



# Building essential biodiversity variables (EBVs) through effective global coordination as well as local contributions



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# Global biodiversity change

**Alien invasive species, habitat destruction and fragmentation, overexploitation, climate change...**

## LETTER

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### Global exchange and accumulation of non-native plants

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### Species recommended for control



*Parkinsonia aculeata*



*Pennisetum villosum*



*Pereskia aculeata*



*Piper aduncum*



*Rauvolfia vomitoria*



*Senna artemisioides ssp. filifolia*

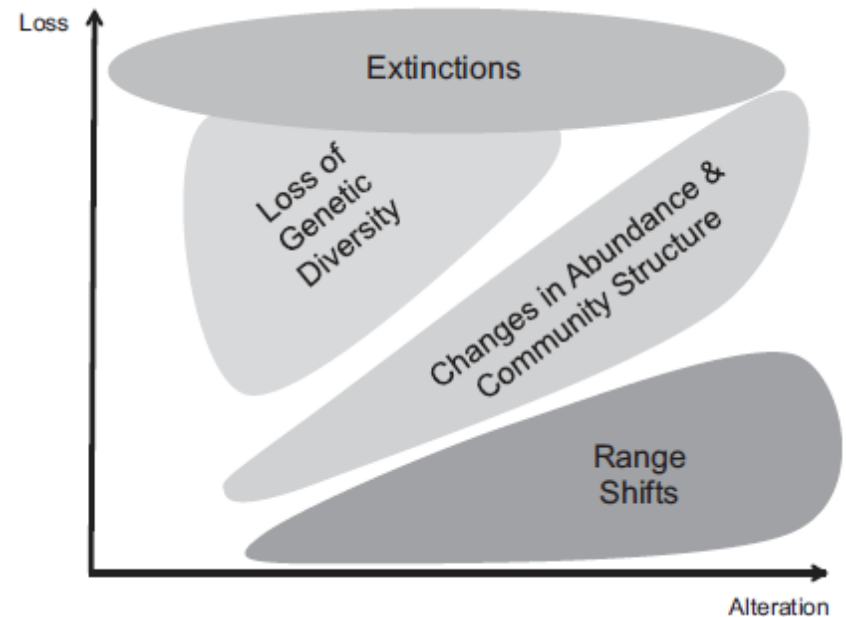


*Setaria sphacelata*



*Suriana maritima*

### Global Biodiversity Change: The Bad, the Good, and the Unknown



# Increasing demand for biodiversity data

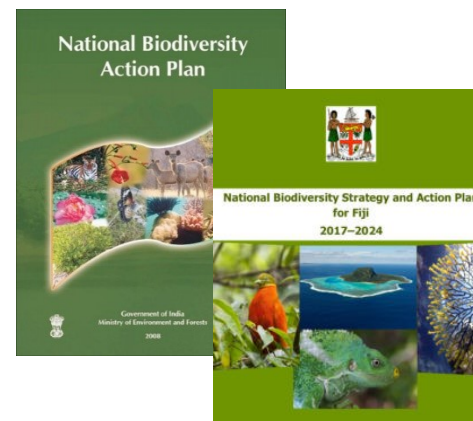
**National and international policy goals**

# Increasing demand for biodiversity data

## National and international policy goals



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



### Target 9

By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.



### Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

# Increasing demand for biodiversity data

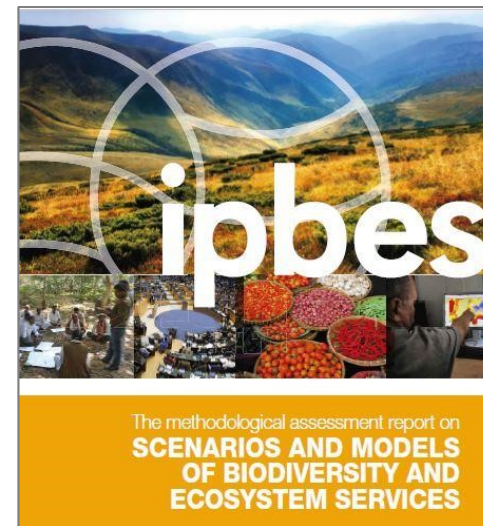
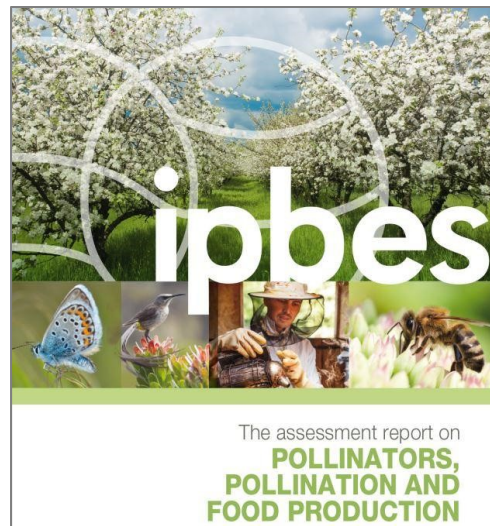
## National and international policy goals





# Increasing demand for biodiversity data

## National and international policy goals



# Towards global earth observation



Group on Earth Observations (GEO) = international and intergovernmental partnership

- 88 national governments and the European Commission
- 67 participating organisations (including about a dozen UN bodies)

# Towards global earth observation



<http://geobon.org/>

## Vision

A **global biodiversity observation network** that contributes to effective management policies for the world's biodiversity and ecosystem services

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# Towards global earth observation

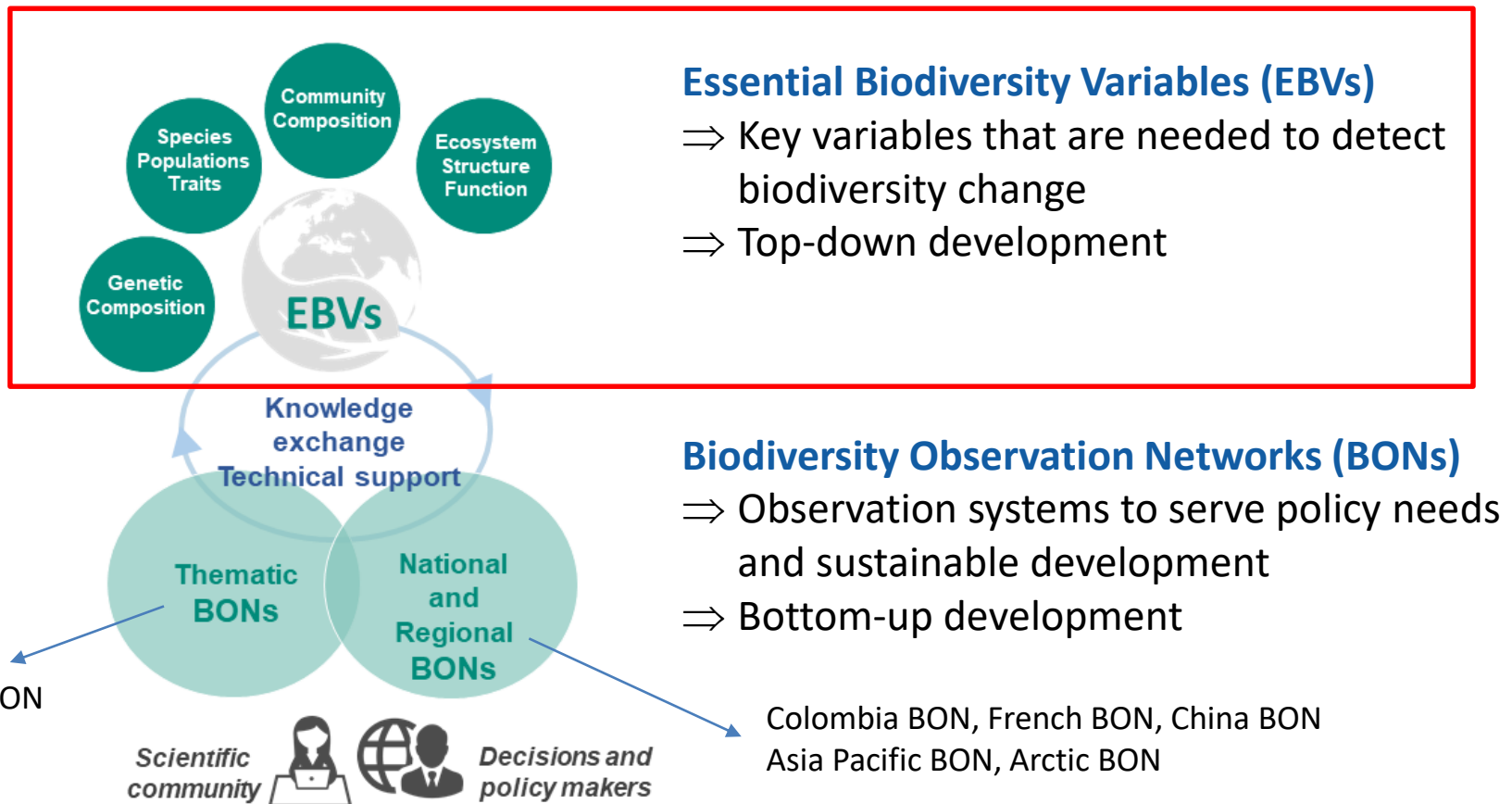
## Mission of GEO BON

Improve the **acquisition, coordination** and **delivery** of biodiversity observations to decision makers and the scientific community

# Towards global earth observation

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# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

## The EBV concept

POLICYFORUM

ECOLOGY

### Essential Biodiversity Variables

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**R**educing the rate of biodiversity loss and averting dangerous biodiversity change are international goals, reasserted by the Aichi Targets for 2020 by Parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) after failure to meet the 2010 target (1, 2). However, there is no global, harmonized observation system for delivering regular, timely data on biodiversity change (3). With the first plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) soon under way, partners from the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) (4) are developing—and seeking consensus around—Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) that could form the basis of monitoring programs worldwide.

Change (UNFCCC) (8). EBVs, whose development by GEO BON has been endorsed by the CBD (Decision XI/3), are relevant to derivation of biodiversity indicators for the Aichi Targets (9). Although CBD biodiversity indicators are designed to convey messages to policy-makers from existing biodiversity data (1), EBVs aim to help observation communities harmonize monitoring, by identifying how variables should be sampled and measured.

