



GEO Biodiversity Observation Network

WG Network – Closing

**GEO BON Meeting
Potsdam, 8-10 April 2008**



Output product

Beginning Implementation Plan for
Network/ Governance area



Enthusiasm or Consensus

- GEO BON is extremely ambitious
- Find people who can act as champions
- Good idea to identify data providers
- Data sharing issues exist
- Pilots are a good idea





Enthusiasm or Consensus

- Try to build critical mass—then DPs will want to join
- GEO BON cannot solve all problems
- Use questionnaire as an entrée into DPs
- Network model: a loose network with the secretariat as the organizing force in the middle
- Two-pronged approach to starting up: 1) pilot project(s) and 2) develop basic network of KDPs





Full Agreement lacking



- Scope/extent of data providers (everyone?)



Strawperson Approach to Developing Network

- Use interim steering committee as interim governance structure
- Identify data provider, user, and research champions (continuous)
- Use pilot project(s) as partial organizing theme and proof of concept
- Identify key data providers (KDPs; + custodians, aggregators, networks, involve megadiverse countries) create typology?
- Talk with KDPs: ID data sharing concerns, discuss options
- Formalize governance structure
- Send letters to KDPs asking for their participation in pilots
- Bring in KDPs: data sharing and other agreements (start with easy ones; perhaps they self-organize)
- Identify and/or attract other DPs (workshop?)
- Letter to Nature/Science

- Ongoing activities
 - Start bringing in other DPs (grass roots, etc)
 - Identify gaps and try to fill
 - Facilitate citizen science
 - Plan for sustainability
 - Stay in contact with User WGs

Elsewhere

- Standards and protocols
- Capacity building



What does “Network” mean?



- Physical Network...of linked data systems
 - Data format standards
 - Communication protocols
 - Common terminology, architecture...
 - Data Provider Network...of institutions and partners
 - User and sponsor needs and goals
 - Coordination
 - Gap filling
 - Data sharing agreements
 - Sustainability planning
 - Leading to...Governance rules
 - Broader Network...all stakeholders (providers, users, sponsors, governments...)
- Data WG**
- Networking/
Governance WG**



Our problems to solve

- Many data providers (and aggregators)
 - Interoperability?
 - Ease of use for “outsiders”
 - Desire for global datasets
- Filling in gaps in data acquisition and provision
 - Expanding existing networks?
 - Facilitation of new ones
- What else?
- Implementation Plan
 - Lays out approach to solving these



Discussion topics

- What are the incentives for data providers to join GEO BON?
- What are the barriers to joining?
- Who are the users? What questions do they want answers to?
- How can data gaps be identified and filled?
- How can “citizen science” be facilitated?
- What are the requirements for data provider sustainability and how can they be achieved?
- How do we implement this with limited resources?
- What is a data provider Community of Practice, is it good, and how should it be built?
- What DO users really want?!



Focusing questions

- First: what are the thoughts on GEO BON from a data provider perspective?
- What are the tasks for data providers to create a network that achieves GEO BON goals?
- How are these tasks implemented ?
- What are the phases and milestones?
- What are the funding requirements; and...
- What level of commitment are various organizations able to make?
- What are the challenges?
- What is the schedule (roughly)?
- When does a Governance structure need to be defined?



Why is a network a good thing ?

- Synergy (data and social)
- User accessibility
- Global assessments
- Finding and filling gaps
- Community of practice