TO: The World Bank, the IABIN Executive Committee and IABIN Council

IABIN Executive Committee:
Gladys Cotter – (Chairperson) United States of America
Karin Molt – (Vice-Chair) Chile
Ana Aber – Uruguay
Francisco González Salas – Costa Rica
Victoria Lichtschein – Argentina
Antonio Matamoros – Ecuador
Dionne Newell - Jamaica
Dario Luque – Panama
Beatriz Torres - Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Maarten Kappelle – The Nature Conservancy

FROM: GS/OAS and the IABIN Secretariat

RE: **Eighth Semester Report** – Period: July 01 – December 31, 2008
Building the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)

1. SUMMARY AND IABIN PROJECT MILESTONES BY COMPONENT

The GEF "Building IABIN" project 2008 represented fair overall progress. Disbursements, while still lagging behind original forecasts, should be better in 2009 given that (i) all 5 TNs have completed their work on standards and protocols for their TNs and the Catalogue contract(s) have advanced to the point where the data should be integrated and interoperable between TNs and other databases (ii) RfPs for data content grants will be active in all 5 TNs and the Catalogue and should go from 78 to the full 125 forecasted, (iii) the grants value added should be completed and the balance utilized for outreach, and (iv) partnerships and fundraising efforts will start to nurture potential partnerships based on proposals written by the Vision/MTR (Medium Term Review)/ and fundraising consultant.

The major challenges expected in the coming year will be to (i) take the steps to promote the sustainability of IABIN by preparation of several fundraising proposals by the Vision/MTR/fundraising consultant (ii) set the vision for IABIN after the GEF Project (iii) boost actions for fundraising including outreach/campaigns, communications by implementing fundraising and vision plan, (iv) continue facilitating the work of the CIs, (v) increase the number of organizations receiving data content creation grants from 78 grants awarded to an additional 47 grants planned to be awarded in 2009 (vi) integrate Component #3 "Information Tools for Decision Making" into TNs and Catalogue, and (vii) solidify partnerships.

Length of time to receive no objections from the World Bank has hampered project implementation. Two cases in particular to receive no objections resulted in project delays. (i) Amendment No 3 to the GEF Trust Fund Agreement dragged on from July 31st to December 2008, and (ii) the no objection from the Bank for Component #3 "Information Products for Decision Makers" Agreements (originally requested on September 30th, 2008) has still not been received with a 1st round of comments received on February 5, 2009.

The implementation of the project from the JRS Biodiversity Foundation (200k) could not be implemented during 2008 for inability to organize an acceptable project team. In late 2008 INBio was identified as the PI and the project will be implemented in 2009. The work for the GeoSur Project with funds from CAF ($50K) was successfully implemented.

The IABIN Project is helping IABIN to position itself by building an important hemispheric information network and forging partnerships between Government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and museums that house biological and geospacial information. The Secretariat throughout the first semester was staffed by the data content manager, thematic networks coordinator, an administrative assistant and a half time webpage assistant. All Coordinating Institutions for the five Thematic Networks are finishing the development of the infrastructure and developing tools for digitizing of data and communication portals that will solidify in the IT TWG meeting to be held in March 2009 in Panama. The implementation of Component 3 is advancing, with four proposals to develop decision-making tools (awaiting the no objection from the World Bank for the contractual "Agreements"). The Vision Statement was sent by the consultant for review to the IEC in December 2008 for review and the MTR will be sent in early 2009.

IABIN Project Milestones for July-December 2008

In 2008, IABIN made progress on a number of fronts:

- The Coordinating Institutions all made progress with an improved reporting framework.
- 78 (average 10k) data content creation grants were awarded between 2006-2008
- The IABIN Council and Executive Committee (IEC) members informed of project execution and network activities through Semester and Workshop Reports, and by keeping IABIN.net up-to-date.
- IABIN webpage. www.iabin.net is operational in Spanish and English, however actions should be taken in 2009 to update the website that has been criticized for having a non-user friendly layout.
- The IABIN Vision Meetings took place in Washington DC in October 2008 and an MTR/Vision/fundraising consultant was hired.
- Four projects have been approved to be funded under Component 3: Information Products for Decision Making.
- 20 requests for proposals have been published since 2006. Four more are to be published in January 2009 and the first request for proposals to digitize metadata will be published in March, 2009.
- 140 proposals were received and evaluated from 2006 to 2008.
- 78 proposals have been approved as of December 2008.
- The first Request for Proposals to digitize protected areas data did not produce any proposal from the Ministries of the Environment or other government agencies that

manage these data in each country. Work is being done individually with the Ministries of the Environment in the Hemisphere to obtain proposals for PATN.

- All TNs have developed a training module with training materials in English and Spanish. PATN and PTN will develop the training materials in Portuguese too.
- SSTN carried out two training for trainers' workshops in 2008, one in Spanish and one in English. Representatives were trained from 15 Spanish speaking countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela), and from eight English speaking countries (Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and USA) plus Haiti, as well as representatives from ETN, I3N, PTN, and the Catalog. In total 29 people were trained in the use of the three SSTN tools (data digitizing, connector and web page).
- SSTN is developing an online training module on the use of its tools. This training module will be ready by the end of May 2009.
- ETN carried out a workshop in December 2008 to review the Fresh Water Ecosystems. Representatives from 6 countries participated. This was carried out with support from TNC and NatureServe.
- I3N leads from Argentina and Uruguay coordinated a meeting to establish a national hierarchical system for invasive species. The Lead from Argentina developed a classification list as a result.
- The I3N Coordinator presented the I3N Database and Tools at a training on aquatic invasive species attended by representatives from environmental, agricultural, and fisheries agencies from Central America and coordinated by OSPESCA – CCAD in El Salvador in July 2008.
- The I3N National Lead from Argentina collaborated with the UNESCO Program Man and the Biosphere (MAB) to edit the technical content of a book, and write a chapter, on invasive species in biosphere reserves of Latin America.
- The I3N US lead provided an overview of the I3N database system and risk assessment tools during Learning Opportunity #375, "Safeguarding biodiversity and livelihoods from biological invasion: global sharing of experience and information as a key step to effective management at local level," at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona on 08 October 2008.
- The I3N lead from Argentina organized and gave a course about the Ecology and Management of Biological Invasions to natural science professionals and park guards at the Universidad Nacional del Sur.
- The National Lead of I3N Colombia, a representative of Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, drafted and gave to the Colombian Ministry of Environmental, Wildlife, and Territorial Development (MAVDT) for publication a preliminary diagnostic document for Colombia and a National Plan for Prevention, Control, and Management of Introduced Invasive Exotic Species and Transplants (Plan Nacional para la Prevención, Control y Manejo de las Especies Introducidas Exóticas, Invasoras y Trasplantadas).
- The National Lead of I3N Colombia and the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt held two Workshops on guidelines for management of bioinformatics and included guidelines on invasive species. They are collaborating with SSTN and have made some Colombian invasive species and factsheets available through the SSTN using Plinian Core.
- The I3N Lead in the Dominican Republic coordinated and held several national meetings and workshops to discuss and draft a decree to form a National Committee on Invasive Species (Comité Nacional de Especies Invasoras).

- The I3N community was kept informed via the Web site and the I3N listserv with regular postings and announcements.
- The National Leads of Uruguay organized a National Workshop on Invasive Species in Montevideo, with the assistance of the I3N National Lead from Argentina.
- PTN carried out a pilot workshop in June, 2008 to test its data digitizing tool. The PTN Technical Working Group members as well as representatives from 3 countries participated and 20 people were trained. PTN will carry out three Training for Trainers workshops in 2009, one each in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
- In September 2008, PATN carried out a training workshop on the use of the tool to update the WDPA and on the use of the tool to digitize protected areas information developed by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil (MMA). Representatives of the Ministries of the Environment of 17 countries participated as well as people from WCMC, the Secretariat, I3N and ETN, a total of 20 people. Most of the participants expressed their desire to use the MMA tool. Unlike other TNs, there are very few potential data providers for PATN (the ministries of the environment of each country plus a handful of INGOs who have PA data).
- I3N has carried out training workshops in most IABIN member countries, with the support of TNC. Over 250 people have been trained by I3N. In 2009 it will focus on the countries of the Central American and Caribbean that have not yet had training on invasive species data (Belize, Honduras, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia, St, Kits & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago).
- With funds from the training subcomponent under the Catalog, there have been two training workshops on the development of geospatial metadata with 38 people trained.
- There has been one training on development of metadata with 12 people trained.
- Total people trained by TNs as of December 31, 2008 is 322
- Three countries have carried out their national training with seeds funds from IABIN on the use of the SSTN tools as of December 31, 2008: (Bolivia, Colombia, , and Panama, Mexico and United States carried out their training with their own funds. In total, 78 people were trained.
- Five countries have their national training in the use of the SSTN tools programmed for early 2009.
- 14 other countries are in the process of presenting their proposals to carry out their national training in the use of SSTN tools. It is expected they will carry it out before August 2009.
- 78 people have been trained at the national level
- 400 people have been trained, both at Training for Trainers and at National Workshops
- At its Second Meeting, the IEC determined that the responsibility for data quality belongs with the owner of the data.
- IABIN adopted the GBIF's recommendations and best practice with regards to data quality (documents resulting from a consulting job carried out by Arthur Chapman – www.gbif.org).
- Proposals were requested to implement the Data Quality subcomponent and were received from SSTN, I3N, PTN and ETN. PATN is waiting for the new CI before sending its proposal. The work under this subcomponent includes reviewing the reports and databases from data digitizing grantees.
- To date, 35 reports have been evaluated.

2. COMPONENT 1 – INTEROPERABILITY AND ACCESS TO DATA

2.1. IABIN Catalog Service

The following major tasks and deliverables related to the IABIN Catalog have been accomplished or are near completion.

Accomplishments:

The initial production version of the IABIN Catalog was released in July 2008, and is now active on IABIN.net, as well at iabin-catalog.nbii.gov. The IABIN Catalog is currently searching approximately 200,000 biological databases, web-sites, publications, and images relevant to the Americas. Additional content is being added monthly as relevant sources are identified.

The NBII Biocomplexity Thesaurus (in English) is fully integrated into the current version and allows users to discover a range of resources through keywords related to their search queries.

Two consultants were hired to translate and perform concept mappings of the NBII Biocomplexity Thesaurus in English into Spanish and Portuguese in October 2008. Once both consultancies are complete, the Catalog team will begin integrating Spanish and Portuguese terms into the search function in the first semester of 2009, allowing limited trilingual searches.

