



Agenda

European Network for Biodiversity Information

Kick-off meeting

17 to 19 March 2003, Brussels, Belgium

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



Contents

Agenda ENBI kick-off meeting	3
Cluster and work package information.....	11
ENBI-GBIF information.....	13
Travel information.....	17

Agenda ENBI kick-off meeting

Monday 17 March

- 10:00 – 14:00 **Registration**
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch** for early arrivals at the “Salle des Minéraux”
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Welcome and opening session**
- Place: Large Auditorium
Chair: *Olivier Retout* (Head of International Relations, The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences)
- 14:00 – 14:15 Welcome
Biodiversity Research at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
Jackie Van Goethem (Head of the National Focal Point CBD, The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences)
- 14:15 – 14:30 Biodiversity and the European Commission.
Martin Sharman (European Commission, Research DG)
- 14:30 – 14:45 ENBI kick-off.
Wouter Los (University of Amsterdam, co-ordinator ENBI)
- 14:45 – 15:00 GBIF & ENBI.
Larry Speers (GBIF Secretariat Copenhagen)
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee and Tea**
- 15:30 – 17:10 **Cross-cutting issues**
- Place: Large Auditorium
Chair: *Piotr Zielenkiewicz* (University of Warsaw)
- 15:30 – 15:55 SEABCIN: South-East Asian Botanical Collections Information Network.
Peter C. van Welzen (National Herbarium of The Netherlands)
- 15:55 – 16:20 An overview of GIS as a tool for biodiversity documentation and analysis.
Aaron Beller (University of Jerusalem)
- 16:20 – 16:45 Biodiversity information for the European Environment Agency.
Dominique Richard (EEA, European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity)
- 16:45 – 17:10 The challenge of linking biodiversity and biosequence data systems.
Robert Herzog (Bioinformatics Laboratory, Université libre de Bruxelles)
- 17:10 – 17:30 Introduction Tuesday aims by *Wouter Los*.
- 19:30 – 23:00 **Gala Dinner** at “Iguanodon Hall”

Tuesday 18 March

Parallel sessions **Morning**

09:00 start

Cluster I
Large Auditorium

Cluster II
Small Auditorium

Cluster III
Entomology Dept.

Cluster IV
“Raadzaal”

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee & Tea

12:30 end

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch at “Cavicorne room”

Parallel sessions **Afternoon**

14:00 start

Joint meeting Cluster I & IV
Small Auditorium

Joint meeting Cluster II & III
Large Auditorium

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee & Tea

17:30 end

Discussions, *ad hoc* meetings, and preparing reports in the 4 meeting rooms.

Meeting ENBI Cluster I: Co-ordinating activities.

Place: Large Auditorium

Chair: *Wouter Los*

Reporter: *Cees Hof*

- 09:00 – 09:10 Introduction by *Wouter Los*, Cluster Leader.
- 09:10 – 09:30 Presentation WP1: Network co-ordination / Co-ordination with GBIF / Sustainability and continuity of European activities.
Wouter Los (University of Amsterdam)
- 09:30 – 10:00 Presentation WP2: ENBI Forums & Inventory of state-of-art.
Francisco Pando (Real Jardín Botánico – CSIC)
- ENBI Web pages (and sites).
 - ENBI meetings.
 - Interest Groups in ENBI's CIRCA.
 - ENBI electronic conference and forum workshop topics.
 - How to build the "extended-ENBI".
- 10:00 – 10:15 Discussion WP1 & WP2
- 10:15 – 10:30 An example: BeBIF.
Patricia Mergen (Belgian Biodiversity Information Facility, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee and Tea**
- 11:00 – 11:45 Presentation WP3: Dissemination.
Chris Johnson (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Crete)
- Report of the state of discussions and tentative proposals for the first two of our three 'big' dissemination workshops, following the first ENBI/GBIF meeting.
 - Start of discussion on input for the dissemination via a 'web-based journal'.
 - Presentation draft version of the ENBI brochure.
- 11:45 – 12:30 Presentation WP4: IPR, copyrights & financial issues.
Simon Owens (Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew)
- Breakdown of all the outputs and deadlines
 - Planning of workshops
 - Questions and discussion
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch** "Cavicorne room"

Meeting ENBI Cluster II: Maintenance, enhancement and presentation of biodiversity databases.