Given the complexity of biodiversity change (3), the challenge of developing a global observation system can appear insurmountable. Nearly 100 indicators have been proposed for the 2020 CBD targets (ongoing work seeks to identify a more limited subset) (9). Two-thirds of reports recently submitted by Parties to the CBD lacked evidence-based information on biodiversity change (10).

A global system of harmonized observations is needed to inform scientists and policy-makers.

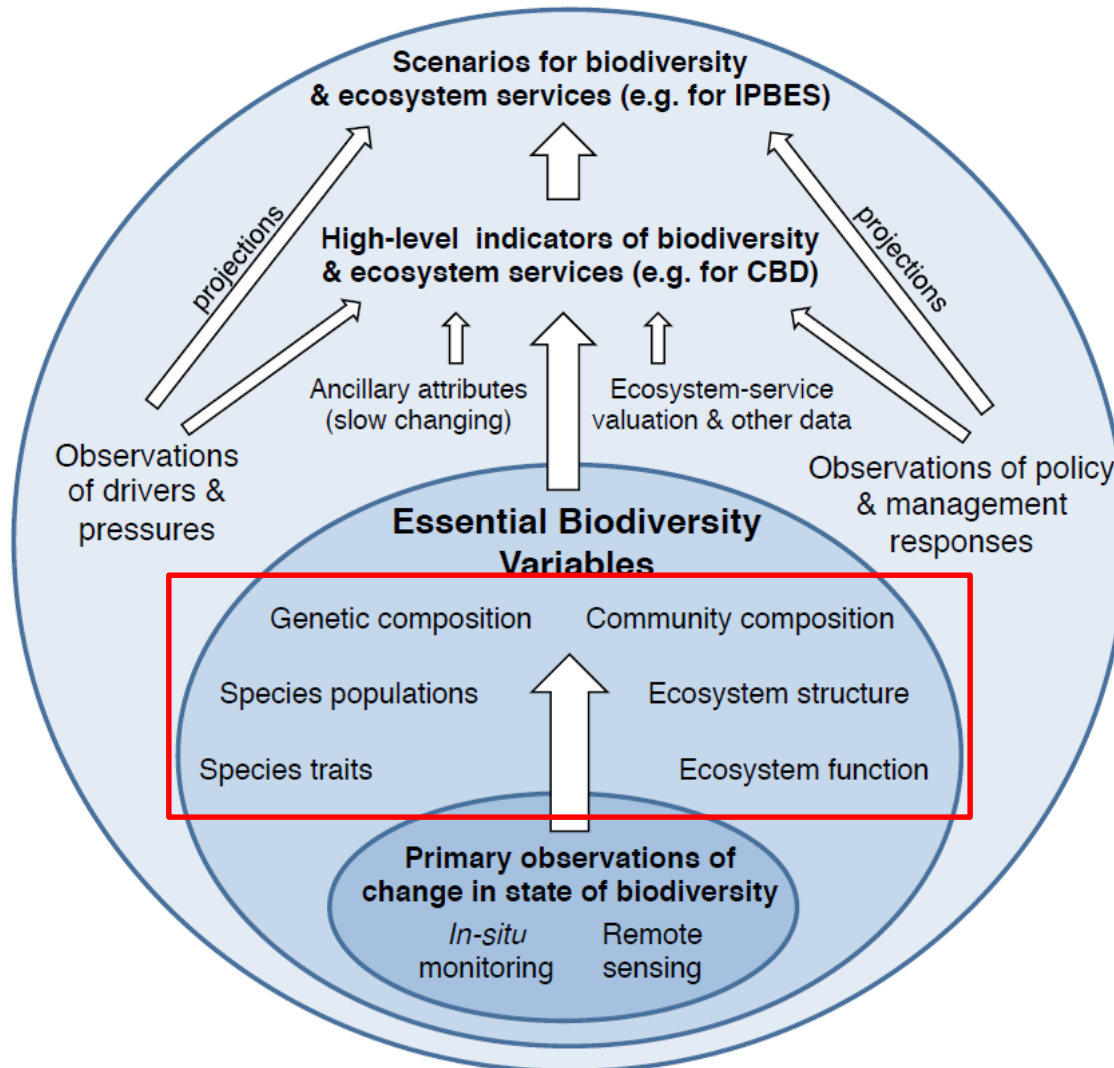
potentially fit this definition. We developed and tested a process, still ongoing, to identify the most essential (11). Dozens of biodiversity variables were screened to identify those that fulfill criteria on scalability, temporal sensitivity, feasibility, and relevance. These variables were scored for importance, checked for redundancy, and organized into six classes on the basis of commonalities, general enough for use across taxa and terrestrial, freshwater, and marine realms (see the table).

Often, it is not possible to generalize observations from point locations to the regional scale. Variables selected as EBVs harness remote sensing (RS) to measure continuously across space (e.g., habitat structure), or local sampling schemes that can be integrated to enable large-scale generalizations. For instance, citizen scientists con-

EBVs are

a minimal set of biological variables, complementary to one another, that can be obtained for large parts of the Earth with the aim to study, report and manage biodiversity change at national to global scales

# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)



6 EBV classes  
with 22  
candidate  
EBVs



# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

## Three examples of EBVs

| EBV class           | EBV examples         | Measurement and scalability   | Temporal sensitivity | Feasibility   | Relevance for CBD 2020 targets and indicators  |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|
| Species populations | Population abundance | Population counts for groups of species easy to monitor and/or important for ecosystem services, over an extensive network of sites with geographic representativeness. | 1 year               | Population counts underway for a number of species. Most of these extensive networks are geographically restricted. Much of the data are currently being collected by citizen science networks. | <u>Targets</u> : 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15.<br><u>Indicators</u> : Population and extinction risk trends of target species, species that provide ecosystem services; trends in invasive alien species; trends in climatic impacts on populations. |

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| Species traits      | Phenology            | Timing of periodic biological events for selected taxa/phenomena at defined locations. Examples: timing of leaf coloration and flowering.                               | 1 year               | Several ongoing initiatives (Phenological Eyes Network, PhenoCam etc.).   | <u>Targets</u> : 10, 15.<br><u>Indicators</u> : Phenology changes in relation to climate change  |

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| Community composition | Species interactions | Studies of important interactions or interaction networks in selected communities (e.g. plant-pollinator or plant-frugivore).   | 5-25 years           | Some studies have monitored the structure of species interaction networks   | <u>Targets</u> : 7, 9, 14, 15.<br><u>Indicators</u> : Trends in species interactions affecting ecosystem functioning and services.   |

# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

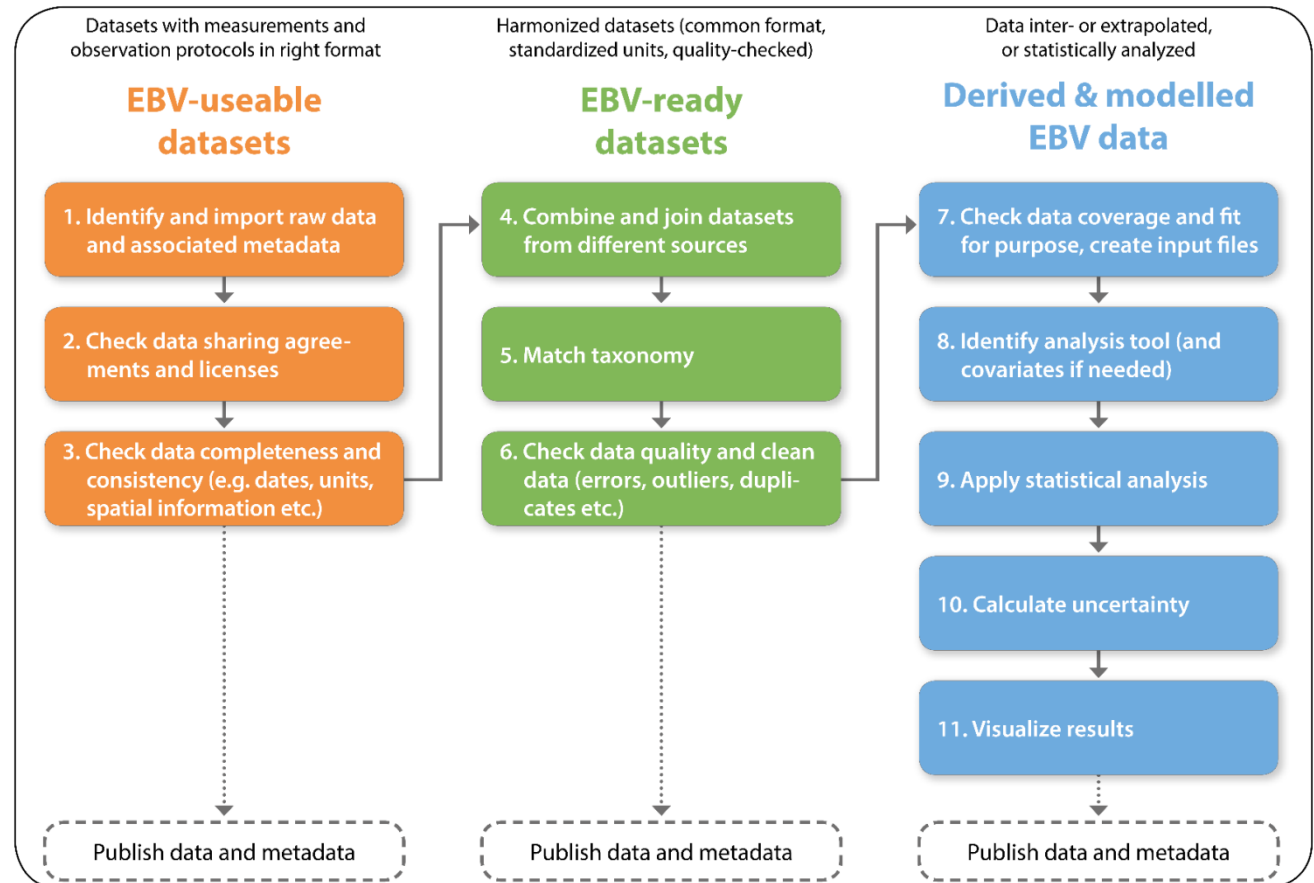
## Workflows and EBV data products



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION



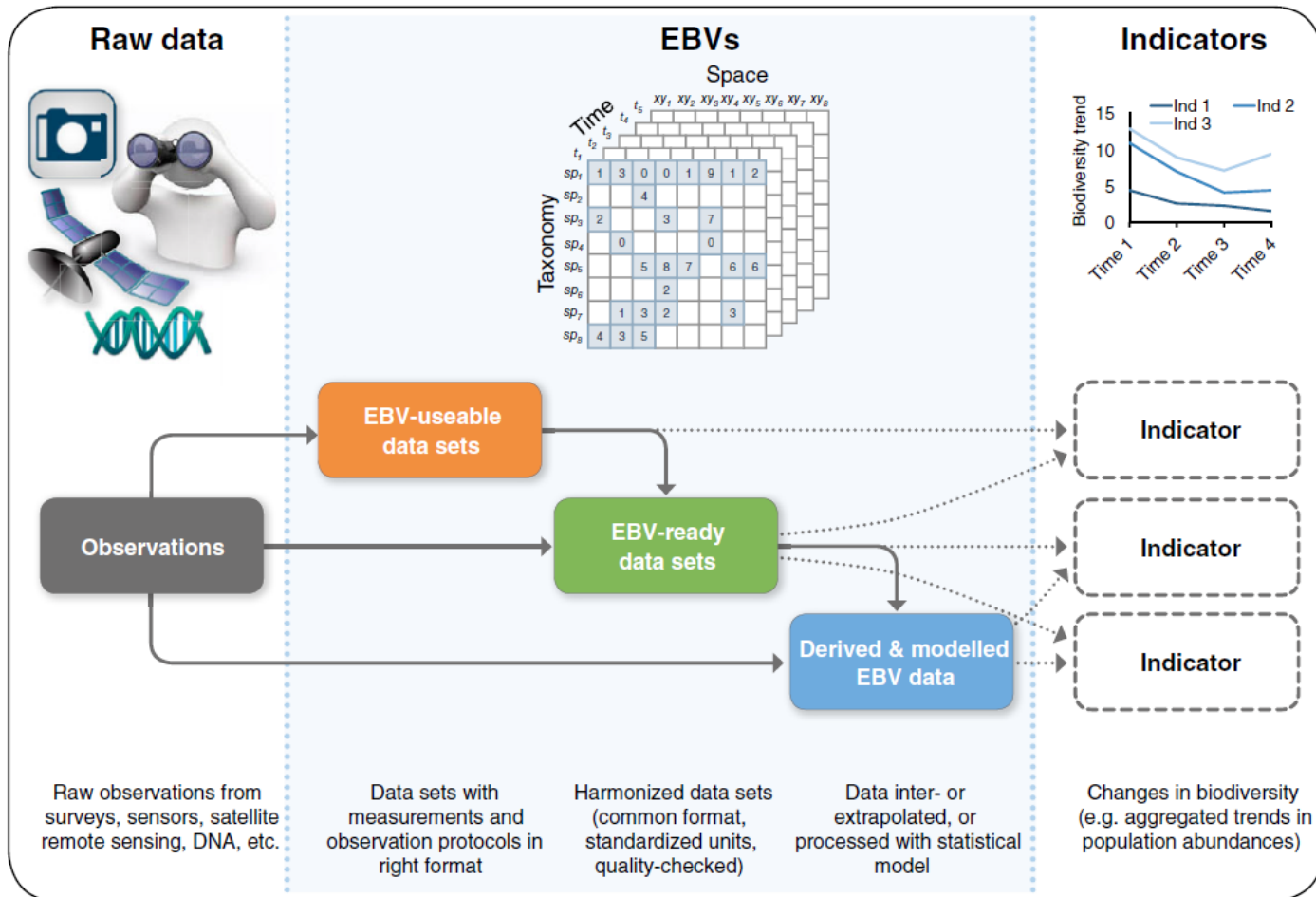
[www.globis-b.eu](http://www.globis-b.eu)





# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

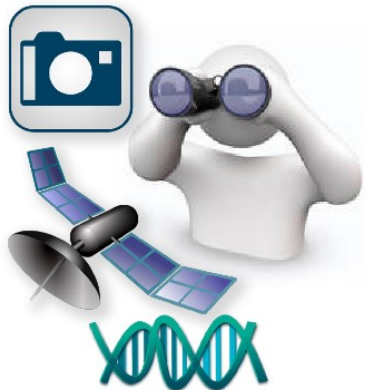
## Workflows and EBV data products



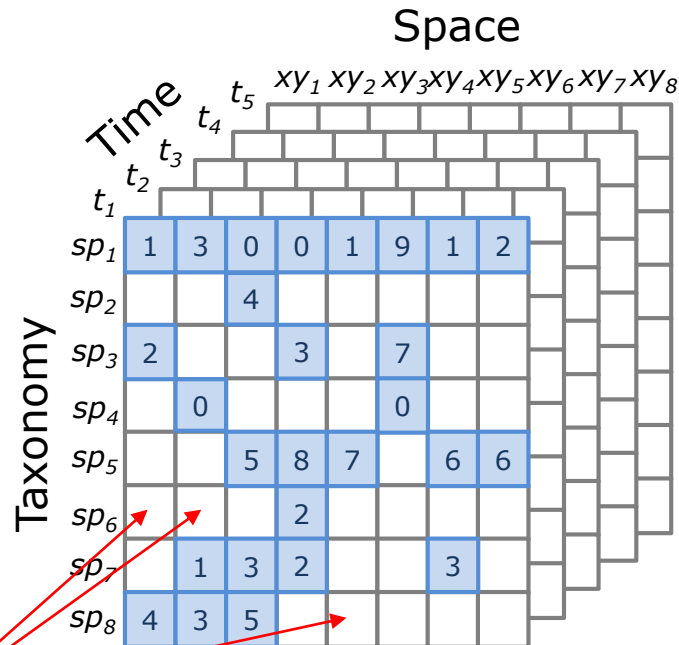
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## Challenges for building EBVs

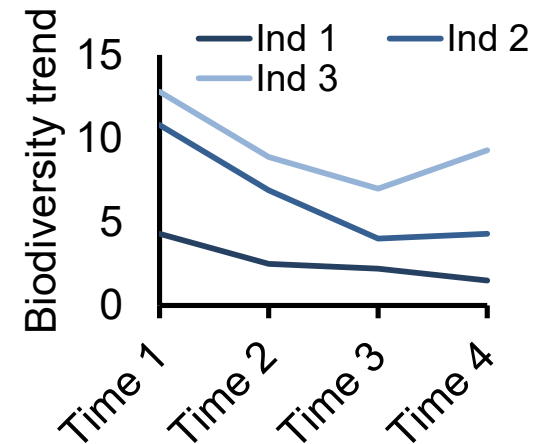
### Raw data



### EBV data cube



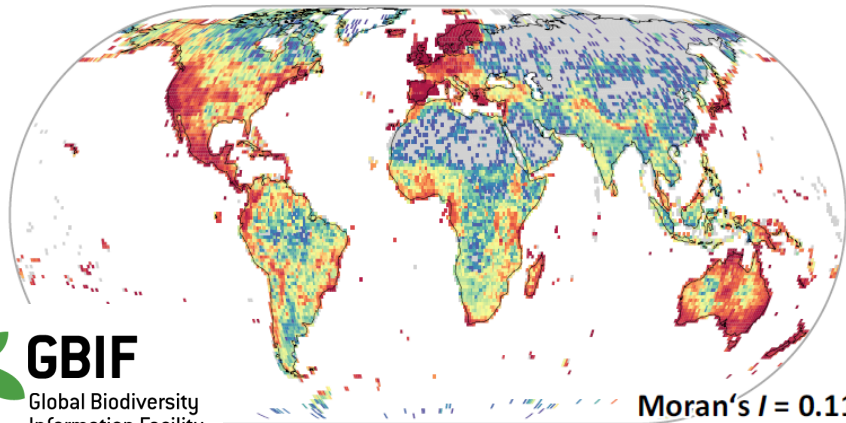
### Indicators




Knowledge gaps

# Knowledge gaps

## Presence-only records of plants from GBIF



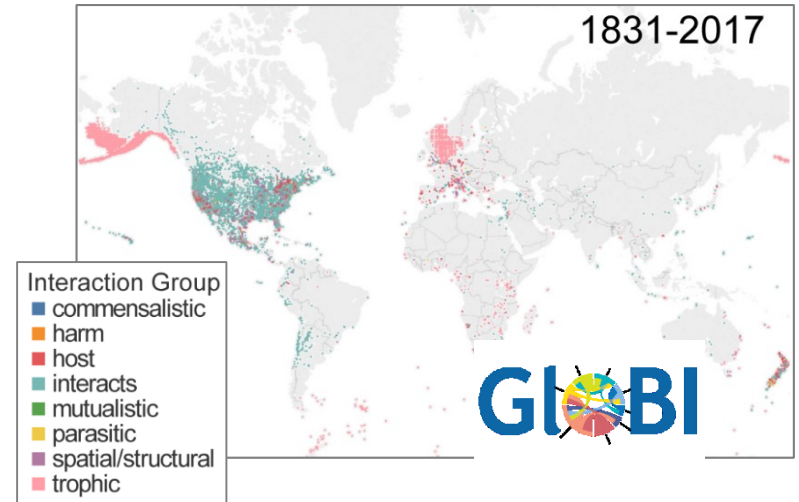
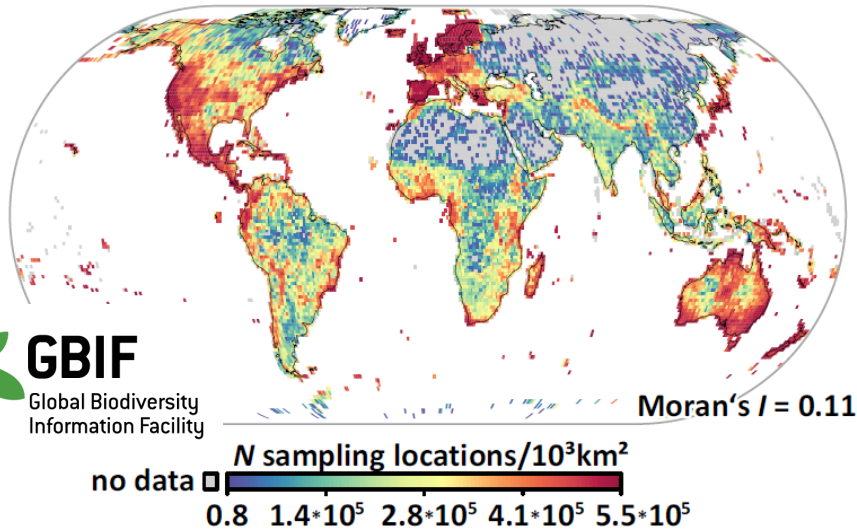
 **GBIF**  
Global Biodiversity  
Information Facility