Crawling of IABIN relevant test content was performed in the Catalog Test Environment (at SAIC) and the eventual production environment at NBII Denver.
- Several revisions were necessary to include as much metadata as possible related to Geographic Location, Resource Type, and IABIN TN properties. This required considerable processing and reprocessing of IABIN content to insure accurate and high quality results would occur.

Unique view allowing IABIN users to on-demand sort and view results by Geography, IABIN TN, and Resource Type were created within the Catalog system.
- Revisions were performed to remove non-IABIN country folders from the Geographic view
- An additional view, Continent, to top-level folders in Geographical view was added.
- Multiple Image classifications and views were combined into one view to make it easier on users.
- Added Organizations and Publications folders to Content Type view.
- Added visual effect to "All Results" folder to make it stand-out from other folders to aid user's differentiation between folders and subfolders.

Translation of Geographical, Resource Type, and IABIN TN folder names into Spanish and Portuguese was completed.

Testing of various system components occurred to ensure Internet Browser compatibility (IE and Firefox primarily) and multi-lingual system components.

Completed online Help/FAQs and incorporated the draft version into the external script and BioBot search input tag. The Help/FAQ files were then translated into Spanish (IABIN Secretariat supported) and Portuguese (I3N supported).

Work began to migrate all developed code to the production environment at NBII Denver. Developed the capability, based on meeting with the CI and Secretariat, to allow users the ability to "re-query" from the existing search results page to improve user experience.

Additional development and enhancements were performed on the "external url scripts" that would allow IABIN partners to integrate the IABIN Catalog search into their existing web-sites.

Work was performed, by the CI, on the development of a "simple" terminology service for IABIN. Major phrases and/or terms were collected from IABIN sites and TN's to form the basis of this multi-lingual repository. This will greatly aid search and discovery and also help TNs with metadata creation.

Updated milestone completions and for future Year 2 work was developed by SAIC and the CI. The Catalog consultant met with the CI and the IABIN Secretariat to discuss the final deliverables for Year 1 and start initial planning for Year 2.

Additional work was performed by SAIC, for release by March 2009, as it relates to discovering and viewing additional IABIN TN resources. The ability for users to retrieve results from the IABIN Catalog and during the results viewing phase, obtain additional results from IABIN TN sites is currently in final testing and evaluation at the NBII Denver facilityThe intended purpose, requested by various IABIN TNs, is to improve the relationship between the IABIN Catalog and existing IABIN TN sites.

Upcoming Efforts:

IABIN's IT Technical Working Group is currently planning a meeting in late March 2009 in Panama, where it will adopt a geospatial strategy for IABIN and continue integration of the Catalog with each Thematic Network and their Component 2 data content grants. Additional topics will include planning for IABIN Metadata grants, discussions related to indexing of IABIN TN content, sharing IABIN specimen content throughout the network, future needs for an integrated IABIN network web site, and other technical discussions.

Translation of the Biocomplexity Thesaurus into Spanish and Portuguese will be completed by July 2009, and integrated into the search interface, allowing users to see results for their queries in all three supported languages.

Full Catalog integration with IABIN's TNs will occur following this IT TWG meeting, and the completion of Component 2 Data Content Grants.

IABIN Catalog Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible	Cumulative since Dec 2006	Measurement on 3rd Quarter 2008	Measurement on 4th Quarter 2008
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of :				
Catalog	Mike Frame	0	9,957 Views	
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				
Catalog	Mike Frame	0	200,000	

5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs				
Catalog	Mike Frame	0	15	

2.2. Thematic Networks (TNs)

2.2.2.1 Species and Specimens TN (SSTN)

Starting in the second semester of 2008, SSTN has been in a phase of maintaining the software developed and of providing support to the Secretariat in its activities of grant projects follow-up, outreach, training and strategic planning. Thus, during the last quarter minor adjustments were carried out in Ara, the data digitizing tool for species and specimens. The SSTN portal had some functions added as part of a parallel project financed by GBIF-Spain. The portal version 2.0 became available in February 2008 and version 2.0 of Ara became available in August, 2008.
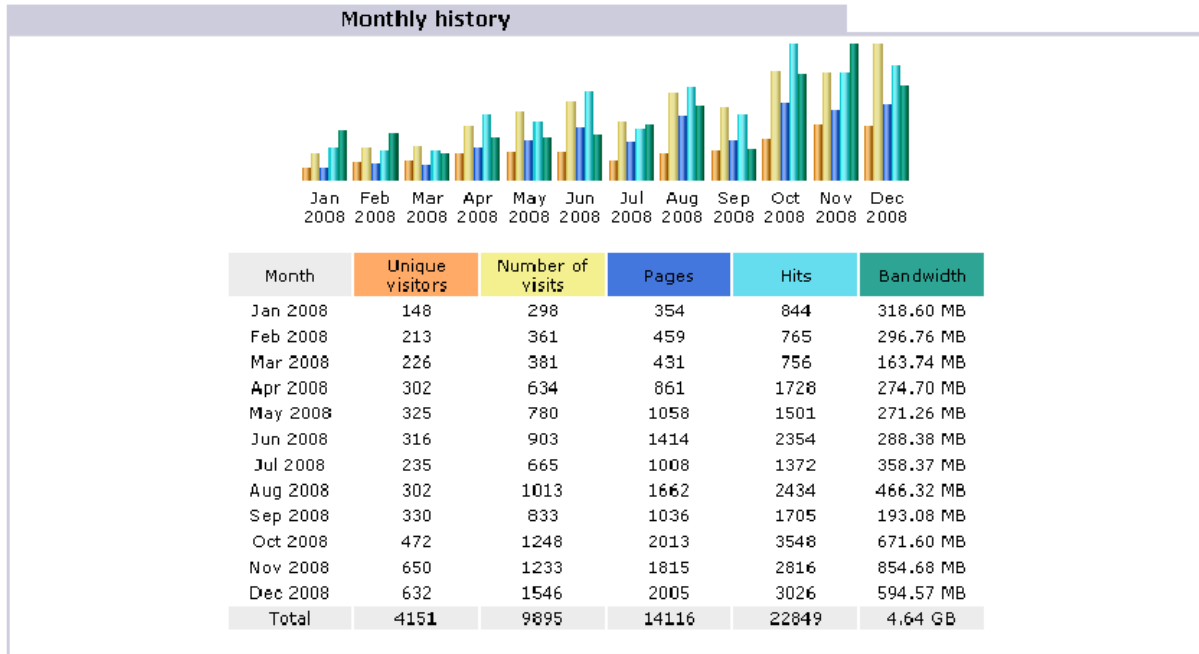
As mentioned above, INBio's technical staff has maintained the tools in order to correct possible errors and improve their efficiency. In addition, as a benefit for the sustainability of the activities of the network, INBio has continued developing bioinformatics projects with its partners (such as the GBIF node in Spain) that allow new functions to be added to the software of SSTN

As a product of the parallel effort carried out jointly with the GBIF node in Spain (GBIF.ES) and with funding from GBIF.ES, the functions of the Portal were expanded to the following use cases related to accessing species information:

1. Visualizing taxons found as a list of scientific names on which the user may be able to consult taxonomic information, a distribution map, a list of specimens and images associated to the taxon, among other things.

2. Filter for data providers. The system allows the user to select the data providers from which he wishes to obtain information and to repeat this again applying a new filter.

3. Filter for data resources. Similarly to the previous option, the user is able to apply to the results of the recently carried search, an additional filter by resource (or by database within a data provider).

4. Download species included in the results. Allows the user to save in his local disk the information resulting from the search, either in a table separated by commas or in an Excel file. The user has the possibility of selecting the columns that he wishes to obtain in the resulting file.

5. Download XML records for the results. Similarly to the previous option, it allows to save the results in a local disk but in Plinian Core format (XML).

6. Download a text citation for the results. It returns to the user the citation that he should use to recognize the sources of information. This new function will be used in Spain by GBIF.

Statistics

The following table shows the statistics accumulated to December 31, 2008. For more detail please see: http://species.iabin.net/awstats/awstats.pl?config=species.iabin.net

As can be appreciated, the fourth quarter was characterized by a noticeable increase in the five indicators of access to the SSTN web page.

SSTN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible		Measurement on 3rd Quarter 2008	Measurement on 4th Quarter 2008
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of : Website's visits				
SSTN (Spanish and English)	E. Mata		2511	4027
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				
Species (# Records)	E. Mata		3784	4389
Species (# Data Providers)	E. Mata		1	2
Specimens (# Records)	E. Mata		2,793,104	2,889,911
Specimens (# Data Providers)	E. Mata		9	10
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use				

of tools developed by IABIN TNs			
SSTN	E. Mata	9	

2.2.2.2. Invasive Species TN (I3N)

- The I3N Country Web System template was installed in Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Peru in the second semester of 2008. Guatemala's data is available online through the I3N web site. The *I3N Country Web System* includes a Web template, an intranet system designed for loading data into the *I3N Database* template, and an administrative system through which authorizations for data providers are assigned and the information is analyzed before its publication on the Internet.

- Risk and pathways analyses tools were translated into English and made available in both English and Spanish through the I3N web site. They are designed to use I3N data and controlled vocabulary, and can use data from PATN & SSTN. Their objective is to support prevention, early detection and control, to enable governments to determine management priorities based on I3N data. Results can be used in national IAS strategies, reports and policy development. A users' manual and a powerpoint show about the invasive species issue and the tools are also posted on the Web and are downloadable.

- The I3N Web site, which is rich in content and complies with new IABIN guidelines for Thematic Networks, continues to grow. It provides access to newly-developing I3N country Websites and offers downloads of newly-developed value-added tools to aid in decision support.

- I3N Technical Working Group planning meeting, held in San Salvador on 09-11 September 2008, where the development of new I3N open source tools was discussed.

- In December of 2008, I3N published a Terms of Reference for the Redesign and Conversion to Open Source of the I3N Database. A selection is expected by late January 2009.

- Each country that actively participates in I3N has one or more organizations, represented by individuals, leading its efforts. These individuals, called I3N Leads or Co-Leads, coordinate I3N activities among the I3N Coordinating Institution, their country's IABIN Focal Point (see description below), and data providers. Current active members (18) are (click on country name to see I3N lead information: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia**,** Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica**,** Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama**,** Paraguay, Peru, USA, Uruguay.   In 2009 I3N will seek the participation of a National Lead for Venezuela.

