Report on the
Expert workshop on enhancing biodiversity data
and observing systems in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

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Objectives of the workshop

1. Identify ways to **improve collection and use of observations** by Parties in monitoring and reporting progress in implementing NBSAPs and thereby achieving progress towards the Ai-chi Biodiversity Targets.

2. Raising awareness of available **tools, products and approaches** and of the organisations and **networks** such as GEO BON that can support delivery of improved biodiversity observations and their use.
The workshop was organised by GEOBON, on invitation by the CBD.

GEO BON
Voluntary international organisation dedicated to sharing information on global issues
89 countries, 67 participating organisations

Community of practice in biodiversity information
Network of networks: GBIF, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, WWF…
Regional BONS: APBON, EUBON, JBON…

Matt Walpole, UNEP-WCMC
Mike Gill, Environment Canada
Robert Hoft, CBD
Gary Geller, NASA
Anne Larigauderie, ICSU
Henrique Pereira, iDiv, Germany
Anne-Helene Prieur-Richard, DIVERSITAS
Bob Scholes, CSIR South Africa
Isobel Pinto, CIIMAR, Portugal
Natasha Walker, Facilitator
Lu Xiaoqiang, China
Cristina Secades, UNEP-WCMC
Mark Chandler, Earthwatch
Anna Chenery, UNEP-WCMC
Who participated?

80 people, over 40 countries, many organisations
There is data for many topics, but for the following it can be hard to find

- **For these targets**
  - Public awareness (T1)
  - Data for national/ecosystem accounts (T2)
  - Trans-boundary trade, Safe ecological limits (T4)
  - Climate change impacts on biodiversity (T10)
  - Ecosystem services, values, benefits (incl cultural) (T14)
  - Degraded ecosystems (T15)
  - Effectiveness of policy measures/ contribution of indigenous people (T18/19)

- **And for the following areas or topics**
  - Marine and open ocean
  - Inland waters
  - Drylands
  - Rare, endemic, and overharvested species
  - Genetic diversity in general
Why do many countries not have BONs?

Challenges reported:

• Lack of capacity, funding, guidance
• Patchy, project-based data; scattered and not shared across ministries/institutions
• Heterogeneity of terminology & methods, lack of interoperability
• Absence of information systems and people to build them, technology gaps
• Absence of a strong user case
There are also success stories

- Many countries are already making excellent and innovative progress on BONs
- Regional BONs have emerged in several parts of the world
- Progress with global datasets, citizen science, earth observation and Essential Biodiversity Variables
The priorities

Q: How can GEO BON support us in setting up and maintaining National Biodiversity Observation Systems?

1. Regionally-tailored start-up kit (‘BON-in-a-Box’) [86]
   a) Handbook
   b) Essential Biodiversity Variables in support of policy oriented indicators
   c) Database structures
2. Strategies to integrate remotely-sensed and *in situ* data [38]
3. Economic arguments for biodiversity and biodiversity observation systems, advocacy to funders [35]
What next

Full report out within days

The GEOBON workplan is quite well aligned with the priorities identified

• The GEOBON partners are keen to engage further
• The countries present expressed a desire to have specific forms of assistance
• How best can we make this happen?
Biodiversity management without information is ineffective.

Much-improved biodiversity information can be achieved, with collaboration.