

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

12 October 2013, Montreal, Canada

AGENDA

1. Key output products and outcomes

Overriding process goal:

Governments and organizations engage in a dialogue with the Earth observation community, particularly GEO-BON on the development of biodiversity observation systems, both by learning from existing experiences and helping to start new programmes.

Goals of the workshop:

1. Identifying ways to improve collection and use of observations by Parties in monitoring and reporting progress in implementing NBSAPs and thereby achieving progress towards the Aichi 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.

Output:

A set of conclusions to be reported to the SBSTTA Plenary (Monday, 14 October, morning session) including on: (i) experiences of Parties with regard to observation systems, including specific needs for their (further) development; (ii) opportunities for the further development systems, including the role of GEO BON in this regard; (iii) opportunities to enhance national monitoring efforts and linking them with regional and global reporting processes; (iv) proposals for concrete activities to address country needs.

2. Questions to support participants' preparation

1. What has been your own nation's experience in establishing and/or operating a national biodiversity observing network? Do you have one? If not, what have been the major barriers preventing you from establishing one? If you do have one, is it effective in delivering relevant data for reporting against the Aichi targets and supporting development of your NBSAP?

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2. From your own national perspective, what are the key elements/biodiversity data that a national observing system should provide? Does your nation currently have access to that data? If not, what data is missing?
3. What tools and/or products would you find useful to facilitate a more robust biodiversity observing system within your nation and to facilitate harmonized monitoring between nations/regions?

3. Reference material

Key documents:

- Pereira H et al. 2013. [Essential Biodiversity Variables](#), Science, Volume 339, pp 277 ([supplementary material here](#))
- Scholes et al. 2008. [Toward a Global Biodiversity Observing System](#), Science, Volume 321, pp 1044-1045 (Reprinted with permission from AAAS).
- [Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to support the CBD 2020 Targets](#)
- More on GEO BON: <http://www.earthobservations.org/geobon.shtml>

4. Style/approach

- Highly participatory, to utilise the wisdom of the group and maximise extraction of perspectives, responses, ideas
- Short presentations, lots of guided discussion and engagement time, diversity of session styles
- Designed to provide a set of perspectives/responses that can be synthesised and reported to SBSTTA plenary.

5. Annotated agenda

0930-1000 Registration and Coffee

<i>Session 1: Introduction, scene setting and needs/expectations</i>	
When	What
10:00	Welcome and overall and scientific and technical objectives Braulio Dias (CBD) and Robert Scholes (Chair, SC-GEO BON)
10:25	Introduction of process and participants Moderator
10:45	Short panel to understand national perspectives, needs and expectations Four selected national focal points (Australia, Cuba, Ethiopia, UK)
<i>Session 2: Data (what kind of data do countries need and methods to collect and access it)?</i>	
11:10	Market Place on opportunities to collect and access data using new products and techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities from earth observations (the remote sensing review) Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC) • In situ monitoring Henrique Pereira (iDIV, Germany and SC-GEO BON) • Crowd sourcing/ citizen science Mark Chandler (Earthwatch) • Global tools and products

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	Anna Chenery (UNEP-WCMC)
13:00	Break and opportunity to network
14:00	Round Table discussion in mixed groups to analyse and assess national data availability and needs
14:45	Break
15:00	Synthesis of table discussion and comments Matt Walpole (UNEP-WCMC and SC-GEO BON)
<i>Session 3: Observing systems: how to build and sustain national/regional observing systems and how GEO BON can support national/ regional biodiversity monitoring</i>	
15:20	Creating and sustaining observation systems: stimulating presentations: 1) Practice example: Design of China's Biodiversity Monitoring Network Lu Xiaoqiang (Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection) 2) Demand for and potential of national and regional support for building and sustaining observing systems Mike Gill (CBMP and SC-GEO BON)
15:40	Regional round tables on <u>challenges</u> in building and sustaining national/ regional observing systems Regional tables
16:10	Short overview of challenges
16:20	Continue regional round tables on <u>support strategies</u> for building and sustaining national/ regional observing systems Regional tables
17:00	Exchange of results and investment choice – participants' priorities for building and sustaining national biodiversity observation systems
17:30	Synthesis of round table discussion Matt Walpole with support from Moderator
<i>Session 4: Close</i>	
17:40	Summary of key points of the day and outlook Robert Scholes
18:00	<i>Evening reception/networking event for all participants</i>

Information for Speakers of Session 1 “*Introduction, scene setting and needs/expectations*”

10:45	National perspectives, needs and expectations Moderator with 4 national focal points
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Objective of the Session

1. Understand and raise awareness of the broad variety of needs and demands from different countries in setting up and operating a national biodiversity observing network in order to monitor achievement of the Aichi targets (as a basis for the workshop’s discussion rounds)
2. Encourage all participants to examine their potential to establish and/or improve their experience of a national biodiversity observing network to monitor achievement of the Aichi targets during the workshop

Your input (for your preparation!)