- I3N work with other TNs, IABIN IT TWG, and Catalog Coordinator:
  - SSTN: Instituto Alexander von Humboldt led cooperative species trainings with the SSTN.
  - PTN: CI representatives are also members of I3N CI.
  - PATN: I3N risk analysis tool includes PATN data.
  - Catalog: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the IABIN Catalog.
  - IABIN IT TWG: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the the IABIN IT TWG.

I3N Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible	Cumulative since Dec 2006	Measurement on 3rd Quarter 2008	Measurement on 4th Quarter 2008
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of :				
I3N	C. Fournier	39,470* *[Note: Total visits to I3N during the 1st semester of 2008 were revised up by Google Analytics. The total visits during the first quarter were 2,978 or approximately 496 visits/month]*	1,376 (average 459 visits/month)	1,401 (average 467 visits/month) *[NOTE: starting 1st quarter 2008, we began using Google analytics, which are very accurate in recording visits, instead of hits to our website. These numbers are not comparable with previous software.]*
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				
I3N	C. Fournier	14,132 est. total.	1,800 (est.)	2,500 (est.)
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs				
I3N	C. Fournier	208	53 (El Salvador and Guatemala) (*The number of people trained by the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt in Nicaragua and Peru is unknown)*	0

2.2.2.3 Ecosystems TN (ETN)

The ETN Portal has been upgraded and modified to include the revised standard format web forms.

A new version of the ETN portal is being designed and will be on line in the first quarter of 2009. The Portal will be available in Spanish and English.

A metadata folder has been set up at the CASSIA system developed by the Instituto von Humboldt. The system is working and metadata is being entered by institutions provided with Grants.

Develop the Infrastructure to provide geospatial Ecosystem data on line: Activities for the implementation of the Geospatial Network in South America continued during this semester. This work is being done in coordination and funding from the Cooperación Andina de Fomento (CAF). A contract between CAF and the City of Knowledge, representing IABIN was signed this

semester to provide IABIN with $50,000 to carry out these activities. The second report was sent during this period and the second payment has been received. The contract extends from March 2008 to March 2009.

ETN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible	Cumulative since Dec 2006	Measurement on 3rd Quarter 2008	Measurement on 4th Quarter 2008
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of :				
ETN	V. Abreu	6,521	1265	735
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				
ETN	V. Abreu	1518	595	6 (5 Centro Nacional Patagonico y 1 Regionalizacion Marina Bahia Banderas)
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs				
ETN	V. Abreu	101	7	

2.2.2.4. Pollinators TN (PTN)

The IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network web portal is central to the architecture of PTN. A beta prototype of the IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network 1) Data Entry Tool, 2) Data Portal, and 3) Contacts Database is accessible at http://pollinators.iabin.net/. Training materials are being developed for all three components.

Our team has been discussing various edits, modifications, and changes to enhance the current portal version. Two WebEx "walk-throughs" took place in this semester and numerous WebEx sessions have been scheduled for early 2009 for the IABIN PTN to walk through a portal demonstration.

The contacts database which is operational and has received data imported from Pollinator Conservation Digital Library (PCDL) has been changed to incorporate suggestions from the IABIN PTN Technical Meeting in Ribeirao Preto. These changes were related to disabling editing of some taxonomic fields (within the fields of expertise). Support to multiple languages has been implemented (Portuguese, English and Spanish). The Contacts Database is available at http://groselha.pcs.usp.br/experts/.

PTN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible	Cumulative since Dec	Measurement on	Measurement

		2006	3rd Quarter 2008 (June 25 – Sept 30)	on 4th Quarter 2008 (Oct 1 – Dec 31)
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of :				
PTN	L. Adams	1903 in 2007 + 323 in 2008 (- June 25) + 551 in 2009 (Jun 26 - Jan 20) = 2777 Total Visits (not hits)	236 visits	269 visits
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				
PTN	L. Adams	(metadata records cataloged by NBII Pollinators Project) 343 (cataloged prior Jan 1 2007) 853 (cataloged since Jan 1 2007)	83 records cataloged by NBII Pollinators Project (Jul 01 – Sept 30)	112 records cataloged by NBII Pollinators Project (Oct 1 – Dec 31)
		162, 542 pollinator occurrence records in PTN Data Portal from 3 data providers		
		91 pollinator contact metadata records in PTN Contacts Database		
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs				
PTN	L. Adams	3 people from Columbia, Peru, and Costa Rica) received instructions at the Ribeirão Preto, Brazil IABIN PTN Workshop	3 people (from Columbia, Peru, and Costa Rica) received instructions at the Ribeirão Preto, Brazil IABIN PTN Workshop	

2.2.2.5. Protected Areas TN (PATN)

The WDPA Web based Data Entry Tool was launched at the COP9, in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May by UNEP-WCMC

Attribute data structure for the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) Version 1.1 was launched at March 7th by UNEP-WCMC and adopt as a PATN Data Standard, version 1.1

Harmonization of Data Standards between RAMPA, Brazilian Ministry of Environmental and PATN/WDPA

PATN Conceptual Data Model V 2.3 (**Error! Reference source not found.**)

Present at Tennessee IABIN Technical Working Group meeting

Translation of the user manual of the "Cadastro Nacional de Unidades de Conservação" - the "MMA Tool" - to English and Spanish

Development of the Concept Note and Terms of Reference for the development of the Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI, together with UNEP-WCMC and in relationship with Caribbean Countries, at Jamaica Meeting;

Association of the Ministry of the Environmental of Brazil in order to offer to the IABIN Countries an Open Source Protected Areas Information System, compatible with the PATN and WDPA standards;

PATN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Cumulative for 2007	Measurement on 1st Quarter 2008	Measurement on 2nd Quarter 2008	Measurement on 3rd Quarter 2008	
1. Visits to the IABIN Catalog and Portals of each IABIN Thematic Network increase	4,176 (348 visits/month average)	2,271 (568 visits/month average)	2,388 (597 visits/month average)	1,447 (362 visits/month average)	
4. Data and metadata content in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases	10,852	10,852	10,852	10,852	
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs	none	none	none	18 participants at the III PATN Workshop	

While Component 1 of the IABIN-GEF Project "Building IABIN" will create the network infrastructure to access data and information through the IABIN Catalog Services and five Thematic Networks, Component 2 will improve the availability of critical data and metadata.

The Work Program for Component 2 includes:
- Providing Grants to institutions with high quality data to support institutional efforts to make data available through the network
- Carrying out training sessions on the use of data creation tools.
- Data and metadata quality control.

Component #2. Data Content Creation:

Objectives, as stated in the PIP, are to increase the availability of biodiversity data through:

- Coordinating data content creation activities for IABIN's Thematic Networks and the Catalog,

- Ensuring use of agreed-upon standards and protocols with data content grantees,

- Organizing and leading, together with IABIN's Thematic Networks and the Catalog, training sessions on IABIN data creation and integration tools and standards, and

- Data and metadata quality – Identify standards and/or best practice for ensuring data quality.

<u>**Accomplishments in 2008:**</u>

o Ten requests for proposals were published in 2008: I3N = 2, Species = 1; Specimens = 1; PTN = 2; ETN = 3; and PATN = 1. .

o The first Request for Proposals to digitize protected areas data did not produce any proposal from the Ministries of the Environment or the other government agencies that manage these data in each country. Work is being done individually with the Ministries of the Environment in the Hemisphere to obtain proposals for PATN.

o 30 proposals were received and evaluated.

o 19 grants were approved.

o All TNs finished developing a training module with training materials in English and Spanish. PATN and PTN developed the training materials in Portuguese, too.

o SSTN carried out two training for trainers' workshops in 2008, one in Spanish and one in English. Representatives were trained from 15 Spanish speaking countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela), and from eight English speaking countries (Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kits & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and USA) plus Haiti, as well as representatives from ETN, I3N, PTN, and the Catalog. In total 29 people were trained in the use of the three SSTN tools (data digitizing, connector and web page).

o   ETN carried out a workshop in March 2008 to revise the Standard Format for Marine Ecosystems. Thirteen countries participated and 16 people were trained.

o   ETN carried out a workshop in Dec 2008 to review the Fresh Water Ecosystems standard. Representatives from 6 countries participated. This was carried out with support from TNC and NatureServe.

o   PTN carried out a pilot workshop in June, 2008 to test its data digitizing tool. The PTN Technical Working Group members as well as representatives from 3 countries participated and 20 people were trained

o   In September 2008, PATN carried out a training workshop on the use of the tool to update the WDPA and on the use of the tool to digitize protected areas information developed by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil (MMA). Representatives of the Ministries of the Environment of 17 countries participated as well as personnel from WCMC, the Secretariat, I3N and ETN, a total of 20 people. Most of the participants expressed their desire to use the MMA tool. It is worth noting here that unlike other TNs, there are very few potential data providers for PATN (the ministries of the environment of each country plus a handful of NGOs who have PA data).

o   I3N carried training workshops in Panama, Guatemala and El Salvador.

o   With funds from the training subcomponent under the Catalog, there have been two training workshops on the development of geospatial metadata with 38 people trained.

o   There has been one training on development of metadata with 12 people trained

o   Total people trained by TNs as of December 31, 2008 = 322

o   Three countries have carried out their national training with seed funds from IABIN on the use of the SSTN tools as of Dec 31, 2008: (Bolivia, Colombia, and Panama), Mexico and United States carried out their training with their own funds. In total, 78 people were trained.

o   Total number of people trained at the national level: 78

o   Total number of people trained, both at Training for Trainers and at National Workshops = 400.

o   Proposals were requested to implement the Data Quality subcomponent and were received from SSTN, I3N, PTN and ETN. PATN is waiting for the new CI before sending its proposal. The work under this subcomponent includes reviewing the reports and databases from data digitizing grantees.

o In 2008, 35 interim and final reports from grantees were evaluated

Data Content in IABIN as of Dec 31, 2008:

o Catalog – 196,684 metadata.
o SSTN – 2,763,501 specimen data.
o SSTN – no species data.
o PTN – no pollinator data
o I3N – 9,832 invasive species data
o ETN – 917 ecosystem data (terrestrial and marine only)
o PATN – 10,852 protected areas data

Objectives and goals for 2009

1. Approve data digitizing grants for all the remaining funds:

   1.1. Activities

   o Publish the first request for proposals (RfP) to digitize metadata in March, 2009.

   o Species will publish its Fourth RfP in January 2009.

   o Specimens will publish its Fifth RfP in January 2009.

   o ETN will publish its first RfP to digitize Fresh Water Ecosystems data in January 2009.

   o I3N will publish its Sixth RfP in January 2009.

   o Pollinators will publish its Fourth RfP in January 2009.

   o If needed, additional RfP will be published in late March 2009.