$N$  sampling locations/ $10^3\text{km}^2$   
no data   
0.8 1.4\* $10^5$  2.8\* $10^5$  4.1\* $10^5$  5.5\* $10^5$

# Knowledge gaps

Presence-only records of plants from GBIF

Species interaction records from GloBI

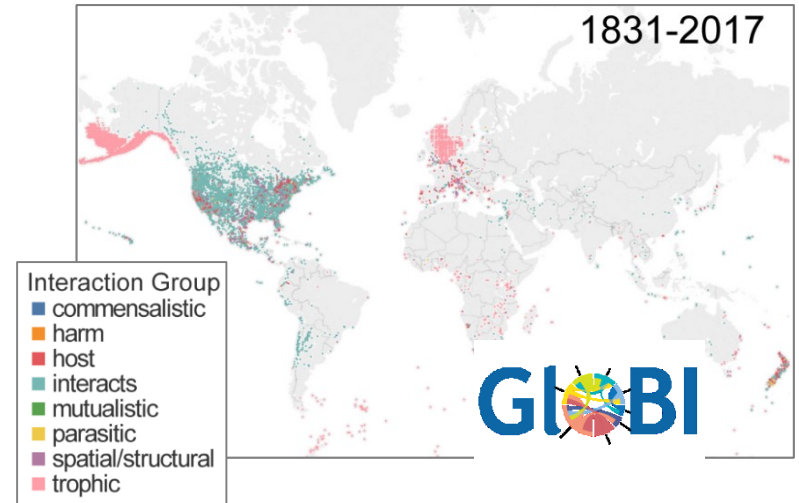
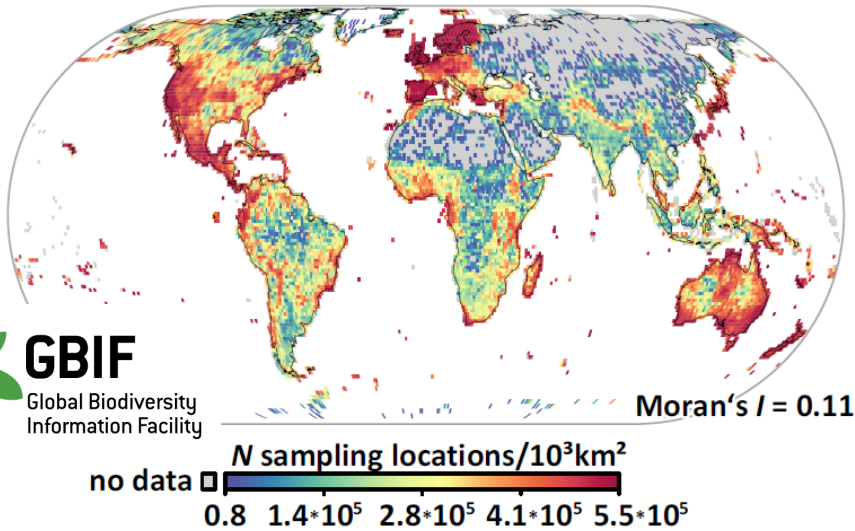




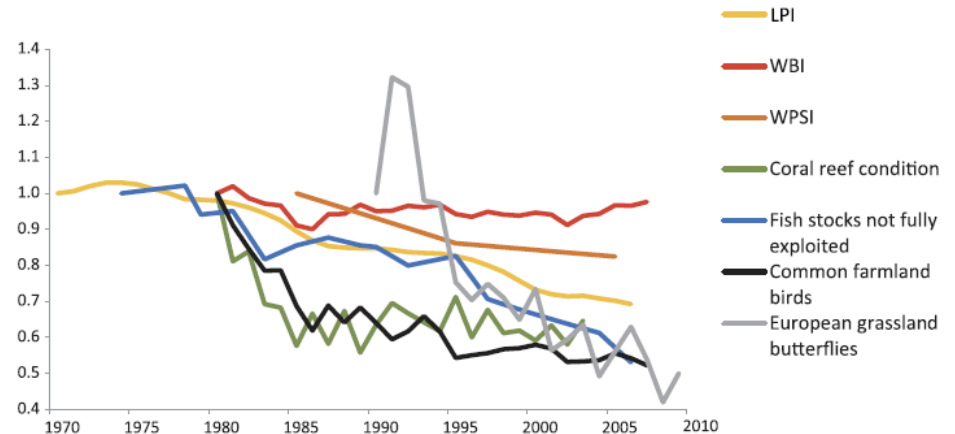
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Presence-only records of plants from GBIF

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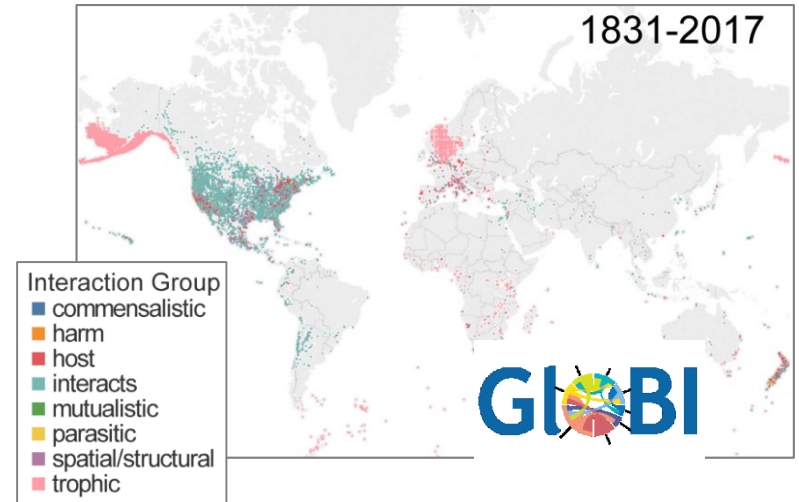
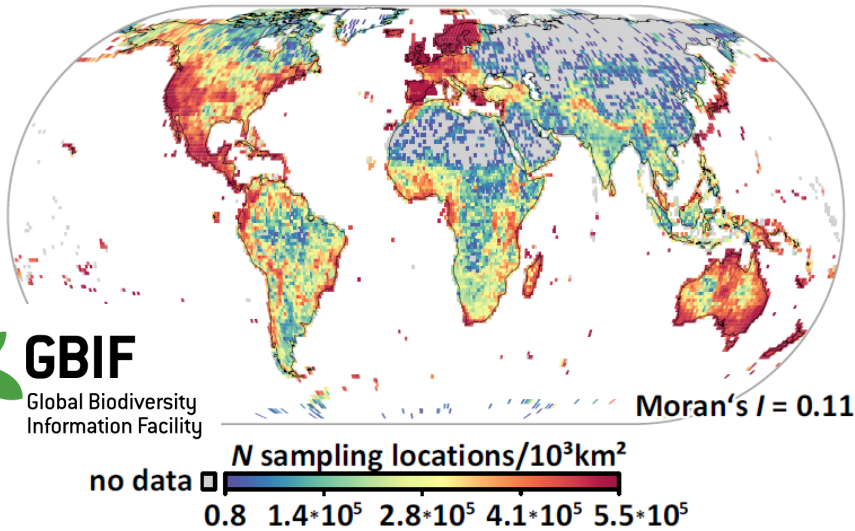
## Indicators of biodiversity change



# Knowledge gaps

Presence-only records of plants from GBIF

Species interaction records from GloBI

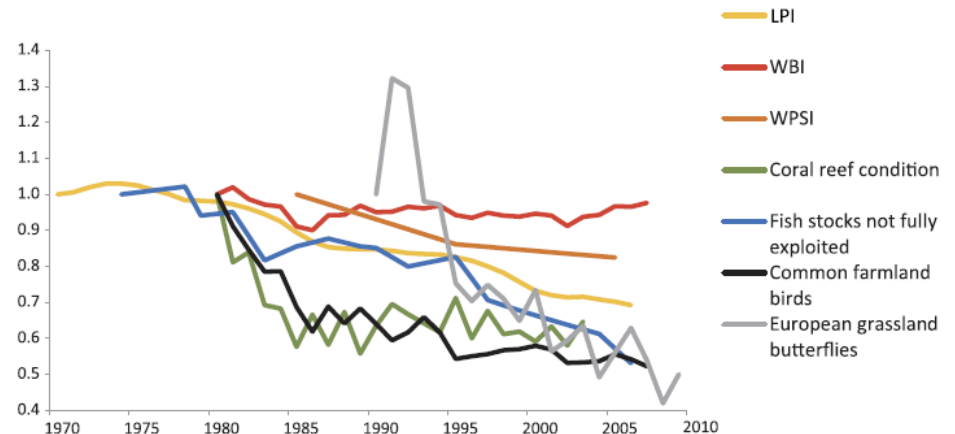


Spatial gaps

Taxonomic gaps

Temporal gaps

Indicators of biodiversity change



# Knowledge gaps

## Long-term observations



Population abundance



Phenology



Species interactions

## Sensor networks



## Citizen science

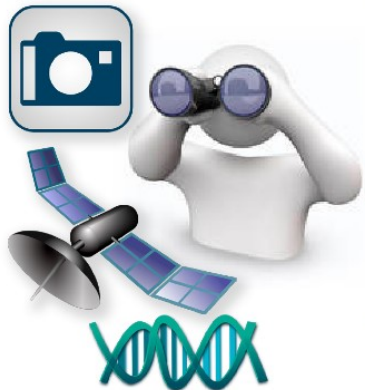


Stay or get involved in monitoring plant populations, e.g. at long-term observation sites, with sensor networks or through citizen science projects