Place: Small Auditorium

Chair: *Malcolm Scoble*

Reporter: *to be announced*

- 09:00 – 09:10 Introduction to Cluster II by *Malcolm Scoble / Pamela Harling*.
- 09:10 – 09:40 Overview of WP5: Co-operation of pan-European checklist and ‘Species bank’ database projects.
Yury Roskov (School of Plant Sciences, The University of Reading)
- 09:40 – 09:55 WP5 Contribution of cultivated plants database.
Helmut Knüpfner (IPK, Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung)
- 09:55 – 10:10 Questions & discussion.
- 10:10 – 10:30 Overview WP6: Co-operation of pan-European databases on biological collections and specimens.
Malcolm Scoble (The Natural History Museum, London)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee and Tea**
- 11:00 – 11.50 Overview WP7: Observational survey data.
Jukka Salo, Ilari Sääksjärvi, Tuuli Toivonen, Marja Vieno (University of Turku)
- Overview.
 - Possibilities of geographical information systems in biodiversity studies.
 - Legacy and observational data.
 - Biodiversity information: real and potential needs and applications.
- 11:50 – 12:30 Cluster II timetables, deliverables and milestones. Links with GBIF, links with cluster III.
Pamela Harling (School of Plant Sciences, The University of Reading)
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch** “Cavicorne room”

Meeting ENBI Cluster III: Data integration, interoperability and analysis.

Place: Entomology Department

Chair: *Marc Brugman*

Reporter: *t.b.a.*

- 09:00 – 09:15 Opening & introduction of all the members of cluster III
- 09:15 – 09:35 Presentation WP8: Data management in large distributed biodiversity database systems.
Özgül Ünal (University of Amsterdam)
- Inter-linking/Integration of various biodiversity data descriptions and database schemas.
 - Analysis and design of a Collaborative Federated Information Management System.
 - Exploring the potential of applying GRID technology for federated databases.
 - Exploring the potential of applying Virtual Organization paradigm for biodiversity.
- 09:35 – 10:00 Presentation WP9: Interoperability & Common Access.
Wouter Addink (ETI Biodiversity Centre)
- What is interoperability, and what are the aspects?
- 10:00 – 10:30 Presentation WP10: Generic analysis tools and data mining.
Michael Malicky (Zobodat, Biologiezentrum des OÖ Landesmuseums)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee and Tea.**
- 11:00 – 12:30 Discussion of the GBIF Data Architecture document:
- a. Use cases
 - b. What is our view on the data architecture?
 - c. What is the impact on our deliverables?
 - d. Can we produce an ENBI cluster III feedback document for GBIF?
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch “Cavicornie room”**

Meeting ENBI Cluster IV: Products and e-services

Place: “Raadzaal”

Chair: *Henrik Enghoff*

Reporter: *Isabel Calabuig*

- 09:00 – 09:10 Opening & Introduction of partners in Cluster IV
- 09:10 – 09:25 Presentation WP11: Multi-lingual access.
Bernd Ueberschaer (University of Kiel)
- 09:25 – 09:40 Presentation WP12: Information services on European biodiversity data.
Christian Köppel (V.I.M.- Verlag für interaktive Medien)
- 09:40 – 10:00 Presentation WP13: Making non-European biodiversity data in European repositories globally available.
Isabel Calabuig (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen)
- 09:45 – 10:30 **Separate sessions for each work package**
- 09:45 – 10:00 WP12: European Dictionary of Domesticated and Utilized Animals.
Ursula Monnerjahn (ZADI, Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und –information)
- 10:00 – 10:15 WP12: A taxonomic aid to identifying a critical group of freshwater invertebrates.
Hanna-Leena Hartikainen (Freshwaterlive, U.K.)
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee and Tea**
- 11:00 – 12:30 Continuation separate work package sessions.
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch** “Cavicornie room”