   1.2. Indicator

   o Approve at least 47 more grants under the TNs and the Catalog before June 30, 2009.

Funds for Data Digitizing Grants

IABIN Thematic Network	Available for grants in 2009 $
Protected Areas	89,000
Ecosystems	83,331

Pollinators	60,000
Species	194,088
Specimenes	9,144
Invasive Species	12,492
Catalog	125,000
Total	**$573,055**

2. <u>Complete the training by TNs and disburse all the seed funds to support national training</u>.

   <u>2.1. Activities:</u>

   o The IABIN Catalog will carry out two training sessions forTNs, IABIN partners on how to use, add and delete metadata records in the IABIN UDDI register.

   o SSTN will develop an online training module on the use of its tools. This training module will be ready by the end of May 2009.

   o Five Spanish-speaking countries will carry out their national training in the use of the SSTN tools programmed in early 2009.

   o 14 other countries are in the process of presenting their proposals to carry out their national training in the use of SSTN tools. It is expected they will carry it out before August 2009.

   o ETN will carry out training workshops at the national level in 15 countries.

   o In 2009, I3N will focus on the countries of Central America and the Caribbean that have not yet had training on invasive species data (Belize, Honduras, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia, St, Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago).

   o PTN will carry out three workshops in 2009, one each in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

   o Carry out a "IABIN Congress" to demonstrate the tools developed by IABIN in an integral way and promote IABIN in the Hemisphere as a Network.

   <u>2.2. Indicator</u>

   o At least 200 additional people trained in the use of IABIN Thematic Networks tools.

- At least 70 people from the 34 countries in the Hemisphere, other than IABIN Stakeholders, know of IABIN and its tools.

Funds for Training in 2009

IABIN Thematic Network	To develop Web-based Training	Training Workshops by TN	Training at National Level	Training & Outreach Event
Protected Areas	0	0	0	12,000
Ecosystems	0	0	40,535	0
Pollinators	0	90,000	0	0
Species	9,000	0	32,914	26,891
Specimenes	9,000	0	47,500	26,391
Invasive Species	0	0	43,423	0
Catalog	0	37,000	0	0
Total	**$18,000**	**$127,000**	**$164,372**	**$65,282**

3. <u>Ensure the data and metadata provided by grantees are of high quality</u>

   3.1. Activities:

   - Hire Metadata writer and quality control specialist under Catalog

   - Translate metadata under Catalog.

   - Read and evaluate final reports and data from 24 grantees under all TNs.

   - Read and evaluate mid-term reports and data from 40 grantees whose grant agreements will be signed in first quarter of 2009.

   - Read and evaluate mid-term reports from at least 20 grantees whose grant agreements will be signed before September 30, 2009.

   3.2. Indicator:

   - Increase data in all TNs and the Catalog by at least 10%.

Funds for Data Quality in 2009

IABIN Thematic Network	To be used in 2009 $
Protected Areas	30,000
Ecosystems	20,000
Pollinators	20,000
Species	9,600

Specimenes	9,600
Invasive Species	24,000
Catalog	40,000
Total	**$153,200**

Key Challenges

No terms of reference for metadata digitizing grants have been produced. The main reasons have been 1) there is need to clarify among all the TNs and the Catalog, what are the needs in terms of metadata and the best way to obtain metadata; and 2) the tools for the Catalog were not ready until the end of 2008. The IT TWG, at their meeting in March 2009, will define the metadata needs and an RfP will be published shortly after.

Work is being carried out individually with the Ministries of the Environment of the Hemisphere to obtain proposals to digitize their protected area data since the RfP published in 2008 did not produce any proposals from these data providers who are the only ones who own the data needed.

The data digitizing tool for protected areas data being developed by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil is taking too long to be available to the public. This may cause delays in the digitizing of PA data in the countries that want to use this tool.

The people who have participated in the Training for Trainers under SSTN have been slow in implementing the training at the national level. They cite conflicting interests in their organizations as the main obstacle. Individual follow up is being carried out to ensure they complete the training before the end of August 2009.

By the end of 2009, there will be at least 87 active grants. Of these 87 grants, 40 will send their final reports in the first quarter of 2010. The other 47 grantees will send two reports in 2010 -- their mid-term report during the first and second quarters and their final reports during the second and third quarters of 2010.

This presents a challenge for IABIN since there will need to be technical personnel available to review and evaluate these reports and the quality of the data provided by the grantees during at least nine months in 2010. The best people to evaluate the quality of the data are the staff of the TNs. Additionally, there will be need for personnel in the OAS to make the required disbursements for all these grants.

Proposed TERRALOOK Partnership. TerraLook provides access to satellite images (30 m resolution) for users that lack prior experience with remote sensing. IABIN, through the project IABIN-DGF, supported the development of Terralook version 1.0. The Teralook user community includes resource managers, field scientists, GIS experts, Web mapping developers, educators, students, and science writers. NASA and USGS have an interest in developing national and regional partnerships to create TerraLook

Collections and training materials designed to meet their needs. The Terralook product was initially designed for use by the conservation community to quantify and monitor land cover change in protected areas, but the audience has been broadened to allow users to monitor changes in Ecosystems. This creates a need for new collections, outside of the traditional protected areas, to allow the countries to analyze changes in their Ecosystems.

IABIN is proposing to fund Terralook and adopt it to help NON TECHNICAL users to analyze information from IABIN Protected Areas and Ecosystems Thematic Networks, using funds from component 2 to carry out the following:
1 –Create new collections of images for Protected Areas and Ecosystems for the following IABIN regions:
- Central America Pine Oak eco region for use in Ecosystems Assessment
- Update existing Protected Areas' TerraLook Collections for Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panamá, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2 –IABIN will create training materials for distribution with all IABIN TerraLook Collections. The starting point for these tutorials will be an existing series of English TerraLook Tutorials that describe what TerraLook is, how to order TerraLook Collections, and how to use TerraLook Collections. The thematic (ecosystems and protected areas) Enhanced Collections created for specific cases will demonstrate how TerraLook can be used by IABIN partners in the Thematic Networks. This new Tutorial will be developed in Spanish and English.

3 –IABIN TerraLook outreach will be through a combination of workshops at meetings, in partnership with TNC and NASA, distribution on media, and distribution via the Internet. This includes creation of a flyer that will be distributed as widely as possible to resources managers/scientist and to educators.
Total of the investment:
Create set of IABIN Terralook Collections $1,000 Funds from **Component 2: Content Creation**
Prepare training materials $6,500 Funds from **Component 2: Training**
Outreach $2,500. Funds from **Component 4: Outreach:**
                    Total $10,000

4. COMPONENT 3: TOOLS FOR DECISION-MAKING

Note: The GS/OAS has been waiting for the no objection from the Bank for the Component #3 "Information Products for Decision Makers" Agreements now from the Bank (originally requested on September 30th, 2008). Change in Bank lawyers has resulted in requested changes in originally agreed to "Agreement" format.   Request by GS/OAS lawyers to meet with Bank lawyers to clarify confusion have not been honored. Delay in project implementation as a result

of delayed responses from the Bank has hampered project implementation and created an image problem of inefficiency amongst project partners and eligible institutions.

During the IEC meeting in January 2008, it was agreed to use the resources of component 3 for the following:

- Decision support tools
- Secure the infrastructure and other needs for connectivity and server space for the Network at the Secretariat
- Data digitizing grants
- Support TN additional work

Four proposals have been approved for funding and will begin once the no objection from the Bank (originally requested on September 30th, 2008 – today's date as of this writing is March 6, 2009) has been received:

1. [Sistema para el modelado de escenarios de acciones de desarrollo o posibles amenazas a la biodiversidad](). IABIN funding requested US$107,298 and co-financing US$218,100 Submitted by Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)
2. [Sistema para la toma de decisiones con base en categorías de conservación y usos de la biodiversidad](). IABIN funding requested US$77,695 and co-financing US$133,880. Submitted by Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad
3. [Internet-Based GIS Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting Tool for Conservation Decision-Making](). IABIN funding requested US$75,000 and co-financing US$150,000. Submitted by The Nature Conservancy
4. [Advancing joint roles as Coordinating Institutions for the Inter-American Biodiversity Information network (IABIN) – Ecosystems Thematic Network (ETN)](). IABIN funding requested US$49,971 and co-financing $74,927.01. Submitted by NatureServe.

Further details, please see http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component3.htm. These grants should all be completed in 2009. Pending discussions with the IEC a 3rd RfP may be issued in 2009 for the balance of the 0.5m that remains.

5. COMPONENT 4: SUSTAINABILITY OF IABIN

The IEC and Vision meetings held in 2008 highlighted the importance of Sustainability.   As a result an IABIN Mid-Term Review/Vision/ and Fundraising Consultant was hired in October 2008 with the following objectives:

1. The **IABIN Mid-Term Review** entails evaluation of the execution of the IABIN-GEF Project, with a view to analyze the effectiveness of the project in meeting the original objective and the changing context in which the project has been implemented to date. A draft of this report was sent for translation in January 2009.
2. The **Visioning Exercise** was completed in late 2008 and circulated to the IEC and can be found at: http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component4.htm
3. The **Fundraising Strategy**, with the guidance and assistance of the IABIN Council and IABIN Executive Committee (IEC) will recommend a funding strategy for IABIN, based upon key deliverables and value added products. This will include a review of strategic

partnerships between the Coordinating Institutions of IABIN's Thematic Networks, specialized intergovernmental agencies, NGOs, and civil society organizations, including the private sector.

4. Next generation implementation plan will identify priorities for a further iteration of IABIN after 2010.

Outreach, Communications and Fundraising/Sustainability

5.1. Secretariat

The Data Content Manager and the Thematic Network Coordinator have provided joint supervision of the Administrative Assistant, the Web/Communications Assistant and management of the Secretariat's office.