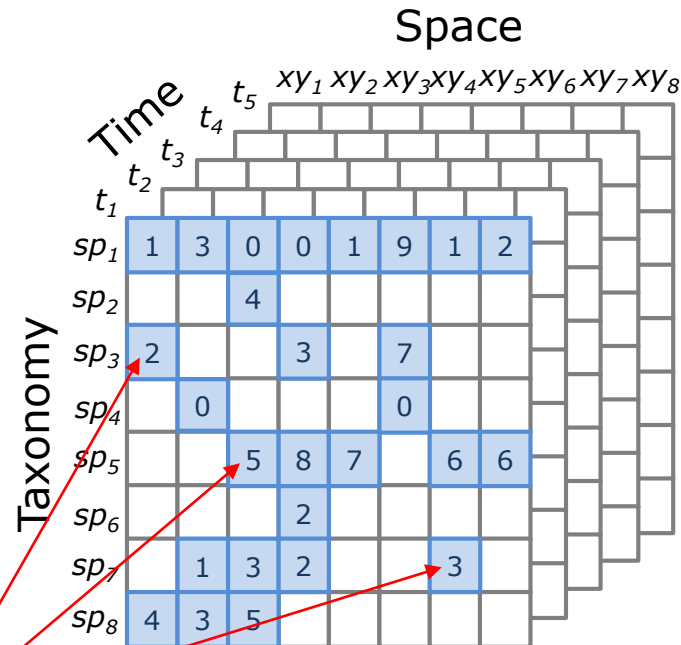
# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

## Challenges for building EBVs

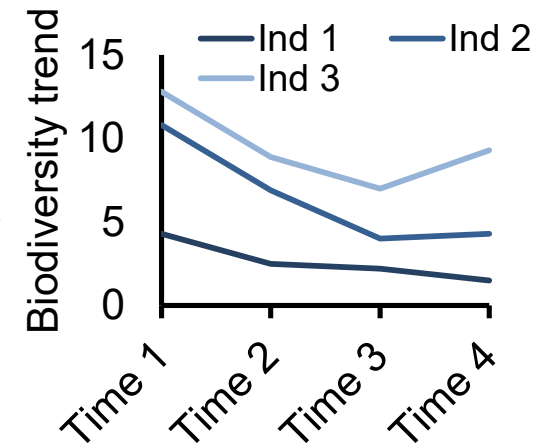
### Raw data



### EBV data cube



### Indicators



Discovery and accessibility of data



# Data discovery and accessibility

**Share your data and make them findable**

# Data discovery and accessibility

## Share your data and make them findable

### Supplementary material

### Digital data repositories

### Platforms with data discovery

**Supplementary Material Table S1: Frugivore classification and species list**  
The following references were used to extract food information:

Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. 1996. Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka: Warblers to Redstarts. Oxford University Press, Delhi, Vol. 8.

BirdLife International. 2000. Threatened birds of the world. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International, Barcelona and Cambridge, U.K.

Cheke, R. A., Mann, C. F. and Allen, R. 2001. Sunbirds: a guide to the Sunbirds, Flowerpeckers, Spiderhunters, and Sugarbirds of the world. Christopher Helm, London.

Coates, B. J. 1990. The birds of Papua New Guinea including the Bismarck Archipelago and Bougainville. Volume II., Dove Publications, Alderley, Qld., Australia.

Coates, B. J., Bishop, K. D. and Gardner, D. 1997. A guide to the birds of Wallacea: Sulawesi, the Moluccas, and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia. Dove Publications, Alderley, Qld., Australia.

De Schauensee, R. M. and Phelps, W. H. 1977. A guide to the birds of Venezuela. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Elliott, A., Sargatal, J. and Hoyo, J. d. 1994. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 2: New World Vultures to Guineafowl. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Feare, C. and Craig, A. 1999. Starlings and Mynas. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Frith, C. B., Beehler, B. M. and Cooper, W. T. 1998. The Birds of Paradise: Paradisacidae. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Fry, C. H., Keith, S. and Urban, E. K. 2000. The Birds of Africa. Vol. 6: Picathartes to Oxyechus. Academic Press, London and New York.

Hilty, S. L. and De Schauensee, R. M. 2003. Birds of Venezuela. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

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Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 1992. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 1996. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 3: Hoatzin to Auks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 1997. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 4: Sandgrouse to Cuckoos. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 1999. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 5: Barn Owls to Hummingbirds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 2001. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 6: Mousebirds to Hornbills. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. 2002. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 7: Jacamars to Woodpeckers. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hoyo, J. d., Elliott, A. and Christie, D. A. 2003. Handbook of the birds of the world. Volume 8: Broadbills to Tapaculos. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.



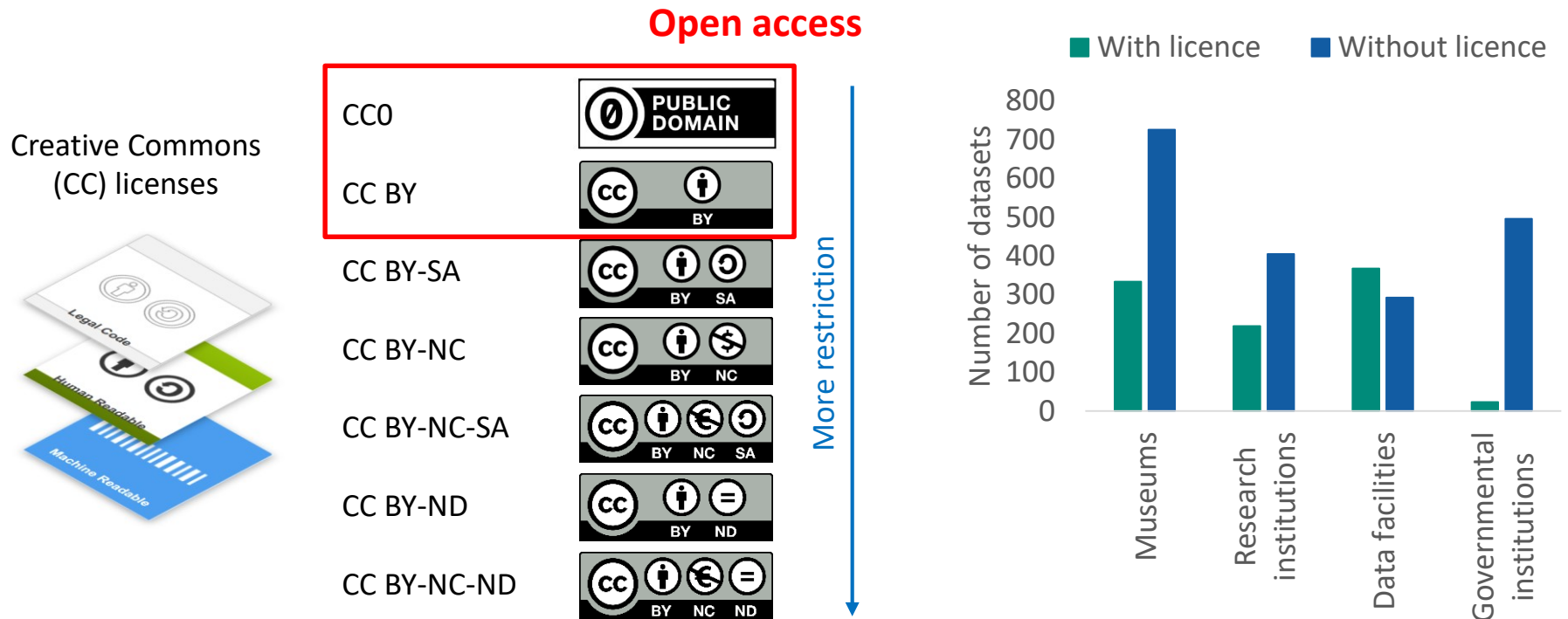
low

Machine-readable discovery

high

# Data discovery and accessibility

## Make data open with unrestricted access

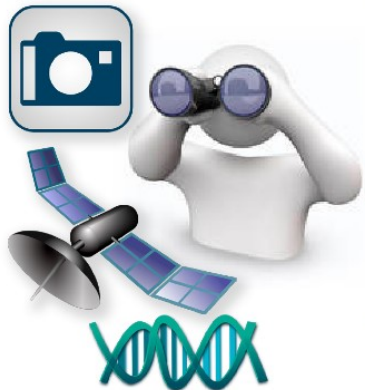


Provide license information in human and machine-readable format

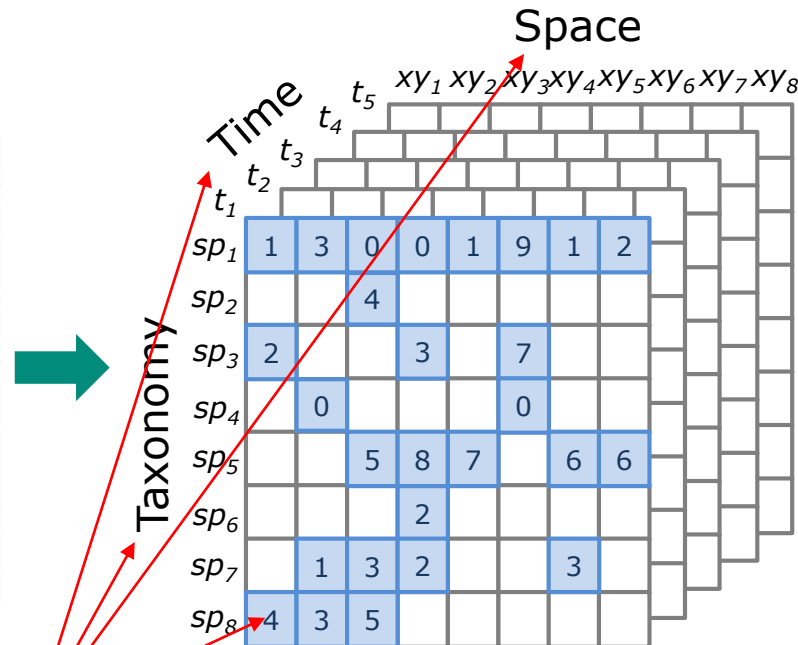
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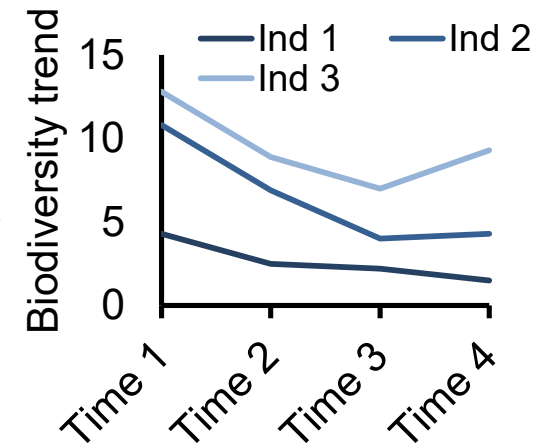
Raw data



