EU BON

Building the European Gateway for Integrated Biodiversity Information for GEOSS

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Background

Sound political decisions and sustainable governance regarding European biodiversity requires a profound scientific knowledge. Currently, a large number of datasets exist as well as a few biodiversity observation systems. However, quite often this wealth of knowledge is difficult to access, unbalanced in coverage, not integrated, and therefore limits integrative analyses and the implementation of environmental and conservation policies.

Objectives

EU BON (**Eu**ropean **B**iodiversity **O**bservation **N**etwork) presents an innovative approach towards integration, harmonization and standardization of biodiversity information from on-ground to remote sensing data, for addressing policy and information needs. EU BON is going to contribute to GEOSS via integrated access to multiple online data sources, following the data requirements formulated by GEO BON. It builds on existing biodiversity information systems and infrastructures such as GBIF, LifeWatch, DataOne and national biodiversity data centers as well as other environmental datasets in Europe and across the globe. It will provide integration between social networks of science and policy and technological networks of interoperating IT infrastructures, resulting in a new open access platform for sharing biodiversity data and tools, and greatly advance biodiversity knowledge in Europe. EU BON specifically aims to promote the free access to biodiversity data and data-related products.

In addition to the collection and integration efforts, analytical tools are developed and refined for evaluation and analysis of biodiversity data from terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Methods and models are tested and applied to analyse patterns, processes and trends of biodiversity, particularly at selected European test sites.

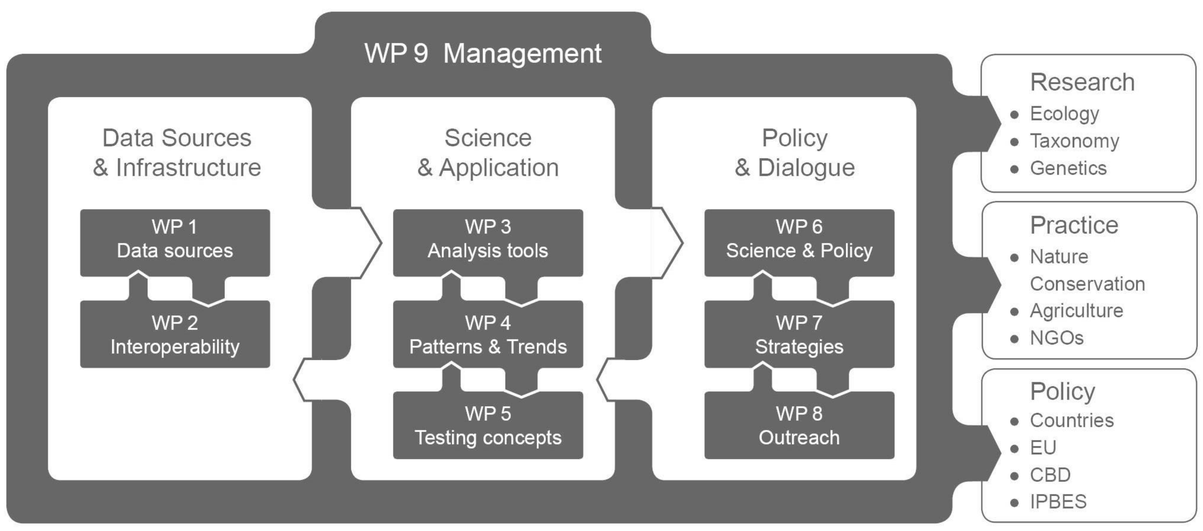
The integrative EU BON approach will greatly improve the open access to scientific data. It will also facilitate decisions in different sectors concerned with biodiversity on different levels, ranging from park management, national governments to inter-governmental bodies such as IPBES.

Images: Mihai Tamsila, Wanetta Ayers, Johannes Penner

EU BON facts:

- EU FP7, collaborative project
- 30 partners (18 countries)
- Coordination: Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
- Project duration: 54 months; Dec. 2012 – May 2017
- EC contribution: 9 mio Euro

The partners are members of networks of biodiversity data-holders, monitoring organisations, and leading scientific institutions.



EU BON structure & workflow

museum für naturkunde berlin

Leibniz Association

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