5.2. Outreach and Communications

The SIXTH COUNCIL MEETING will be held at República Dominicana
From 14-16 July 2009. the meting objectives are:
- Evaluation and Lessons learned in 4 years of implementing the IABIN-GEF Project
- IABIN 2010-2015 – What will IABIN be?
- Define IABIN's Niche in the Global Bioinformatics Community
- Define IABIN's mission for 2010-2015
- IABIN Objectives to achieve the new Mission 2010-2015
- Main lines of work to achieve the Objectives
- Funding to implement main lines of work to achieve objectives.
- Review of current Stakeholders Roles and transition to their future roles
- Review scheme for GEF 2 follow up project

and the expected meeting outputs will be:
- <u>Lessons Learned</u>
- <u>IABIN's Niche, Mission and Objectives</u>
- <u>Outline of Implementation Plan 2010-2015 Including funding and sustainability</u>
- <u>Assignment of responsibilities to develop detailed work plans for each objective,</u> including work plan for the IEC for the following months
    - Recommend adjustments to IABIN-GEF project to reflect progress, challenges from last four years of project implementation and discuss follow-up GEF 2;
    - Discussion and decision on technical development and sustainability of the Thematic Networks;
    - Work plan for Component 4 implementation.

5.3 TNs Sustainability

5.3.1   SSTN

SSTN presented the options for its sustainability at the IABIN Vision Meeting in Washington, DC on 27-28 October, 2008. The natural partners of SSTN are GBIF and EoL. Both global initiatives

are willing to work with INBio to establish a Regional node for both GBIF and EoL. TORs will be defined in 2009.

A complementary path, which was presented to the IEC several times, would be to present a new proposal to GEF, one of whose objectives would be to strengthen SSTN by means of a *backbone network* made up of the "champions" of this phase of the Project. That is, made up of those countries that have benefited from the first IABIN-GEF project (i.e., Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, the Central American region and one or two Caribbean countries) and of those that already had national networks (such as Mexico, the USA and Canada).

In a similar manner to the way ENBI finished and now in Europe there is a new project called LifeWatch (which is being built on the accomplishments of ENBI and other initiatives), INBio suggested that a new initiative be presented to GEF, with an attractive name, based on the foundation developed by IABIN and, in particular, by the SSTN. We are awaiting the response from the IEC about our ideas.

In the meantime, during 2009, INBio will contribute for one more year and as co-financing, the provision of maintenance to the web portal and the software, since the Project funds have been used up.

5.3.2. ETN Sustainability Plan

The second meeting with NatureServe took place in Washington DC in October, 2008. Discussions were carried out on the future structure of IABIN and how NatureServe could take responsibility for the ETN Network. Present at the meeting were Mary Klein, President of NatureServe, Carmen Josse, Maarten Kappele Director of TNC Office of Mesoamerica and the Caribbean and Steve Patton from STRI, the current Coordinating Institution and Vincent Abreu, the ETN Coordinator. Key results of this meeting were:

1. The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute expressed its desire to transfer the role of Coordinating Institution to another organization, but to remain as an ETN Consortium member.
2. The list of current members of the ETN consortium was reviewed, and based upon the roles that different members of the ETN Consortium have played in the development of the ETN, the following changes were recommended:

3. NatureServe will assume the responsibilities of the ETN Coordinating Institution on January, 2009.

4. The Instituto Alexander von Humboldt and Corporacion Andina de Fomento will be invited to join the ETN Consortium;
    - Current and future Consortium members will submit a letter of commitment to the Coordinating Institution indicating their preferred role in the development of the network. Letters have been received from the Institute von Humboldt, the Nature Conservancy, the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales and STRI.

5. The procedure to implement the changes outlined above will be the following:

- STRI will submit a letter of resignation from the role of CI to the IEC;
- The Consortium will submit a proposal to the IEC indicating the change in the Coordinating Institution, and which organizations will be the future members of the Consortium (including a description of each organization's role);
- Once the IEC approves NatureServe as the Coordinating Institution, an MOU will be signed between NatureServe and the IEC.

6. Identify proposal development and marketing as key activities in the ETN 2009 Annual Operating Plan.

7. The need to identify areas which could benefit from the ETN data and target these areas to obtain funding for the ETN. This was done in Costa Rica on December 17th, 2008 and the identified areas appear in the NatureServe to become the ETN CI and to be submitted to the IEC in January, 2009.

5.3.3. PTN Sustainability

The future of the IABIN PTN was the subject of an extensive discussion at the Brazil Technical meeting. In addition, the PTN team helped prepare Mike Ruggiero to represent the PTN for the Vision meeting. Ruggiero and Ben Wheeler gave the PTN team an overview of the Vision Meeting upon their return.

The IABIN PTN team has decided to gradually alter its name to include a more user friendly approach. In addition to "IABIN PTN" they have added "*The Pollinator Information Network of the Americas*" so that readers will better understand what they do and what they provide.

5.4 IABIN Financing

The IABIN partner organizations, Coordinating Institutions and grantees funded under the IABIN Content Development Program for Data Creation submitted their co-financing information for the period July through December 2008; the Table below shows that IABIN financing from GEF and co-financing amounted to a total of $1,744,071.25 for this period.

Table 4. Core and non core Parallel Financing

IABIN Financing						
Period: July - December 2008						
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Total
Global Environmental Facility (GEF)	$234,680.62	$206,011.27	$0.00	$46,547.15	$43,448.40	$530,687.44
Co-Financing						
Core Co-Financing						
Coordinating Institutions						
Catalogue -- U.S. Geological Survey/National Biological Information Infrastructure	$80,675.00	$28,750.00	$15,000.00	$76,590.00		$201,015.00
SSTN -- Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad	$131,444.00					$131,444.00
ETN - Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	$20,000.00					$20,000.00
I3N -- U.S. Geological Survey	$98,825.00	$107,125.00		$18,563.00		$224,513.00
PTN -- CoEvolution Institute	$78,667.49					$78,667.49
PATN -- Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza	$28,531.96					$28,531.96
Data Content Grants						
Corporacion Taller la Era (Chile)		$20,500.00				$20,500.00
Fundación OGA (Peru)		$5,615.00				$5,615.00
Fundación para el Desarrollo Agrario (Peru)		$3,378.00				$3,378.00
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile - CEAEB (Chile)		$983.24				$983.24
Red Nacional de Jardines Botánicos de Colombia (Colombia)		$5,160.00				$5,160.00
Universidad Autonoma de baja California (Mexico)		$2,133.00				$2,133.00
Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Inst. de Ciencias Naturales - Lab. de Abejas Departamento de Biologia (Colombia)		$5,213.00				$5,213.00
Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Inst. de Ciencias Naturales (Colombia)		$27,919.00				$27,919.00
Instituto de Botánica Darwinion (Argentina)		$32,500.00				$32,500.00
Direccion Nacional de Medio Ambiente (Uruguay)		$4,000.00				$4,000.00
Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas through OCTEBIO (Guatemala)		$11,000.00				$11,000.00
Universidad Central de Venezuela (Venezuela)		$39,059.00				$39,059.00
City of Knowledge				$19,884.95		$19,884.95
SG/OEA					$112,011.15	$112,011.15
Total Core Co-Financing	$438,143.45	$293,335.24	$15,000.00	$115,037.95	$112,011.15	$973,527.79
Non-Core Co-Financing						
Corporacion Andina de Fomento			$14,225.00			$14,225.00
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	$75,631.02					$75,631.02
NatureServe*		$50,000.00				$50,000.00
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre **						$0.00
World Bank*			$100,000.00			$100,000.00
World Wildlife Fund**						$0.00
Total Non-Core Co-Financing	$75,631.02	$50,000.00	$114,225.00	$0.00	$0.00	$239,856.02
Total Co-Financing	$513,774.47	$343,335.24	$129,225.00	$115,037.95	$112,011.15	$1,213,383.81
Total IABIN Financing	$748,455.09	$549,346.51	$129,225.00	$161,585.10	$155,459.55	$1,744,071.25
* Non-Core Co-Financing for ETN						
** Non-Core Co-Financing for PATN						

5.5. Partnership and Communications

5.5.1. 2nd IEC Meeting

Members of the IABIN Executive Committee (IEC):

Country	Elected	
Argentina	2003 (3th EC Meeting)	Victoria Lichtschein
Chile	2005 (4th EC Meeting)	Karin Molt (Vice-Chair, April 2005)

Costa Rica	2003 (3th EC Meeting)	Francisco González Salas
Ecuador	2003 (3th EC Meeting)	Antonio Matamoros
Jamaica	2007 (5th EC Meeting)	Dionne Newell
Panama	2007 (5th EC Meeting)	Dario Luque
Uruguay	2005 (4th EC Meeting)	Ana Aber
United States	2005 (4th EC Meeting)	Gladys Cotter (Chairperson, April 2005)
NGO	**Elected**	
GBIF	2007 (5th EC Meeting)	Beatriz Torres
TNC	2007 (5th EC Meeting)	Maarten Kappelle

- **Debt swap for "Knowledge Management"** -- Rodrigo Tarté, Academic Director of the City of Knowledge Foundation (CoKF), reports that in June 2008, the Government of Panama officially presented the proposal to the Spanish Government. Formal negotiations have begun between CoKF and the Spanish government, and OAS has prepared a report on what activities are pertinent to IABIN to be funded by the proposed Iberoamerican Fund. Six countries need to endorse the proposal so it will be ready to submit this year for approval of the next Summit of Iberoamerican Presidents to be held in November, 2008. Spain has already opened the debt swap mechanism for such purposes. It is envisaged that the fund will constitute an endowment that would assure the sustainability of the programs that will be defined through the use of the interests generated by it. It is important that the IABIN focal points in each country promote the proposal through the Ministers of Environment, Education, or Science and Technology. Gladys Cotter has written the IABIN Council to encourage IABIN countries that could benefit from the proposal to support it, and to Rodrigo Tarté to officially endorse IABIN's interest in being a beneficiary of the debt swap. (See Annex 1 for the full proposal)

5.5.2. Other Partnership and Communications

- During this period partnerships with several institutions were strengthened that help support development of the different Thematic Networks. In addition, a strong collaboration has been forged with the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and USGS to advance technical programs and fundraising activities for the development of the network.