EBV data cube



Indicators



Data and metadata standardisation

# Data and metadata standardisation

## Standardise measurements and terms

### Standardized measurement protocols

CSIRO PUBLISHING

*Australian Journal of Botany*, 2013, 61, 167–234  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/BT12225>

#### New handbook for standardised measurement of plant functional traits worldwide

N. Pérez-Harguindeguy<sup>A,Y</sup>, S. Díaz<sup>A</sup>, E. Garnier<sup>B</sup>, S. Lavorel<sup>C</sup>, H. Poorter<sup>D</sup>, P. Jaureguiberry<sup>A</sup>, M. S. Bret-Harte<sup>E</sup>, W. K. Cornwell<sup>F</sup>, J. M. Craine<sup>G</sup>, D. E. Gurvich<sup>A</sup>, C. Urcelay<sup>A</sup>, E. J. Veneklaas<sup>H</sup>, P. B. Reich<sup>I</sup>, L. Poorter<sup>J</sup>, I. J. Wright<sup>K</sup>, P. Ray<sup>L</sup>, L. Enrico<sup>O</sup>, J. G. Pausas<sup>M</sup>, A. C. de Vos<sup>N</sup>, N. Buchmann<sup>N</sup>, G. Funes<sup>A</sup>, F. Quétier<sup>N,C</sup>, J. G. Hodgson<sup>O</sup>, K. Thompson<sup>J</sup>, H. D. Morgan<sup>Q</sup>, H. ter Steege<sup>R</sup>, M. G. A. van der Heijden<sup>S</sup>, L. Sack<sup>T</sup>, B. Blonder<sup>U</sup>, P. Poschlod<sup>V</sup>, M. V. Vaieretti<sup>A</sup>, G. Contró<sup>A</sup>, A. C. Staver<sup>W</sup>, S. Aquino<sup>A</sup> and J. H. C. Cornelissen<sup>F</sup>

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# Data and metadata standardisation

## Standardise measurements and terms

### Standardized measurement protocols

### Standardized terms and vocabularies

**Top** A Terminological Resource for Plant Functional Diversity

HOME FACETED SEARCH HIERARCHY SEARCH INDEX SEARCH REFERENCES API ADMINISTRATION

**Browse the Hierarchy**

**Treeview**

- Plant characteristics
  - Environmental association
  - Plant trait
    - Flower and dispersule trait
      - Dispersule dry mass trait
      - Dispersule fresh mass trait
      - Dispersule length trait
      - Dispersule mass trait
      - Dispersule thickness trait
      - Dispersule width trait
      - Flower color
      - Flower heterostyly type
      - Flower pollination syndrome
      - Plant dichogamy type
      - Plant dicliny type
      - Plant dispersal syndrome
      - Plant flowering begin trait
      - Plant flowering duration trait
      - Plant flowering end trait
      - Plant flowering phases number trait

### Example plant phenology

#### Flowering time

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Onset of flowering     | Julian day      |
| Time of peak flowering | Julian day      |
| Flowering duration     | Number of days  |
| Flowering frequency    | Number per year |

CSIRO PUBLISHING

*Australian Journal of Botany*, 2013, 61, 167–234  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/BT12225>

#### New handbook for standardised measurement of plant functional traits worldwide

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# Data and metadata standardisation

## Map data to ontologies

### Example plant phenology



Terms & vocabularies

# Data and metadata standardisation

## Map data to ontologies

### Example plant phenology



Terms & vocabularies



Terms & vocabularies

PHENOCAM

Terms & vocabularies

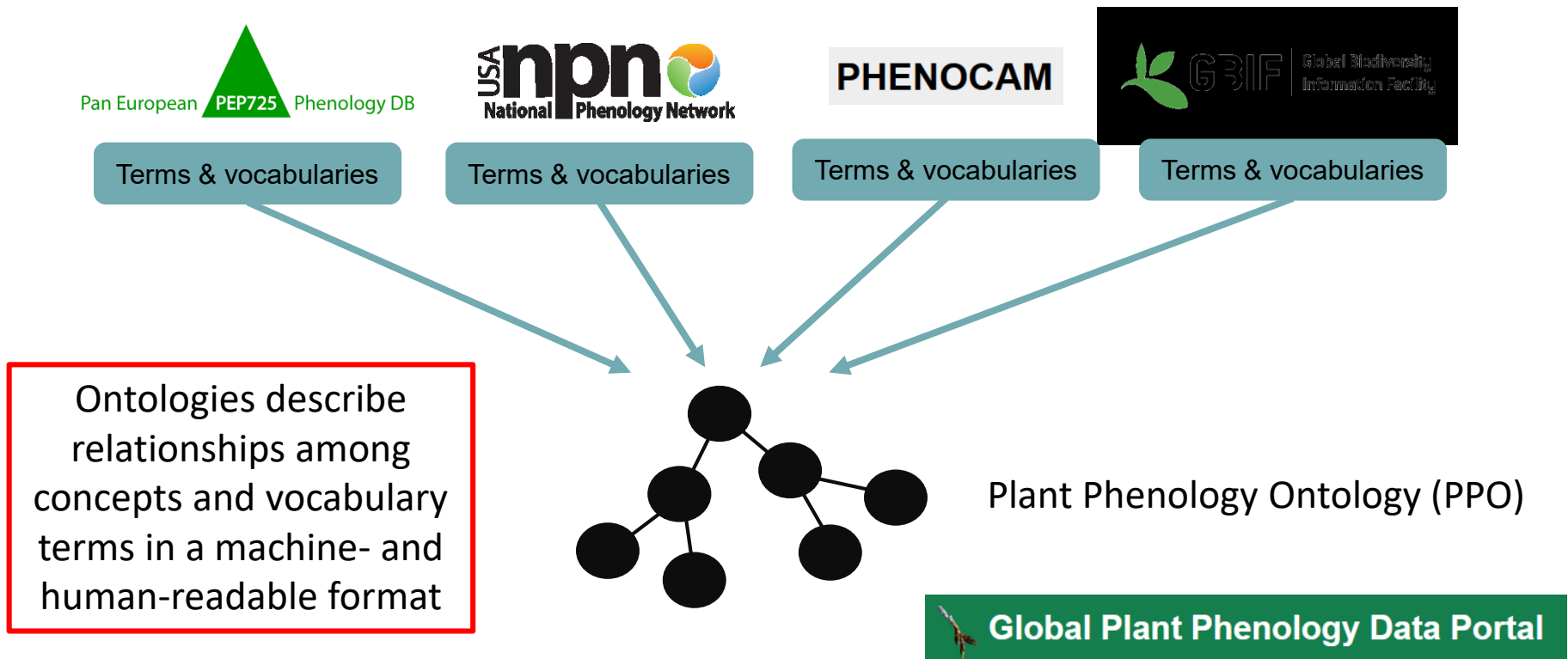


Terms & vocabularies

# Data and metadata standardisation

## Map data to ontologies

### Example plant phenology



# Data and metadata standardisation

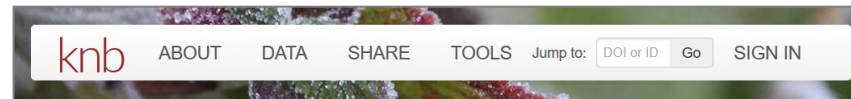
## Apply data and metadata standards

### Darwin Core (DwC)

|   |
|---|
| <b>Occurrence</b><br>occurrenceID   catalogNumber   recordNumber   recordedBy   individualCount   organismQuantity   organismQuantityType   sex   lifeStage   reproductiveCondition   behavior   establishmentMeans   occurrenceStatus   preparations   disposition   associatedMedia   associatedReferences   associatedSequences   associatedTaxa   otherCatalogNumbers   occurrenceRemarks   |
| <b>Organism</b><br>organismID   organismName   organismScope   associatedOccurrences   associatedOrganisms   previousIdentifications   organismRemarks  |
| <b>MaterialSample   LivingSpecimen   PreservedSpecimen   FossilSpecimen</b><br>materialSampleID   |
| <b>Event   HumanObservation   MachineObservation</b><br>eventID   parentEventID   fieldNumber   eventDate   eventTime   startDayOfYear   endDayOfYear   year   month   day   verbatimEventDate   habitat   samplingProtocol   sampleSizeValue   sampleSizeUnit   samplingEffort   fieldNotes   eventRemarks   |
| <b>Location</b><br>locationID   higherGeographyID   higherGeography   continent   waterBody   islandGroup   island   country   countryCode   stateProvince   county   municipality   locality   verbatimLocality   minimumElevationInMeters   maximumElevationInMeters   verbatimElevation   minimumDepthInMeters   maximumDepthInMeters   verbatimDepth   minimumDistanceAboveSurfaceInMeters   maximumDistanceAboveSurfaceInMeters   locationAccordingTo   locationRemarks   decimalLatitude   decimalLongitude   geodeticDatum   coordinateUncertaintyInMeters   coordinatePrecision   pointRadiusSpatialFit   verbatimCoordinates   verbatimLatitude   verbatimLongitude   verbatimCoordinateSystem   verbatimSRS   footprintWKT   footprintSRS   footprintSpatialFit   georeferencedBy   georeferencedDate   georeferenceProtocol   georeferenceSources   georeferenceVerificationStatus   georeferenceRemarks |

Darwin Core (<http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/>)

### Ecological Metadata Language (EML)



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the KnB website. It features the KnB logo on the left, followed by navigation links: ABOUT, DATA, SHARE, TOOLS. To the right is a search bar with the text "Jump to:" and a search button labeled "Go". Further right is a "SIGN IN" link. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a field of purple flowers.

#### Ecological Metadata Language (EML)

Ecological Metadata Language (EML) is a metadata specification developed by the ecology discipline and for the ecology discipline. It is based on prior work done by the Ecological Society of America and associated efforts (Michener et al., 1997, Ecological Applications). EML is implemented as a series of XML document types that can be used in a modular and extensible manner to document ecological data. Each EML module is designed to describe one logical part of the total metadata that should be included with any ecological dataset.