Meeting ENBI Cluster I & IV “Presentation, Services, and Data Sharing”

Place: Small Auditorium
Chair: *Wouter Los*
Reporter: *Cees Hof*

- 14:00 – 14:20 Inventory of state-of-art (WP2)
Christian Köppel (V.I.M.- Verlag für interaktive Medien)
- 14:20 – 14:35 An introduction to EPGRIS and EURISCO.
Ursula Monnerjahn (ZADI, Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und –information)
- 14:35 – 15:00 The current state of play in relation to IPR & legal issues for BioCASE.
&
Current work on data sharing at Kew (including a Brazilian data sharing programme and the Spruce).
Simon Owens (Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew)
- 15:00 – 15:30 Discussing GBIF – Outreach and Capacity Building and ENBI
Beatriz Torres (GBIF Secretariat Copenhagen)
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee and Tea**
- 16:00 – 17:30 Time for discussions, *ad hoc* meetings, and preparing reports.
- 17:30 **End**

Meeting ENBI Cluster II & III “Biodiversity databases and IT developments”

Place: Large Auditorium
Chair: *t.b.a.*
Reporter: *t.b.a.*

- 14:00 – 14:20 Experiences from BioCASE.
Walter Berendsohn (Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem)
- 14:20 – 14:40 An introduction to SPICE & LITCHI.
Andrew C. Jones (University of Wales, Cardiff)
- 14:40 – 15:00 An introduction to EuroCat
Pamela Harling (School of Plant Sciences, The University of Reading)
- 15:00 – 15:15 Biological collections (legacy data) and observational data similarities and differences.
Ilari Sääksjärvi (University of Turku)
- 15:15 – 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee and Tea**
- 16:00 – 17:30 Time for discussions, *ad hoc* meetings, and preparing reports.
- 17:30 **End**

Wednesday 19 March

09:00 – 10:00 **Reports from Tuesday**

Place: Large Auditorium

Chair: *Bo Fernholm* (Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Reporter: Reports collected by *Cees Hof*

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee and Tea

10:30 – 12:30 **Plenary discussion**

Place: Large Auditorium

Chair: *Wouter Los*

Reporter: *Cees Hof*

10:30 – 11:30 Discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Timetable and practicalities

12:30 Closing of the meeting

Cluster and work package information

From the ENBI Description of Work (DoW):

ENBI is organised on a work package (wp) basis. There are four main thematic clusters of work packages ensuring close interaction between related work packages.

Cluster I Co-ordinating activities.

- wp1 Network co-ordination / Co-ordination with GBIF / Sustainability and continuity of European activities
- wp2 ENBI Forums & Inventory of state-of-art.
- wp3 Dissemination.
- wp4 IPR, copyrights & financial issues.

Cluster II Maintenance, enhancement and presentation of biodiversity databases.

- wp5 Co-operation of pan-European checklist and 'Species bank' database projects.
- wp6 Co-operation of pan-European databases on biological collections and specimens.
- wp7 Observational survey data.

Cluster III Data integration, interoperability and analysis.

- wp8 Data management in large distributed biodiversity database systems.
- wp9 Interoperability and common access.
- wp10 Generic analysis tools and data mining.

Cluster IV Products and e-services.

- wp11 Multi-lingual access
- wp12 Information services on European biodiversity data.
- wp13 Making non-European biodiversity data in European repositories globally available.

Cluster I: Co-ordinating activities

The co-ordinating activities constitute the basic and central work packages of ENBI to make sure that the collation and dissemination of biodiversity information and expertise in Europe is well organized, and is placed in an appropriate legal and financial context. These activities may not finish after the lifetime of this EU Thematic Network. Mechanisms are developed to support the continued involvement of the ENBI members and end-users, and of relevant Member State and EU bodies, with the objective to promote continuity and sustainability of the network.