- **Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)** WHMSI is building country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife. It improves hemispheric communication on conservation issues of common interest, provides training in priority areas, strengthens the exchange of information needed for informed decision-making, and provides a forum to address emerging issues such as new threats to migratory species, or the connections between wildlife disease and human diseases. http://www.oas.org/dsd/WHMSI/English/Index.htm IABIN was presented to the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative Third Hemispheric Conference in Paraguay in July 2008. The conference convened Western Hemisphere governmental representatives and partner organizations to improve collaboration regarding international conservation of

migratory species. Discussions are underway to have migratory species as a 6th IABIN thematic network whereby data between the networks would be interoperable. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked OAS to host the next Interim Steering Committee meeting in March 2009.

- **IABIN and Payments for Ecological Services**. Through the use of a database, the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) has been analyzing trends in transactions that have occurred in the region. Additionally, the DSD has been analyzing the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES (payments for ecological services) schemes which could become an important value added product for decision making in biodiversity protection. http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentalServ.htm Discussions are underway to have IABIN house and expand the PES database.

- **The Andes-Amazon Amazon Protected Areas Network (RANPA)** will complete by March 2009:
    o Final Agreement on the AAPAD database, with full data, user perspective and analysis of the information.
    o Amazon Protected Area Network work plan completed
    o Identifying and profiling initiatives with information to continue populating the database.

- **ReefFix: An ICZM Coral Reef Restoration, Watershed Management and Capacity Building Demonstration Project for the Caribbean**
  ReefFix is a subproject within the Protected Areas Thematic Network (PATN) and follows on two initiatives:
    o The development of the Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI (See Annex 1.)
    o MPAGlobal Databse and workshop where details can be found at: http://www.oas.org/dsd/Events/english/08.03.10.htm.

The REEFfix study continues these 3 initiatives by conducting 3 valuation methodologies applied to 4 case study sites in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Bahamas.

IABIN ReefFix: An ICZM Coral Reef Restoration, Watershed Management and Capacity Building Demonstration Project for the Caribbean					
Country	Marine Park	Lead Contact	Status	IABIN Focal Point IABIN Focal Point email	Consultant
Jamaica	Montego Bay Marine Park Trust	Omar Ebanks Operations Manager Montego Bay Marine Park Trust MBMPT Office: (876) 952-5619 manager@mbmp.org	Dates of workshop confirmed as January 13-15, 2009	Dionne Newell Zoology.nhd@cwjamaica.com;	Brian L. Zane

Bahamas	Moriah Harbour Cay National Park in Exuma situated between Little & Great Exuma.	Janeen Bullard Parks Planner and Community Liaison Officer Bahamas National Trust and LaKeshia Anderson Assistant Fisheries Officer Department of Marine Resources	Workshop Planned for mid-April, 2009	Mr. Phillip Weech pswbest@hotmail.com bestnbs@hotmail;	BEST Commission Olethea Gardiner [olethea83@hotmail.com]
DR	National Park of the East.	Ing. Hector Ivan Gonzalez Brioso hector ivan gonzalez brioso [deoleo66@hotmail.com]	Workshop Planned for February 10-12, 2009	Marina Hernández marina_hernandez@hotmail.com; recursos.geneticos@medioambiente.gov.do;	Enrique Pugibet Bobea, Msc. Marine Biologist Centro de Investigación en Biología Marina (CIBIMA), Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD).
Haiti	Carocol Mangrove park or Arcadins Coast and Islands	Lucienna Exil Responsible of Coastal and Water Ecosystems Ministry of Environment 181 Haut-Turgeau Port-au-Prince, Haiti Tel: (509) 37 17 05 07 (509) 34 61 48 80 Email: exillucienna@yahoo.fr	Workshop Planned for mid-March, 2009	Dimitri Norris dimitrinorris@hotmail.com	Jean W. Wiener [jeanw@foprobim.org]

For this exercise, Dionne Newell, IABIN Focal Point for Jamaica and member of the IABIN Executive Committee is keeping the Caribbean Focal Points in the IABIN Council informed.

GOAL The ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) Capacity Building Program component will assist the IABIN Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI through a REEFIX activity in 4 case study sites that transfers information between OAS CARICOM Member States specific to ICZM and marine parks. ReefFix is an ICZM tool that has multi-level linkages that trains participating countries in valuation ecosystem valuation methodologies and management techniques to restore a coral reef, mangrove ecosystems, watersheds, through integrated marine park management.

OUTPUTS Strengthen management frameworks that regulate coastal activities and develop a plan for adaptation to coral reef and mangrove responses to climate change effects. Outputs will be:

- improved ecosystem valuation technical capacity of individual Caribbean countries to collect and manage their protected areas data in a way that meets their specific needs and context;
- improved individual country's protected areas data management systems based on output from 4 case study sites;
- Centralized data management system for the Caribbean region (drawing from protected areas databases where they exist or from other sources of protected areas information) which serves as a regional node for input to the Americas Database on Protected Areas and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

Related websites:
- http://www.oas.org/dsd/Events/english/08.03.10.htm
  http://www.oas.org/dsd/Working%20Documents/Bioandpay.htm
- IABIN – IWCAM Biodiversity Informatics Workshop: Focusing on Marine Issues for the Caribbean Region Read more...

5.6 Fund Raising

JRS Biodiversity Foundation The proposal "Enhancing Knowledge for Establishing Ecosystem Conservation Priorities in the Neotropics by Integrating Biodiversity and Geospatial Data" was approved in December 2007 for US$200K. The first installment was received in February 2008 and work is underway to finalize partnership with INBio.

World Bank. Two proposals for Internal Competition under the World Bank's Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD, www.worldbank.org/tfessd), were approved. These proposals are:

1. *Developing Guidelines for Management of Environmental Information in World Bank and IADB projects (US$40K).* The objective of this project is to develop a document and the Web decision-making tree that are intended of server as the main rapid reference for managing environmental information resulting from environmental related projects supported by WB/IDB. This document is a devised as a decision route, in order to guide the readers through the different steps needed to identify which type of information they have or they are going to collect, which options are available for standardizing that information from the beginning, or to verify it according to IABIN standards and procedures and hot to provide it to the IABIN network.
The "Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt" from Colombia was selected to carry out this project in coordination with the IABIN Secretariat. This project will carry out to national workshops, one in Nicaragua in early August and another to be determined, to test and disseminate the manual and web decision making tree. Further information can be requested to Boris Ramirez, Thematic Network Coordinator (bramirez@iabin.net)

2. *Integrating Ecosystem and Species Data into Disease Forecasting Models* (200K). The objective of this project is to better understand the relationships between the incidence of vector-borne diseases and biological and environmental variables. The concept will

be demonstrated with the specific example of dengue. This will be achieved by integrating natural and modified (rural/urban) ecosystem data, species-level information, and socio-economic data, with epidemiological data using statistical models.

Overall progress with regard to Implementation of this Grant:
- Consultants (4) to execute the project have been chosen and hired.
- Detailed work-plans have been developed.
- Variables to be monitored have been defined, as well as the monitoring methodology for socio-economic, entomological, epidemiological and meteorological variables.
- The Web information system has been finalized and recorded variables, as well as queries for users have been defined are being input.
- Base-maps to be used to visualize variables have been obtained, and a visualization system is being implemented.
- A system to allow statistical analysis of variables is being implemented.
- The equipment necessary to carry out the monitoring has been purchased. This includes: GPS for georeferencing measurements, computers for recording data, larvae and adult mosquitoes collecting systems, and microscopes for taxonomic identification.
- The dengue forecasting methodology has been established, utilizing the maximum entropy technique to predict the distribution of mosquito species. The set up to use the model is in process.
- Epidemiological historical records of positive dengue cases have been identified and are being digitized.
- Historical meteorological data has been requested from INETER in Managua, from a station at the airport in León.
- Staff has been hired to georeference historical epidemiological records.
- Training on georeferencing has been planned for March, 2008.
- The first larvae and socio-economic monitoring was carried out in March, 2008. There will be four monitoring events to complement regular monitoring events carried out by the Ministry of the Environment. Each monitoring event will last 18 days and will cover 10% of the houses in Leon and surrounding rural areas.
- A year long adult mosquito monitoring effort began in March, 2008.
  Further information can be requested from Vince Abreu, ETN coordinator (abreu@umich.edu)

Global Environmental Facility (GEF). IABIN was invited by CABI to collaborate on drafting a Request for a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) titled "Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean," to be submitted to the GEF for funding. A revised version of the PPG draft was submitted by IABIN to CABI, along with a support letter for this PPG addressed to GEF. IABIN received an email request in June from the Co-Director and Regional Representative for CABI in the Caribbean and Latin America, based in Trinidad and Tobago for IABIN partner support for the CABI Caribbean IAS GEF project.

The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) commenced in May 2008. Before the PPG budget and associated activities were cut back by GEF by more than half, IABIN had committed to providing in kind co-financing for US$ 30,000. Because IABIN pledged to contribute to the development of

this proposal at a level according to the level of support from the PPG, requests for support during PPG are expected to be in the range of US$ 9,087 (in kind) to cover: databases, specifically I3N (capacity building and planning for strategic roll-out to cover region), risk/pathway analyses, and use of standards. Further information can be requested to Christine Fournier, I3N coordinator (cfournie@usgs.gov)

5.7 IABIN Secretariat Sustainability Actions

The Thematic Networks Coordinator also met with the technical representatives from I3N, ETN and PTN (who were taking part of the Species Training Workshop) and technical people from SSTN to coordinate the implementation of a unique connector for all these TNs. As a result, the TNs Coordinator has communicated with the CIs to explain the steps agreed upon in Costa Rica to achieve the development of a unique connector.

The Thematic Network Coordinator has held communications with Erick van Praag, of CAF, regarding the implementation of the GeoSur Project. The discussion has centered on the planning of two workshops on metadata being delivered by CAF, IABIN and the Geographical Institute of Colombia. CAF will cover the costs of the trainers and materials. IABIN will cover the costs of one representative from the Ministry of the Environment of each South American country.

The process to move the IABIN website, e-mail accounts and servers to the facilities of the University of Tennessee is under implementation. On March 30, 2008, the TNs Coordinator traveled to Oak Ridge, TN to meet with the Coordinator of the IABIN Catalog and with staff of the University of Tennessee to further the implementation of the Catalog.

The TNs Coordinator is having ongoing conversations with Institute von Humboldt to assist them with the development of the Guidelines for Biodiversity Projects, being implemented with funds from the World Bank.

The TNs Coordinator, jointly with ETN and PATN, arranged a meeting with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment in Brasilia in April 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the mechanism by which the Brazilian government will share its geospatial data with IABIN.