EML (<https://knb.ecoinformatics.org/#tools>)

# Data and metadata standardisation

## Apply data and metadata standards

### Darwin Core (DwC)

|   |
|---|
| <b>Occurrence</b><br>occurrenceID   catalogNumber   recordNumber   recordedBy   individualCount   organismQuantity   organismQuantityType   sex   lifeStage   reproductiveCondition   behavior   establishmentMeans   occurrenceStatus   preparations   disposition   associatedMedia   associatedReferences   associatedSequences   associatedTaxa   otherCatalogNumbers   occurrenceRemarks   |
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| <b>Location</b><br>locationID   higherGeographyID   higherGeography   continent   waterBody   islandGroup   island   country   countryCode   stateProvince   county   municipality   locality   verbatimLocality   minimumElevationInMeters   maximumElevationInMeters   verbatimElevation   minimumDepthInMeters   maximumDepthInMeters   verbatimDepth   minimumDistanceAboveSurfaceInMeters   maximumDistanceAboveSurfaceInMeters   locationAccordingTo   locationRemarks   decimalLatitude   decimalLongitude   geodeticDatum   coordinateUncertaintyInMeters   coordinatePrecision   pointRadiusSpatialFit   verbatimCoordinates   verbatimLatitude   verbatimLongitude   verbatimCoordinateSystem   verbatimSRS   footprintWKT   footprintSRS   footprintSpatialFit   georeferencedBy   georeferencedDate   georeferenceProtocol   georeferenceSources   georeferenceVerificationStatus   georeferenceRemarks |

Darwin Core (<http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/terms/>)

### Ecological Metadata Language (EML)

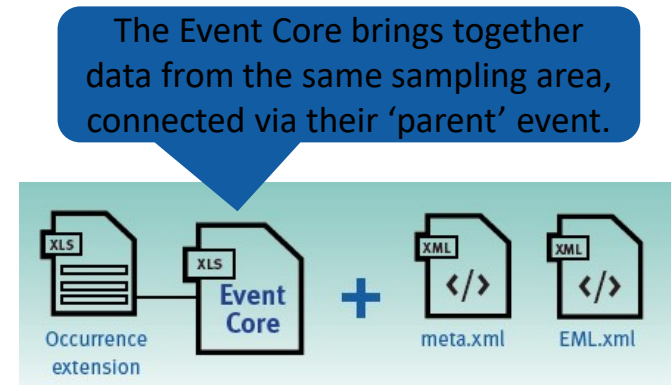
The screenshot shows the KnB website header with navigation links: ABOUT, DATA, SHARE, TOOLS, and a search bar for DOI or ID. Below the header, the page title is "Ecological Metadata Language (EML)". The main content area contains a paragraph: "Ecological Metadata Language (EML) is a metadata specification developed by the ecology discipline and for the ecology discipline. It is based on prior work done by the Ecological Society of America and associated efforts (Michener et al., 1997, Ecological Applications). EML is implemented as a series of XML document types that can be used in a modular and extensible manner to document ecological data. Each EML module is designed to describe one logical part of the total metadata that should be included with any ecological dataset."

EML (<https://knb.ecoinformatics.org/#tools>)

Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT)  
<https://www.gbif.org/ipt>



Darwin Core Archive



# Take home messages

**You can help building EBV data products**

local

global

A vertical teal arrow pointing downwards, connecting the 'local' box at the top to the 'global' box at the bottom.

# Take home messages

## You can help building EBV data products

1. **Collect repeated and standardised measurements of plant populations through in-situ monitoring, citizen science or sensor networks** (e.g. on plant species distribution and abundance, species traits and species interactions)

local

global



# Take home messages

## You can help building EBV data products

1. **Collect repeated and standardised measurements of plant populations through in-situ monitoring, citizen science or sensor networks** (e.g. on plant species distribution and abundance, species traits and species interactions)
2. **Make your data findable and openly accessible** (e.g. through data repositories and online portals and by providing CC0 and CC BY licenses in machine-readable format)

local

global

# Take home messages

## You can help building EBV data products

1. **Collect repeated and standardised measurements of plant populations through in-situ monitoring, citizen science or sensor networks** (e.g. on plant species distribution and abundance, species traits and species interactions)
2. **Make your data findable and openly accessible** (e.g. through data repositories and online portals and by providing CC0 and CC BY licenses in machine-readable format)
3. **Standardise data** (e.g. use standardised terms and controlled vocabularies, apply data and metadata standards such as Darwin Core/EML, map data to ontologies etc.)

local

global

# Take home messages

## You can help building EBV data products

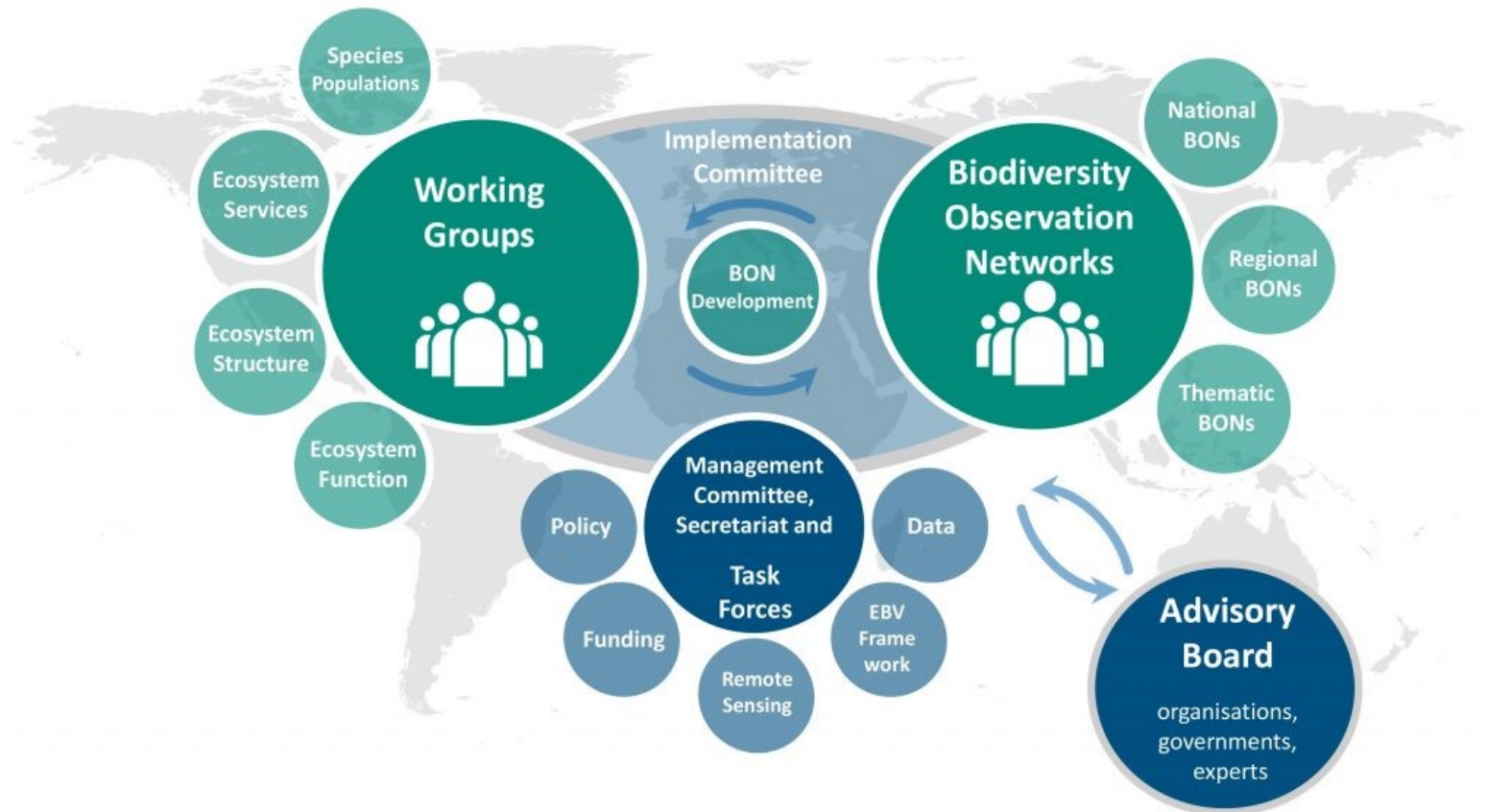
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2. **Make your data findable and openly accessible** (e.g. through data repositories and online portals and by providing CC0 and CC BY licenses in machine-readable format)
3. **Standardise data** (e.g. use standardised terms and controlled vocabularies, apply data and metadata standards such as Darwin Core/EML, map data to ontologies etc.)
4. **Get involved in GEO BON and other global biodiversity activities** (e.g. participate in working groups, BONs, task groups, interest groups)

local

global

# Take home messages

## Governance structure of GEO BON



# Take home messages



ELSEVIER

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

ScienceDirect

Current Opinion in  
Environmental  
Sustainability



## Monitoring biodiversity change through effective global coordination

Laetitia M Navarro<sup>1,2</sup>, Néstor Fernández<sup>1,2</sup>, Carlos Guerra<sup>1,2</sup>, Rob Guralnick<sup>3</sup>, W Daniel Kissling<sup>4</sup>, Maria Cecilia Londoño<sup>5</sup>, Frank Muller-Karger<sup>6</sup>, Eren Turak<sup>7,8</sup>, Patricia Balvanera<sup>9</sup>, Mark J Costello<sup>10</sup>, Aurelie Delavaud<sup>11</sup>, GY El Serafy<sup>12,13</sup>, Simon Ferrier<sup>14</sup>, Ilse Geijzendorffer<sup>15</sup>, Gary N Geller<sup>16,17</sup>, Walter Jetz<sup>18,19</sup>, Eun-Shik Kim<sup>20</sup>, HyeJin Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Corinne S Martin<sup>21</sup>, Melodie A McGeoch<sup>22</sup>, Tuyeni H Mwampamba<sup>9</sup>, Jeanne L Nel<sup>23,24</sup>, Emily Nicholson<sup>25</sup>, Nathalie Pettorelli<sup>26</sup>, Michael E Schaepman<sup>27</sup>, Andrew Skidmore<sup>28,29</sup>, Isabel Sousa Pinto<sup>30</sup>, Sheila Vergara<sup>31</sup>, Petteri Vihervaara<sup>32</sup>, Haigen Xu<sup>33</sup>, Tetsukazu Yahara<sup>34</sup>, Mike Gill<sup>35</sup> and Henrique M Pereira<sup>1,2,36</sup>