Cluster II: Maintenance, enhancement and presentation of biodiversity databases

Biodiversity datasets are fragmented and dispersed in heterogeneous systems established by diverse organisations. A number of horizontal aggregations and interoperable systems have already been started by the EC and others, but there remains a major need for co-ordination and standards for content, and the creation of

a common access system that may bring all together with vertical integration in a European gateway.

It is against this background that ENBI starts to co-ordinate common access to the various layers of knowledge, to assist with data standards within these layers, and to assess and plan remedies for both gaps and disparities in coverage for all organisms. As in other areas, it is important that ENBI uses and builds on what is already being done at the European level. Each work package deals with issues within the database layer, such as assessing coverage of organisms, evolving data standards and 'best practice' for management, strategies for sustainable enhancement, and the remedying of gaps and disparities. They also deal with horizontal integration, calling on assistance from work packages 8, 9 and 10 (cluster III) in pilot projects, and building on existing projects to create a common access for the layer.

Cluster II brings together the main players in three fundamental layers of biodiversity datasets.

Cluster III: Data integration, interoperability and analysis

The work plan aims to promote the exchange of knowledge, know-how and ideas that are currently available and to achieve a common code of practice, (meta) data standards and generic communication protocols to facilitate access to, and interoperability between, various 'layers' of biodiversity information sources on the Internet. Since the amount and variety of data stored and managed within the biodiversity community is very large, and since IT tools for analysis, identification and geographic presentation require computationally-intensive processing, the demands for performance, robustness and scalability for the communication framework and ICT facilities are high.

The work in cluster III deals with generic applications of information and communication technologies enabling Internet access to the network of biodiversity databases and tool providers in the framework of the desired interoperable functionality and direct practical use of the information (analysis, information products and services).

Cluster IV: Products and e-services

The work plan is focused on user needs, and on making European biodiversity information available for the end-users. The users include government agencies, decision makers, legislators, scientists, companies, and citizens. Also non-European users are very dependent on access to European information, because many data in European repositories originate from non-European (often developing) countries. Understanding the needs of all these kinds of users is paramount for the dissemination of biodiversity knowledge resources, and common access, with attention to multi-lingual access (WP 11), is a key issue.

ENBI-GBIF information

Meeting of GBIF Secretariat and ENBI work package co-ordinators

Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, 8 – 9 January 2003

Report

Introduction

The European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI) provides a platform for the co-ordinating institutes of a variety of projects in biodiversity information, as well as for the national GBIF-nodes. The platform will promote and focus the European contribution to the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Co-operation between the two networks is important to create synergy, and to pool resources where possible and appropriate.

As input for the kick-off meeting of ENBI on 17-19 March 2003, the work package coordinators of ENBI organised a meeting with the GBIF Secretariat (program officers) to identify the opportunities for co-operation. Background documents were the ENBI “Description of Work 2003-2006”, and the GBIF “Work Program 2003”. The recommendations of the meeting are summarized below.

1. Coordination

- 1.1 As ENBI is intended to serve as the European contribution (apart from the national involvements) to GBIF, it was concluded to sign a Letter of Intent to cooperate. W. Los will make a draft, which, after approval, will be signed by the ENBI coordinator and the GBIF Executive Secretary.
- 1.2 The ENBI network will promote that European countries, not being a (voting) member of GBIF, will sign the GBIF Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.3 The European Commission is invited to appoint a representative in the NODES committee of GBIF. NODES is the participants nodes committee. As the EC has presently no GBIF-node it is a question whether ENBI (being a network) or the EEA (with a different mission) should send a member for NODES. If the EEA would be interested to host and maintain biodiversity databases on the European level, it would make sense to contact EEA. If this is no option, it is recommended to choose ENBI.
- 1.4 ENBI and GBIF will meet on a regularly basis.
 - 1.4.1 The GBIF Executive Secretary and Program Officers are invited to attend all meetings of the ENBI Steering Committee.