The TNs Coordinator has continued the Secretariat's support to City of Knowledge for the development and implementation of the International Center for Sustainable Development (CIDES).

5.8 Additional sustainability activities -- by Thematic Network

SSTN
Participation in events
1. The SSTN Coordinator participated in the IABIN Executive Committee meeting in Panama, January 29-31.
2. Manuel Vargas participated in the IABIN TWG meeting, June 2-4, in Knoxville, TN, USA.
3. The SSTN Coordinator participated in the "Cyberinfrastructure for International, Collaborative, Biodiversity and Ecological Informatics" Workshops May 31-June 13 in Costa Rica, and gave three presentations, including one on the SSTN.

I3N

- I3N funded the I3N database developer to attend the SSTN training held in February in Costa Rica.

  - The I3N lead for Argentina attended the COP-9 in Bonn, Germany in May where he presented on I3N and IABIN.

  - I3N Uruguay published a chapter in a book which mentions I3N: *Brugnoli, E., Muniz, P., Venturini, N. & L. Burone. 2007. Environmental Perturbation and Coastal Benthic Biodiversity in Uruguay. In I.C. Willis. Ed. Progress in Environmental Research. Nova Publishers. P. 75-126.*

  - I3N was represented at two conferences in the first half of 2008: At the International Union of Forest Research Organizations *Alien Invasive Species and International Trade* workshop in Shepherdstown, West Virginia in May 2007, the US Lead led a workshop; At the *Preventing Biological Invasions: Best Practices in Pre-Import Risk Screening for Species of Live Animals in International Trade* (Notre Dame, US, 9-11 April), NBII supported the participation of the I3N-Argentina Lead at this workshop discussing invasive species risk assessment tools.

- The I3N community was kept informed via the web site and the I3N listserv with regular postings and announcements.

- Countries' additional products and initiatives: All countries that participate in I3N make their datasets available to the public via the web site. In addition, some countries choose to provide reports, publications, presentations, photographs and other materials of interest to invasive species specialists. Please click on http://i3n.iabin.net/participants/country_contributions.html to access any of these country resources.

- Eight countries now have their own standardized I3N Web sites based on the I3N Country Web system, and more are under development (click on country name to see country home page): Argentina | Brazil | Colombia | Costa Rica | Ecuador | Jamaica | Paraguay | Uruguay

Project Management

- Each country that actively participates in I3N has one or more organizations, represented by individuals, leading its efforts. These individuals, called I3N Leads or Co-Leads, coordinate I3N activities among the I3N Coordinating Institution, their country's IABIN Focal Point (see description below), and data providers. Current active members (18) are (click on country name to see I3N lead information: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, USA, Uruguay.

- I3N work with other TNs, IABIN IT TWG, and Catalog Coordinator:
  - SSTN: the I3N database developer attended tool training in early 2008.
  - ETN: I3N Coordinator organizes GEOSS invasive species mapping task (working indirectly with ETN).

- o PTN: CI representatives are also members of I3N CI.
- o PATN: I3N risk analysis tool includes PATN data.
- o Catalog: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the IABIN Catalog.
- o IABIN IT TWG: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the the IABIN IT TWG.

<u>PATN</u>
Event Participation

- Panama: Second IABIN Executive Committee (IEC) Meeting, Panama City, January 29-31;
- Jamaica: GEF-IWCAM And IABIN Indicators Mechanism Workshop, Ocho Rios, March 10–12;
- Brazil: Ministry of Environmental Meeting, Brasília, April 17-18;
- Ecuador: Third workshop of the Andes-Amazon Protected Areas Network, Quito, May 12 -15
- USA: IABIN Technical Working Group meeting, Knoxville, June 2– 4.

Networking

- Development of the Concept Note and Terms of Reference for the development of the Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI, together with UNEP-WCMC and in relationship with Caribbean Countries, at Jamaica Meeting;
- Association of the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil in order to offer IABIN Countries an Open Source Protected Areas Information System, compatible with the PATN and WDPA standards;
- Promote between the RAMPA and Caribbean countries representatives the PATN Data content bid at the events of Jamaica and Quito;

<u>PTN</u>
Midterm Review in Panama
Michael Ruggiero, PTN Co-coordinator, attended the IABIN Executive Committee meeting in Panama in January and gave a well received PowerPoint presentation on the IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network. He reviewed PTN development, the composition and coordination of the network, plans for sustainability, concrete outputs (questionnaire, workshop, invitations, etc) and achievements (i.e. portals), and announced the Technical Workshop plans in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil in July 2008.

<u>ETN</u>
Fundraising
Develop the Infrastructure to provide geospatial Ecosystem data on line.

- Activities for the implementation of the Geospatial Network in South America continued during this semester. This work is being done with coordination and funding from the Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF). A contract between CAF and the City of Knowledge, representing IABIN was signed this semester to provide IABIN with $50,000 to carry out these activities. The first payment has been received. The contract extends from March 2008 to March 2009.

Activities carried out by the ETN under the GeoSur project:

o   Implementation Plans to establish geoservers and provide country data have been received from most countries and are in process of implementation. The following institutions have submitted their plans:

✓ Chile: Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)
✓ Ecuador: Ministerio del Medio Ambiente
✓ Perú: Consejo Nacional del Ambiente
✓ Uruguay: Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente
✓ Paraguay: Secretaría del Ambiente
✓ Argentina: El Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
✓ Panamá: Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM).

Technical assistance to 4 South American countries has been provided in order for them to establish geoservers. This activity will continue during the next semester.

The project coordinator and Boris Ramirez met with the IABIN Focal Point in Brazil (Braulio Diaz) and personnel from the Ministry of Environment (MMA) in Brasilia. Discussions concerning the MMA participation in IABIN concentrated on three areas:

1. Protected Areas Thematic Network
2. The Geospatial Network
3. The Ecosystems Thematic Network.

The MMA has developed a GeoPortal (I3GEO) that will satisfy IABIN's needs. This will be an alternative to the GeoPortal being developed under GeoSUR. This is being negotiated with MMA.

Use of ecosystem data in the area of urban ecosystems and health:
Funds were obtained by the World Bank's Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) to carry out the project entitled "Integrating Ecosystem and Species Data into Disease Forecasting Models". The amount awarded is $200,000 for two years. The implementation of this project in Nicaragua continued during this semester.

The preparation of a sustainability plan for the ETN began in conjunction with TNC and NatureServe.

•   The first meeting with NatureServe's President, Mary Klein took place in Washington, DC in May, 2008. Discussions were carried out on the future structure of IABIN and how NatureServe could take responsibility for the ETN Network. A representative of the World Bank, Keiko Ashida, was present at the meeting.
•   Based on the discussions at NatureServe a draft document was prepared by the ETN Coordinator that outlines the structure of IABIN in the post-GEF era.
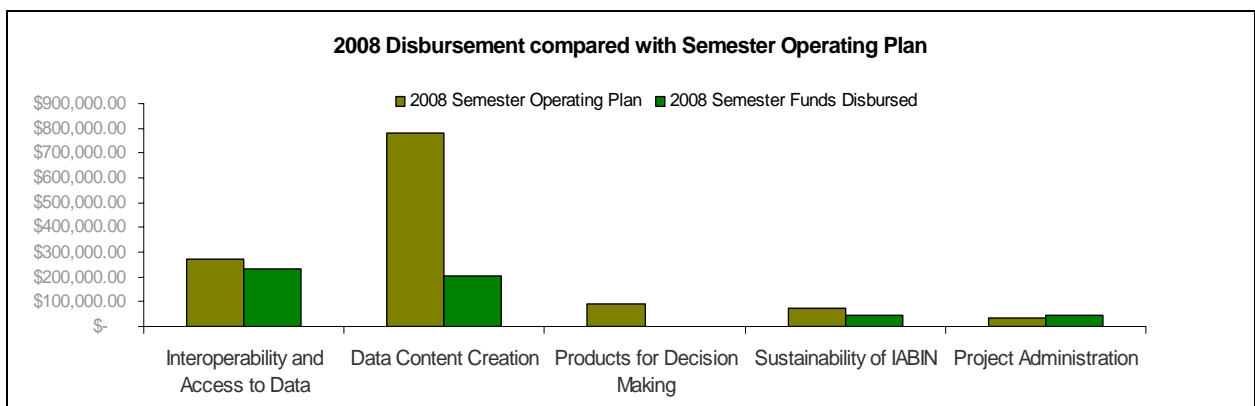
The ETN Project coordinator participated in IABIN's Mid-term review in Panamá City, January 28-Feb 1, 2008.

The ETN Project coordinator participated in the IABIN Workshop, focused on Caribbean countries that took place in Jamaica, March 10-14, 2008. The ETN Coordinator presented the Ecosystem Thematic Network with emphasis on the Marine Standard Format.

6. COMPONENT 5: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

2008 Semester Reports, Annual Operating Plans, and General Procurement Plans in English and Spanish were distributed to IEC members and posted in IABIN and OAS websites. The PIP, Operational Manual, and semester reports may be found on www.iabin.net

In the 2008 AOP completed in November 2007, IABIN forecasted to disburse $1,252,881.15 for the period of July through December of 2008. Actual disbursement of funds was $530,687.44 representing 42.36% of the aforementioned targets.

The breakdown of disbursements by component show that the greatest difference between planned and actual disbursements is in Component 3 since there were no funds programmed for the second semester of 2008 were disbursed; the performance of the other components is as follows:

(i)   *Component 1:* Disbursements totaled 86.86% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2008. All the coordinating institutions are implementing most of their activities on schedule as programmed in their respective operating plans;

(ii)   *Component 2*: Disbursements totaled 26.37% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2008. During this period the GS/OAS negotiated the terms and conditions of GS/OAS administrative and legal procedures while the IABIN Secretariat negotiated the technical aspects with the grantees. This process has taken several months for many institutions since some of grantees don't have a legal personality or don't have the necessary accounting system. In addition, these institutions also have to send the Sub-Project Agreements for the review and approval of their own Legal Department causing delays in the signature of the Agreements and in the disbursement of the first payment. As set in the grant agreements, most of the institutions require approximately 40% of the grant amount to be disbursed upon signature while the remaining balance is paid upon submission of satisfactory performance on their deliverables. Therefore the GS/OAS expects to disburse the

largest portion of the data content grants funds in the first and second semesters of 2009.