# Thank you!

BIOLOGICAL  
REVIEWS

Cambridge  
Philosophical Society

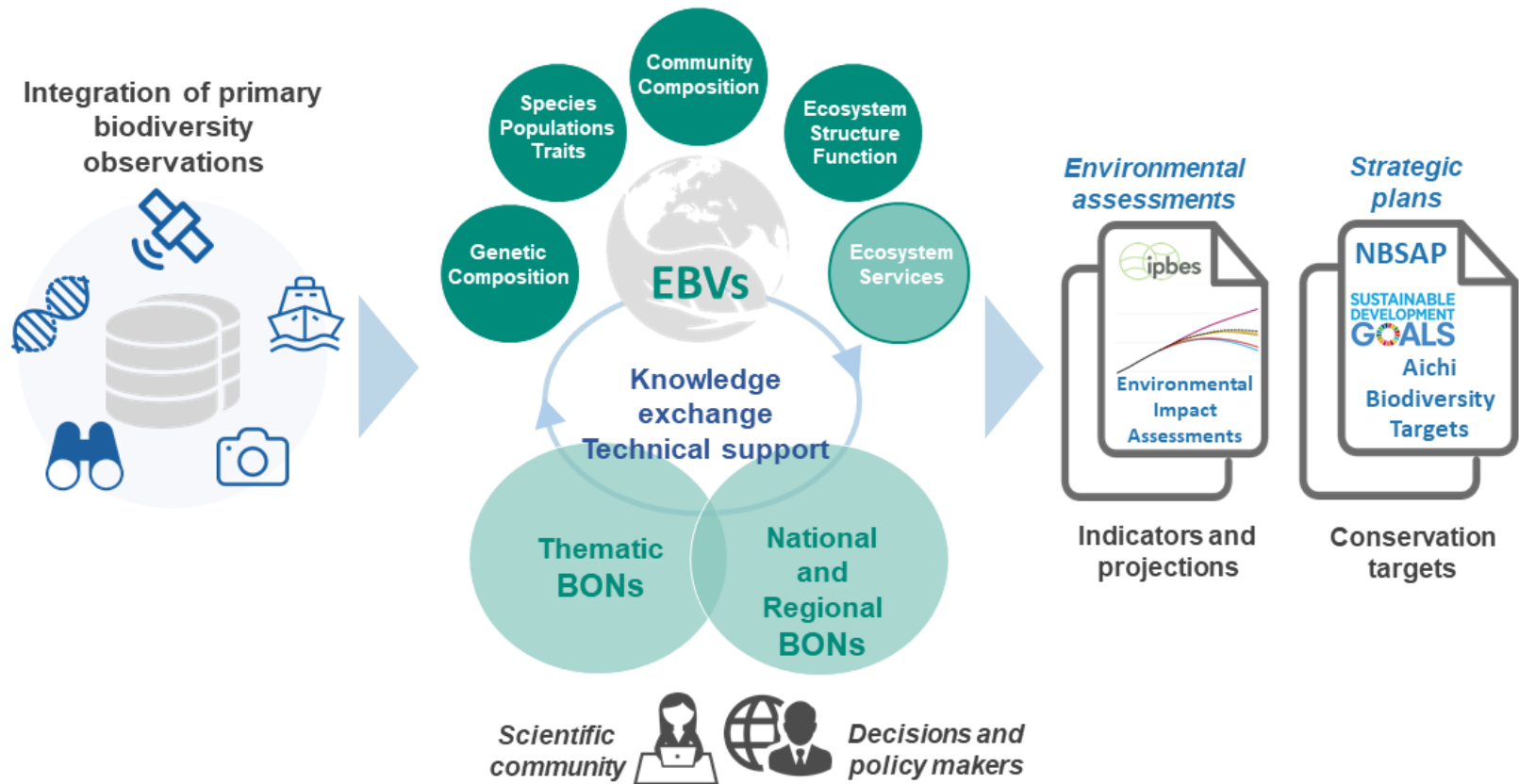
*Biol. Rev.* (2017), pp. 000–000.  
doi: 10.1111/brv.12359

## Building essential biodiversity variables (EBVs) of species distribution and abundance at a global scale

W. Daniel Kissling<sup>1,\*</sup>, Jorge A. Ahumada<sup>2</sup>, Anne Bowser<sup>3</sup>, Miguel Fernandez<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Néstor Fernández<sup>4,7</sup>, Enrique Alonso García<sup>8</sup>, Robert P. Guralnick<sup>9</sup>, Nick J. B. Isaac<sup>10</sup>, Steve Kelling<sup>11</sup>, Wouter Los<sup>1</sup>, Louise McRae<sup>12</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Mihoub<sup>13,14</sup>, Matthias Obst<sup>15,16</sup>, Monica Santamaria<sup>17</sup>, Andrew K. Skidmore<sup>18</sup>, Kristen J. Williams<sup>19</sup>, Donat Agosti<sup>20</sup>, Daniel Amariles<sup>21,22</sup>, Christos Arvanitidis<sup>23</sup>, Lucy Bastin<sup>24,25</sup>, Francesca De Leo<sup>17</sup>, Willi Egloff<sup>20</sup>, Jane Elith<sup>26</sup>, Donald Hobern<sup>27</sup>, David Martin<sup>19</sup>, Henrique M. Pereira<sup>4,5</sup>, Graziano Pesole<sup>17,28</sup>, Johannes Peterseil<sup>29</sup>, Hannu Saarenmaa<sup>30</sup>, Dmitry Schigel<sup>27</sup>, Dirk S. Schmeller<sup>13,31</sup>, Nicola Segata<sup>32</sup>, Eren Turak<sup>33,34</sup>, Paul F. Uhlir<sup>35</sup>, Brian Wee<sup>36</sup> and Alex R. Hardisty<sup>37</sup>

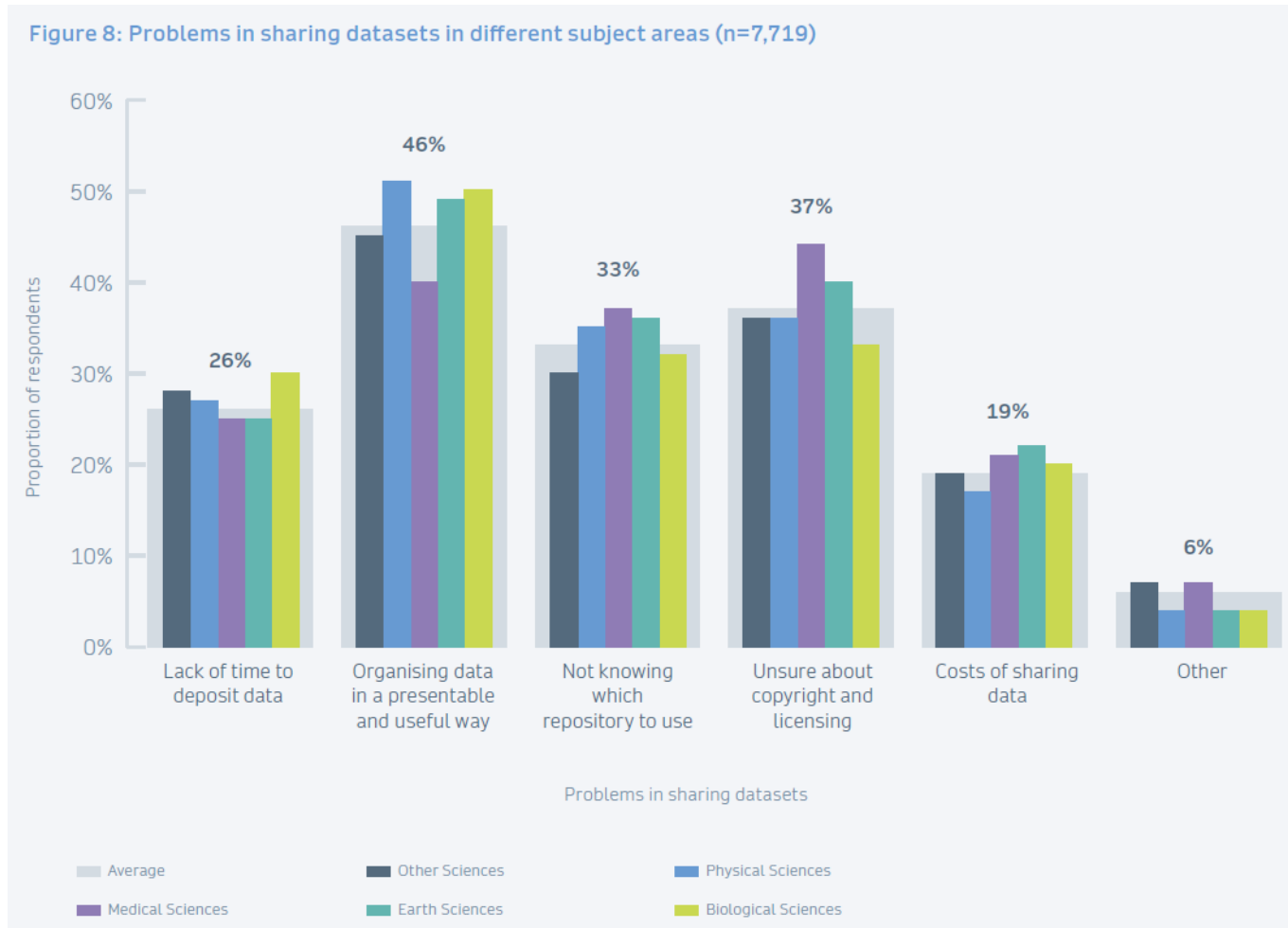
# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

## Between raw data and indicators



# Data discovery and accessibility

## Overcome problems in sharing data





# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)

## Characteristics of EBVs

- Relevant to scientific and policy questions
- Responsive in policy-relevant time-frames
- Biological state variables
- Equally applicable at local, regional and global scales (scalable)
- Measurable with available technologies at reasonable costs
- Stable enough to allow measuring them for decades to come
- Located between primary data observations ('raw data') and synthetic or derived indices ('indicators')