The session will be conducted as a 25-minute panel discussion. This will enable us to compare and contrast the inputs of the 4 case-study countries. Please prepare short answers (no slides) for the following questions (your net speaking time will be about 5 minutes each):

- 1) Your own nation’s experience in establishing and/or operating a national biodiversity observing network in order to monitor achievement of the Aichi targets:
 - a. Do you have one? If not, what have been the major barriers preventing you from establishing one?
 - b. If you do have one, is it effective in delivering relevant data for reporting against the Aichi targets?
- 2) From your own national perspective, what are the 2 most important key elements/biodiversity data that a national observing system should provide in order to report against the Aichi targets?
- 3) If you had the choice: which 1-2 tools and/or products would you find useful to facilitate a more robust biodiversity observing system within your nation and to facilitate harmonized monitoring between nations/regions?

How the session will work:

The Moderator invites you and the other 3 national focal points (representing different needs) to the panel at the start of the session. She introduces them to the audience.

The 3 questions are raised one after the other. The moderator will record the answers to the questions on the flipchart (no slides!).

We are particularly interested in differences and similarities between the panellists and will ask panellists to elaborate briefly in case of strong similarities/differences.

Information for Speakers of Session 2 “Data (what kind of data do countries need and what are methods to collect and access it)?”

<i>Session 2: Data (what kind of data do countries need and what are methods to collect and access it)?</i>	
11:10	Presenting opportunities in terms of new products and techniques Teaser presentations – brief stimulating presentations on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities from earth observations (the RS review) Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC) • In situ monitoring Henrique Pereira (iDIV, Germany and SC-GEO BON) • Crowd sourcing/ citizen science Mark Chandler (Earthwatch) • Global tools and products Anna Chenery (UNEP-WCMC)
11:20	Market Place where each speaker invites his/her participants to take part in the following agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presentation of objective, potential and implementation for technology/ methodology (15') 2) Q&A to understand whether and how the tool could support the work of participants (25') Market Place Speakers
12:00	Change rooms (participants go to a different market place workshop. Workshop hosts stay in their rooms)
12:10	Market Place where each speaker invites his/her participants to take part in the following agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presentation of objective, potential and implementation for technology/ methodology (15') 2) Q&A to understand how and whether the tool can support the work of the participants (25') Market Place Speakers
12:50	Plenary: brief report back on major insights and open questions from the market place Market Place Speakers with Moderator
13:00	End

Objective of the Session:

1. Excite and inspire participants to take innovative ideas for data collection back to their countries to support their monitoring activities of the Aichi targets
2. Participants learn (the basics of) how to set up and implement innovative ideas for data collection

Your input (for your preparation!) and how the session works:

The market place is conducted in 3 stages:

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- 1) Teasers¹: you have 120 seconds to excite and motivate participants to attend your market place stand (and not a second more! – Experience shows that those speakers who offer the most poignant and short teaser are often the most attractive for participants). All speakers are invited to the floor to give their 2-minute teaser. The moderator will cut you off after 2 minutes!
- 2) Once the market place starts, you will have two rounds of 40 minutes each. Participants will change rooms after the first 40 minutes, so you will welcome a new group for the second round. In each round, you are invited to present your experience in a 15-minute presentation (there is no projector, so slides must be on hand-outs only – please bring these if you would like), including the objective, potential and implementation for your technology/ methodology. You will have access to a flipchart to present/note down discussion results. Afterwards, there is time for questions and comments (ca 25 minutes). Participants should leave each round with an understanding of what they can do in their own countries and how to access further information.
- 3) All participants and speakers will then return to plenary, where the moderator will ask you to give a very short summary of a) the main 1-2 insights/open questions from the two rounds. We will only touch the basics here, as there is 10 minutes in total for all market place speakers.

¹ A teaser is an “advertisement” for your speech – to enable participants to know which of the speeches on offer will be most beneficial to their needs and interests. It will contain: a) your title, b) the relevance of your topic for the participants’ needs