- 1.4.2 The GBIF Secretariat will be informed about all other planned ENBI (cluster or work package meetings), and are free to attend any of these meetings.
 - 1.4.3 The GBIF Secretariat will inform the ENBI bureau about any meeting that is of potential interest for ENBI partners.
 - 1.4.4 Any additional required meeting of the ENBI Coordinator and the GBIF Executive Secretary will be planned in conjunction of other meetings, and with an established agenda in advance.
 - 1.4.5 There is a strong need for coordination of ENBI workshops and meetings both within ENBI and with regard to GBIF activities. An electronic system will be developed to promote the harmonisation of meetings.
- 1.5 Any joint activities by ENBI and GBIF with financial support from both sides will require a decision of each party. (ENBI Steering Committee and GBIF Science Committee / Executive Secretary). For each activity it will be decided who is in charge of the management of this activity.
- 1.6 The GBIF Secretariat will consider the organisation of meetings or workshops of ENBI, IABIN and other comparable regional networks. The objective is to exchange experiences, to compare each organisational models and activities, and to make recommendations for potential initiatives in other regions. The GBIF Secretariat will also consider the organisation of meetings or workshops of representatives from other large scale taxonomic or collection database efforts.
- 1.7 ENBI will study the implications of public domain biodiversity information on the organisational and financial mechanisms to maintain these public services (public finance versus cost recovery). Following the production of a white paper, a workshop with governmental and private agencies will address these issues. The GBIF Secretariat will consider to co-organize the workshop and to involve non-European participants.
- 1.8 ENBI will promote that reports from EU projects on IPR issues in relation to biodiversity databases will be shared with GBIF. A common approach towards any problems with respect to ownership, sensitive data, and other issues will be addressed jointly in a Code of Conduct.

2. ENBI – Databases

GBIF – Electronic Catalogue of names of known organisms - Digitization of natural history collections

- 2.1 The Species 2000 europa project (EC EuroCat) will aggregate taxonomic checklist data from Fauna Europaea, Euro+Med PlantBase and ERMS in its 'EuroHub', and integrate this with global data in its 'GlobalHub'. Species 2000 and ITIS are contributing jointly to the Catalogue of Life (CoL), and it is this product that will be used by GBIF. GBIF will use the CoL as its prime source of global taxonomic checklist and synonymy, and index to this the names found in contributing databases.

- 2.2 The role of EuroCat WP2 is to oversee and facilitate the coordination between EuroCat and GBIF, ENBI and EEA. Especially the collaboration between the Names Server collaborators and the interface related work of the ENBI Cluster III would be an area where WP 5 could contribute.
- 2.3 Some of the ENBI deliverables would be of immediate interest to the GBIF ECAT Work Programme. Especially the promised White Paper on Species Bank and the gap analysis would be interesting. The WP 1 White Paper on Sustainability and Continuity would be of immediate interest to ECAT as the funding situation for most taxonomic databases is complicated and because GBIF is dependant on the longevity of these databases.
- 2.4 The need and interest for a "taxonomic registry", an electronic mechanism or facility to deposit new species names (getting an 'id' like new sequences in GeneBank), in connection with research into Taxonomic Concept systems is a subject of mutual concern between ENBI, Species 2000 europa and GBIF.
- 2.5 There are particular links between the GBIF work programme and ENBI WPs 6&7 under the GBIF DIGIT and ECAT projects. The 'best practice' manual to be made for type imaging in ENBI will be a specific contribution to GBIF 'participant nodes' (p. 3 of GBIF 2003 work programme).
- 2.6 GBIF is already preparing a computerised web-based 'book' with chapters on best practice for making images of type specimens. This material will expressly inform the first workshop of ENBI WP6 (month 13) on developing standards and best practice for the databasing and imaging of type specimens. ENBI will feedback results to GBIF as the type project evolves (and GBIF will be represented at the workshop). The process will be one of reciprocal illumination rather than duplication. GBIF will inform ENBI WP6 of developments on this subject outside Europe.

