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CC

What is a Creative Commons license?

Types

What are the different types of CC licenses?

Who

Who can apply a CC license to a work?

When

When to apply a CC license to your work?

Choose

Which CC license to choose?

How

How to apply a CC license?



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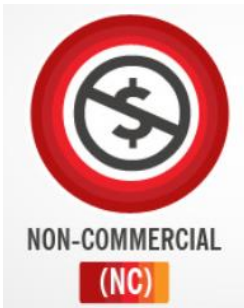


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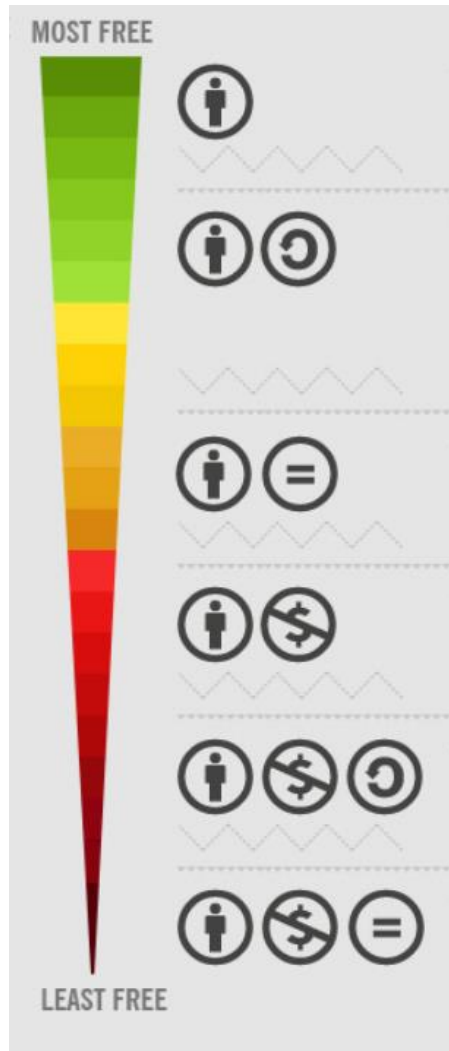
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Data Availability Statement: The data used in this study have been deposited in the NCBI SRA and can be accessed using the accession number BioProject PRJNA957953.

types in the ecosystems prior to restoration. Compositional differences between managed and unmanaged open grasslands reflecting the implementation of grazing management interventions were clearer among fungal, and to an extent plant communities than among plant communities. While previous studies have shown that woody encroachment of alvar grassland, plant communities change first and microbial communities follow, our DNA-based results suggest that microbial communities respond faster than plant communities during the restoration of grazing management in alvar grassland. We conclude that while the plant community responds faster to cessation of grazing, the fungal community responds faster to restoration of management. This suggests a hysteresis, where the eventual pathway back to the original state (grazed alvar grassland) differs from the pathway taken towards the alternative state (abandoned semi-arid grassland ecosystem).

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For any additional information,
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