GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS | GEO BON

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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Chair, Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network

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.

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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…

The workshop was organised by GEOBON, on invitation by the CBD

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

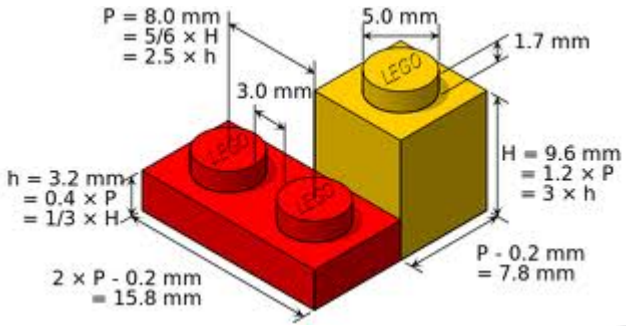
There are also success stories

- 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]
4. Capacity building: terminology, methods, standards [32]

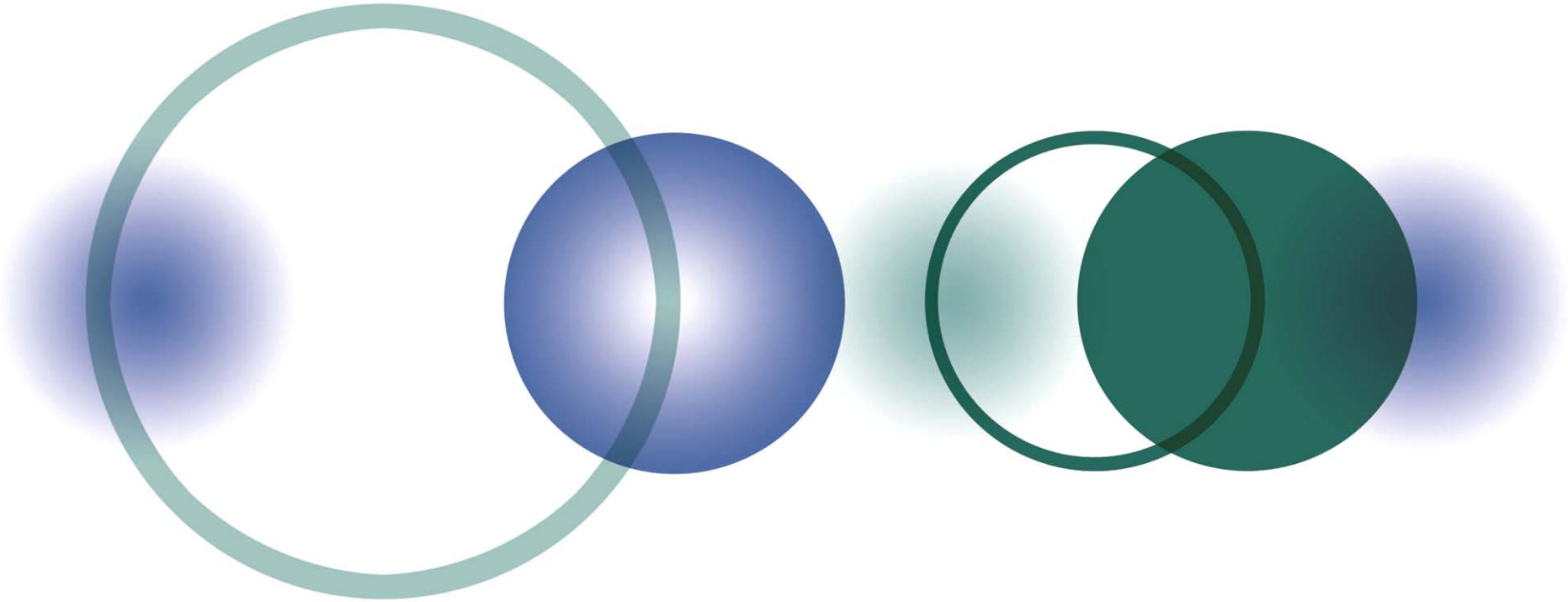


What next

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.