3. ENBI - Interoperability and common access GBIF - Data Access and data Interoperability

- 3.1 Achieve maximum transparency between the two communities of GBIF and ENBI to avoid duplication of effort or competing models.
- 3.2 The schema and models as discussed in the GBIF secretariat and the ENBI Cluster III should be unified in one single technical document describing the architecture that can be used as starting point for design and development. This 'base-line' document will be fed into the ENBI Network and in the GBIF community to generate feedback.
- 3.3 Cooperation in the survey of interoperability tools: there are a lot of tools being used for database interoperability like SPICE, BioCASE, ALLSpecies, etc. One of the deliverables of cluster II is to make an inventory of all available tools. GBIF has done work in this field and will share knowledge with ENBI.

- 3.4 During the March 2003 start meeting of ENBI a meeting between specialists of GBIF and cluster III will be organised. The goal of this meeting is to discuss the draft base-line document on how to approach the different work packages in cluster III, to make sure that the deliverables of ENBI fit into those of GBIF.
- 3.5 GBIF intends to hold a DADI stag in July. ENBI experts will be invited to attend it, which will make this a back-to-back meeting with cluster III. This meeting should be a follow-up of the March meeting.

4. ENBI – Products and e-Services GBIF – Outreach and Capacity Building

- 4.1 WP12 and WP13 intend to work in part with questionnaires, and other WPs , as well as GBIF, may have or develop similar ideas. Since many of the recipients of ENBI questionnaires will be duplicated, there is a need for coordination/mutual tuning of questionnaires in order to minimize the effort asked of the recipients, as well as the workload connected with ENBI’s handling of the replies. – All WP leaders should inform WP1 about their intent of using questionnaires, and WP1 should coordinate with the involved WPs.
- 4.2 GBIF-ENBI collaboration in the OCB area includes such topics as
- IPR (WP4)
 - Data sharing (WP 12,13)
 - User needs (WP 12,13)
 - Data use (WP 12,13)
- 4.3 GBIF will of course be invited to the WP13 workshop on user needs.
- 4.4 Due to the geographical proximity of the GBIF Secretariat and ENBI’s Cluster IV and WP13 leader (Zoological Museum, Copenhagen), a close, day-to-day collaboration is planned between Beatriz Torres and Isabel Calabuig/Henrik Enghoff.
- 4.5 In the field of dissemination (WP3), an ENBI brochure and an ENBI online journal will be produced in collaboration with GBIF.
- 4.5 Electronic conferences organized by ENBI (WP2) will be open for participation for anybody, not only for ENBI participants.

Travel information

Address of the museum:

Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique
29 rue Vautier
B-1000 Bruxelles

Emergency contact for meeting:

Olivier Retout, GSM: (00 32) (0) 497 19 32 56
Cees Hof, GSM: (00 31) (0) 620 52 45 48

Instruction for access to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (see also **maps on the web site:**

<http://www.naturalsciences.be/museum/infopratt/access/index.html>)

From National Airport – Zaventem:

- By Taxi: 15 min – around 20
- By train: there is a shuttle every 20 min. Travel duration = 20 min.; Cost =3-5 .
From the airport the shuttle goes directly to the Central Station (don't stop at Nord Station) then take a metro.

From Train stations:

- When you arrive at Nord – Station => go to Central Station then take a metro
- Central Station or South Station => take a metro
- Leopold Station (also called Luxembourg or Schuman train station): if you arrive there, you can walk to the Museum (5min.) through the European Parliament.

Metro

There are only 2 lines.

- From Central Station, take line 1, direction Herman-Debroux, and get out at the Maalbeek station (8 min.) and then walk across the Leopold Park (5 min.).
- From South Station, take line 2 till Arts-Loi (8 min.) then change to line 1, direction Herman-Debroux, and get out at the Maalbeek station....

Address of the Hotel:

New Hotel Charlemagne****
Bld Charlemagne 25-27
B-1000 Brussels
Tel : 0032(2)2302135

URL : www.new-hotel.be

The web site of the hotel provides a map and travel guidelines. The hotel is within walking distance (15-20 min.) from the Institute.