



GEO BON Newsletter

COP12 was cool. It was not only very interesting, we could talk to many exciting people and flag GEO BON well; it was also really frosty, sitting in tents at the place of the next winter Olympics. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 6 - 17 October 2014. The GEO BON secretariat contributed with three people, Henrique Pereira, Ariane Korn and myself. We had a nice and well-visited booth, Henrique gave several presentations and I was able to speak in the Working Group 1 to offer GEO BONs services to all parties. Our participation strongly increased the visibility of GEO BON, we took part in many side-events and let many people know about GEO BON. For me it was the first COP and I was blessed by the commitment of the large community to various biodiversity issues and the very creative and positive spirit of the meeting.

Jörg Freyhof

Whats in? - [Click on the title to the the article](#)

[Welcome Christian Langer at the GEO BON Secretariat](#)

[Welcome Miguel Fernandez at iDiv](#)

[Welcome Dirk Schmeller as the new co-lead of GEO BON WG 2](#)

[Welcome Eugenie Regan & Neil Brummitt as the new leads of GEO BON WG 9](#)

[CBD endorses efforts of GEO BON on national monitoring](#)

[- AP BON workshop in Seoul](#)

[GEO BON & EU BON workshop on EBV development](#)

[GEO BON on Facebook](#)

[Creative-B brochure released](#)

[IOOS: Integrated Ocean Observing System](#)

[Aichi Passport, 2014 Edition: Browse the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and their indicators on your mobile](#)

[Citizen Science Conference](#)

[Brazil-UK Biodiversity Monitoring Collaboration Initiative](#)

[EU: Bouchout Declaration on Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management](#)

[Scaling in Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation](#)

You did not receive the GEO BON newsletter and want to subscribe it? Please contact me directly.

Jörg Freyhof

Welcome Christian Langer at the GEO BON Secretariat

Christian Langer started at iDiv in Leipzig at the 15th August. He has a diploma and master degree in landscape architecture and a good experience in GIS Analyst with a background in design and web programming. Christian is actually setting up the new webpage for GEO BON and will be the contact person for all database issues in the future. Christian Langer: christian.langer@idiv.de



Welcome Miguel Fernandez at iDiv

Miguel joined iDiv to make his postdoc in the field of big data and EBVs under the mentorship of Henrique Pereira. Miguel's research interests are ranging from ecology to geography, from tropical to mediterranean ecosystems, from remote sensing and spatial analysis to data management and visualization. Over the past years, first as part of the Smithsonian NMNH, later as part of the California Academy of Sciences and recently at the University of California, Berkeley, he focused on the application of biodiversity observations beyond traditional pursuits of taxonomy and systematics. He believes that spatio-temporal biodiversity information can and should be integrated with additional types of data such as socioeconomic, cultural, climatic and remote sensing information to provide innovative, synthetic and relevant biodiversity analysis that can help measure the pulse of the biodiversity of the planet.



Welcome Dirk Schmeller as the new co-lead of GEO BON WG 2

Henrique Pereira withdraw his WG lead and Dirk Schmeller takes it over. Dirk is engaged in research on how to monitor Europe's biodiversity. His interest in citizen science, new technologies and policy will drive part of the work in the WG2, he is co-leading now with Richard Gregory. The overarching goal of WG2 is facilitating the creation of a global species monitoring program by following down different strategies recently summarized in a vision defining nine requirements to be fulfilled to successfully monitoring global biodiversity and its changes. The WG2 vision of a global terrestrial species monitoring program is to enable researchers and policymakers to better understand the status of and trends in biodiversity and communicate findings accordingly.



Welcome Eugenie Regan & Neil Brummitt as the new leads of GEO BON WG 9

Eugenie currently plays a leading role in the expansion and delivery of UNEP-WCMC's work to provide authoritative information about biodiversity and ecosystem services. Working primarily in support of national governments and inter-governmental processes and with a wide network of international partners, Eugenie oversees a portfolio of projects at the science-policy interface on indicators, monitoring and assessment. Eugenie leads a WP in EU BON and is also a member of GEO BON Working Group 2.



Neil has been involved in mapping and analysing patterns of plant diversity and threats

to its survival for more than 15 years. He has been instrumental in developing the IUCN Sampled Red List Index for Plants which has delivered the only truly global indicator of the status of the world's plants, and he continues to jointly lead the next phase of this work. He has participated in GEO BON since its inception and is also a member of Working Group 2. He works at the Natural History Museum in London where he is Researcher in Botanical Diversity.

The role of Working Group 9 is to create and enhance links between GEO BON information and analyses and the policy users of biodiversity information, and the future plans for the group are to develop indicator-based policy products that utilise the Essential Biodiversity Variables framework.

CBD endorses efforts of GEO BON on national monitoring

GEO BON is mentioned with a clear agenda by the CBD: CDB item 12 of the working group1: "

13. Invites the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) to engage with Parties, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders on selected and clearly defined priority needs related to building observing systems and biodiversity monitoring." [See the full document](#)

III. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS: ASSESSING PROGRESS AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION

PYEONGCHANG ROADMAP FOR THE ENHANCED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

As recommended by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting (recommendations 5/8 B, 5/10, 5/11), and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighteenth meeting (recommendation XVIII/1,

AP BON workshop in Seoul

AP BON is an quite active member of the GEO BON family in East- and Southeast Asia. The annual AP BON



workshop was held at the 10.-11. October 2014 in Seoul, Korea.

