025	First release
1.1	4 December 2025	Minor revisions
1.2	4 June 2026	Changed 'CSV' to 'XLSX', and minor revisions.