(iii) *Component 3:* Disbursements totaled 0% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2008. No funds were disbursed in 2008 under component 3 since the 3rd Amendment to the GEF Trust Fund Agreement was required in order to include a new procurement category. The no objection to said Amendment was requested to the World Bank in July 31st, 2008 and the GS/OAS received it on December 10th, 2008. In addition, in order to precede with the execution of Component 3 the GS/OAS needs the World Bank's approval of the Sub Grant Agreement between the GS/OAS and the grantees. Since a final version of the Sub Grant Agreement is still under review of the GS/OAS and World Bank lawyers, no agreement has been signed yet in order to develop the value added tools. Thus, the GS/OAS expects to start disbursing Component 3 funds in the first semester of 2009 once the Agreements are signed with the institutions.

(iv) *Component 4:* Disbursements totaled 62.40% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2008.

(v) *Component :5* Disbursements totaled 127.75% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2008.

Table 5 details the execution level for the period July through December 2008:

COMPONENTS	JULY - DECEMBER 2008			
	Planned	Actual	Unspent balance for semester	Variance: Actual vs Planned
	Jul-Dec08	Jul-Dec08	(US$)	%
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	$270,168.19	$234,680.62	$35,487.57	86.86%
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	$781,199.90	$206,011.27	$575,188.63	26.37%
Total 03 -- Products for Decision Making	$92,907.60	$0.00	$92,907.60	0.00%
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	$74,595.00	$46,547.15	$28,047.85	62.40%
Total 05 -- Project Administration	$34,010.46	$43,448.40	-$9,437.94	127.75%
Grand Total	$1,252,881.15	$530,687.44	$722,193.71	42.36%

Table 6 shows that from the project inception through December 2008, IABIN has disbursed 58.14% of the total funds. During the period of January through June 2009, IABIN is expected to disburse $1,116,099, which represents 19% of the total funds of the project, leaving almost 30% of the project to be executed in the second semester of 2009.

Table 6. Funds available by IABIN Components

COMPONENTS	PAD: Life of Project	CUMULATIVE		
		Actual	Variance: Actual vs Planned	Forecast: Next Semester
		Nov04-Dec08	%	Jan-Jun09
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	1,725,000.00	$1,209,602.37	67%	$272,016.00
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	2,460,000.00	$720,387.40	31%	$610,600.00
Total 03 -- Products for Decision Making	500,000.00	$0.00	0%	$100,000.00
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	915,000.00	$627,794.20	78%	$102,900.00
Total 05 -- Project Administration	400,000.00	$330,355.95	106%	$30,582.91
Grand Total	6,000,000.00	$2,888,139.92	52%	$1,116,098.91

Annex 1 - List of Acronyms

AOP = Annual Operating Plan

CABI = Intergovernmental Organization. Invasive Species is one of its three key scientific areas for international development that works toward reducing the spread and impact of invasive species throughout the world.

CI = Coordinating Institution

CONABIO = Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad.

ECS = Ecosystem Class Standard

ENBI = European Network for Biodiversity Information

ETN = Ecosystem Thematic Network

FP = Focal Point

FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization

GBIF = Global Biodiversity Information Facility

SBSTTA = Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

GISP = Global Invasive Species Programme

GISIN = Global Invasive Species Information Network

IAS = Invasive Alien Species

I3N = Invasive Information Network

IEC = IABIN Executive Committee

IUCN = The World Conservation Union

JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency

LAA/USP = Laboratório de Automação Agrícola da Escola Politécnica da University of São Paulo

NBII = National Biological Information Infrastructure

PAII = Portal de Acceso Integrado a Información de Especies y Especímenes

PATN = Protected Areas Thematic Network

PATWG = Protected Areas Technical Working Group

PAIGH = Pan American Institute of Geography and History

PIP = Project Implementation Plan

PP = Procurement Plan

PTN = Pollinators Thematic Network

REMIB = The World Biodiversity Information Network

SAIC = Science and Application Information Systems

SICAMAI = Sistema de Captura y Manejo de Información de Especies y Especímenes

STRI = Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

SSTN = Species and Specimens Thematic Network

TN = Thematic Network

TWG = Thematic Working Group

TNC = The Nature Conservancy

UDDI = Universal Description, Discovery and Integration

UNEP = United Nations Environment Program

Annex 2 – Distribution of Data Content Creation Grants by Thematic Network and Country

GRANTEE	COUNTRY	BUDGET
SPECIMENS		
Instituto de Botánica Darwinion	Argentina	$10,000
Administracion de Parques Nacionales -Sistema de Informacion de Biodiversidad (Vertebrados)	Argentina	$7,557
Administracion de Parques Nacionales -Sistema de Informacion de Biodiversidad (Aves Acuaticas Laguna Blanca)	Argentina	$5,150
Fundacion Miguel Lillo	Argentina	$10,000
Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas - Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales	Argentina	$10,000
Administracion de Parques Nacionales -Sistema de Informacion de Biodiversidad (Delegacion NEA Especies de Valor Especial)	Argentina	$6,360
Fundacion Oga	Argentina	$9,981
Coleccion Boliviana de Fauna	Bolivia	$10,000
Herbario BOTU de la Universidad Paulista UNESP	Brazil	$10,000
EMBRAPA	Brazil	$9,900
Universidade Federal de Pernambuco	Brazil	$10,000
Universidad de Santiago de Chile	Chile	$10,000
Colombian Museum of Natural Marine History (MHNMC) of the Coastal and Marine Research Institute INVEMAR	Colombia	$9,851
Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales	Colombia	$10,000
Herbario Nacional Colombiano de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Bogotá	Colombia	$10,000
Museo Nacional de Costa Rica. Coordinator:	Costa Rica	$10,000
Universidad Catolica (Biodiversidad de Bosques de Neblina)	Ecuador	$10,000
Aves y Conservacion (PO # 187215) Coordinador: Sandra Loor Vela	Ecuador	$10,000
Museo Entomológico de León	Nicaragua	$9,200
Círculo Herpatológico de Panamá	Panama	$10,000
Herbario Universidad de Panama (Vasculares)	Panama	$15,000
Herbario Universidad de Panama (Briofitas y Liquenes)	Panama	$10,000
Museo de Malacologia, Universidad de Panama	Panama	$9,057

GRANTEE	COUNTRY	BUDGET
Universidad San Marcos - Museo de Historia Natural	Peru	$10,000
Fundacion para el Desarrollo Agrario- Universidad La Molina	Peru	$9,700
Universidad Ricardo Palma - Museo de Historia Natural	Peru	$10,000
GRANTEE	**COUNTRY**	**BUDGET**
SPECIMENS		
Colección Mastozoológica MUSM	Peru	$10,000
Herbario CPUN de la Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca	Peru	$10,000
Herbario HUSA	Peru	$10,000
MUNHINA	Uruguay	$9,440
Universidad Central de Venezuela	Venezuela	$10,000
GRANTEE	**COUNTRY**	**BUDGET**
SPECIES		
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria	Argentina	$10,000
Fundación Miguel Lillo	Argentina	$10,000
Administración de Parques Nacionales	Argentina	$5,912
Universidad de Santiago de Chile	Chile	$10,000
Red Nacional de Jardines Botánicos de Colombia	Colombia	$10,000
Universidad Ricardo Palma - de Museo Historia Natural	Peru	$10,000
MUNHINA	Uruguay	$10,000
GRANTEE	**COUNTRY**	**BUDGET**
ECOSYSTEMS		
Universidad Maimónides, Departamento de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales, a través del Centro de Estudios Biomedicos, Biotecnológicos, Ambientales y Diagnóstico.	Argentina	$10,000.
Centro Nacional Patagónico	Argentina	$10,000
Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales	Argentina	$10,000
Centro Nacional Patagónico	Argentina	10,000
RUMBOL SRL	Bolivia	$10,000
TNC	Central America	10,000
Corporacion Taller la Era	Chile	10,000
Promar Pacifico Ltda.	Chile	10,000
Colombian Museum of Natural Marine History (MHNMC) of the Coastal and Marine Research Institute	Colombia	$9,974

GRANTEE	COUNTRY	BUDGET
INVEMAR		
Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC) del Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía de Costa Rica (MINAE)	Costa Rica	10,000.
Universidad Autonoma de Baja California	México	$5,000.
Universidad Autonoma de Nayarit	México	$5,000
GRANTEE	COUNTRY	BUDGET
ECOSYSTEMS		
PRONATURA Veracruz A.C.	Mexico	17,955
Universidad Naciona Autonoma de Mexico	Mexico	20,200
Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales	Nicaragua	8,500
Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente.	Uruguay	$10,000
Programa EcoPlata-DINAMA	Uruguay	$10,000
GRANTEE	**COUNTRY**	**BUDGET**
INVASIVE SPECIES		
Fundacion Nacional del Sur	Argentina	9,780
Universidad Mayor de San Andres, Fundacion para el Desarrollo de la Ecologia	Bolivia	10,000
The Horus Institute for Environmental Conservation and Development	Brazil	10,000
Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Ecología y Biodiversidad - Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile	Chile	10,000
Instituto de Investigaciones de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humbolt	Colombia	11,523
Asociación para la Conservación y el Estudio de la Biodiversidad	Costa Rica	10,000
Subsecretaría de Areas Protegidas y Biodiversidad	Dominican Republic	9,740
Corporación Centro de Datos para la Conservación	Ecuador	10,000
Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas a Través de la Oficina Técnica de Biodiversidad - OTECBIO	Guatemala	10,000
Institute of Jamaica	Jamaica	9,911
Asociación Guyra Paraguay	Paraguay	9,936
Universidad Ricardo Palma - Museo de Historia Natural	Peru	7,918
Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay through its Facultad de Ciencias	Uruguay	10,000
Facultad de Ciencias, Universida de la República	Uruguay	8,700
Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agricola, Universidad de Venezuela	Venezuela	10,000
GRANTEE	**COUNTRY**	**BUDGET**

POLLINATORS		
Universidade de S. Paulo. Coordinator: Vera Fonseca, Isabel dos Santos, Astrid Matos	Brazil	$15,000
EMBRAPA	Brazil	$10,000
Pontífica Universidad Católica de Valparaíso	Chile	$10,000
Universidad Nacional de Colombia.	Colombia	$10,000
Universidad de San Carlos	Guatemala	$10,000
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	Panama	$15,000
Guyra Paraguay	Paraguay	$10,000
Red de Accion de Agricultura Alternativa y CONAM.	Peru	$10,000