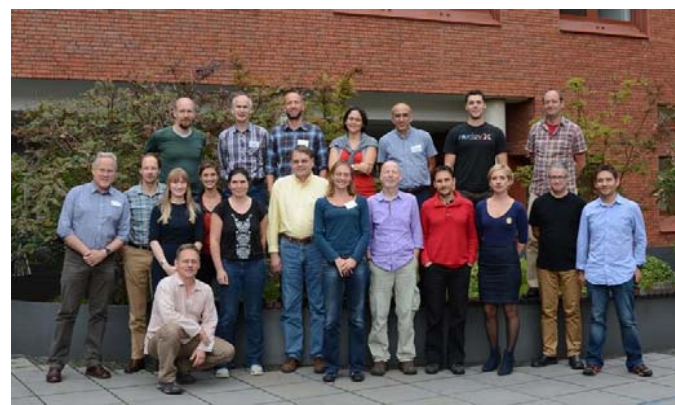


GEO BON & EU BON workshop on EBV development

Dirk Schmeller

From 30.09.- 02.10.2014 GEO BON and EU BON met at iDiv to advance the concept of EBVs and the work on particular EBVs.

The workshop focused on the species abundance EBV and the group discussed challenges from large databases as GBIF data. As also other databases are of interest of EBV computation, the workshop participants agreed to collect METADATA on these different databases via an [online survey](#). Also, the participants agreed to develop an EBV use case to inform Aichi target 15. The workshop overall led to a EBV development Road Map of interest for the wider GEO BON community.



GEO BON on Facebook

Jörg Freyhof

Since October 2014, GEO BONs actual news are found on Facebook. We had a brilliant start with our Facebook site and had 100 likes within five days and already reach 280 people. All GEO BON partners are welcome to



sent information and news for the GEO BON Facebook site. Lets make it a lively site and sent me your contributions or write in yourself! Joint us [here](#)

Creative-B brochure released

Jörg Freyhof

The CReATIVE-B project - Coordination of Research e-Infrastructures Activities Toward an International Virtual Environment for Biodiversity - explored how cooperation and interoperability of large-scale Research Infrastructures (including GEO BON) across the globe could support the challenges of biodiversity and ecosystem research.

See more details [here](#)



IOOS: Integrated Ocean Observing System

Gabrielle Canonico Hyde

The US made a fantastic effort to set up a National Network to Monitor Marine Biodiversity. Please see all details at the webpage [here](#).



Aichi Passport, 2014 Edition: Browse the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and their indicators on your mobile

Eugenie Regan

The latest instalment of the Aichi Targets Passport is available now to download. As the flagship publication of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), the Aichi Targets Passport provides annual updates on



the global biodiversity indicators that monitor progress towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the underlying Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The indicators presented in the Aichi Targets Passport are those contained in CBD decision XI/3 with some additional indicators that have been, or are being, developed to fill gaps.

[Download the Aichi Targets Passport](#), [iTunes](#), [Google Play](#)



Citizen Science Conference

The first conference of the new Citizen Science Association is a pre-conference of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Because AAAS aims to represent all sciences, this is a great fit for the Association as we work to build connections across the diverse scientific disciplines involved in citizen science.

See more details [here](#)



Brazil-UK Biodiversity Monitoring Collaboration Initiative

Jean Boublij

The University of Salford, UK, has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Amazonian National Institute for Research (INPA) in Brazil to begin a long-term collaboration in the area of biodiversity monitoring. The Salford School of Environment and Life Sciences (ELS) researchers are working with INPA collaborators to establish in northern England (photo below) the first UK-based integrated national (Brazil) system of biodiversity monitoring, PPBio (*Program for Planned Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research*). This Salford-PPBio



biodiversity monitoring site will be used for teaching wildlife conservation courses (undergraduate and Masters levels) and for research.

EU: Bouchout Declaration on Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management



The Bouchout Declaration for Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management

This declaration

was launched on the 12th of June 2014 by the FP7 EU-funded project pro-iBiosphere, seeks to unlock the legacy of biodiversity knowledge, make digital data about biodiversity openly available and put it to work for the benefit of all. It calls for legal and technical reforms to grant all users the right and ability to freely access, copy, distribute, and re-purpose published biodiversity content, accompanied by the respectful attribution of the content source as demanded by scholarly tradition.

Only three weeks after the launch of the Declaration it has been endorsed by more than **70 institutions and 140 individuals from 40 countries** around the Globe. They encourage an overarching approach to Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management based on 10 fundamental principles to be found in the text of the Declaration and thus demonstrate their commitment to **Open Digital Science**.

[More information](#)

See also:

[Bouchout Declaration](#)

Scaling in Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation



The book "Scaling in Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation" is the first of its kind to describe the challenges that arise in studying and conserving biodiversity across different scales. Taking a scale-conscious view of the drivers of change, biodiversity patterns and processes themselves, and policy actions aimed at management and protection, it describes a wide range of practical methods and recommendations to improve conservation at continental and global scales. You can download the book for free [here](#).

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