SG-OBIS-3

Agenda Item 2

OBIS Progress report

2.1. Secretariat Activities
2.2. Financial status
2.3. External collaboration

Ward Appeltans
2.1. Secretariat Activities
What happened?

- Outreach and networking
- Improving operations
- Formalizing a number of procedures
- Preparations for developing biodiversity indicators
- Fundraising
Staffing
OBIS project office

Five positions are desired to fulfill the work programme

* Coordinator
* Science policy officer
* Data manager
* IT developer
* Assistant

Core staff

W. Appeltans
M. Flavell
MSc Student: Frederic Dujardin, a student of the International Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (www.embcplus.org) at the University of Ghent.

A PhD position, at the University of Sheffield, on “Global trends in marine biodiversity from unstructured data (OBIS)"
Progress!
Adding more records to OBIS

# records in millions

Apr-01 Sep-02 Jan-04 May-05 Oct-06 Feb-08 Jul-09 Nov-10 Apr-12 Aug-13 Dec-14

post CoML

+10 million
Progress!
Adding more datasets

+400 datasets

post CoML
Progress!
We are filling in the gaps

2013 has around 2.7x more depth records (almost 19 Million, cf. almost 7 M) compared to 2009, and the range of sample depths represented has increased slightly, from 0-10670m in 2009 to 0-10900m now.
Outreach

* iobis.org: slightly more visitors (+3%)
* Linkedin group: 464 members (+132%)
* Twitter: 111 followers (+146%)
* FaceBook: 242 likes (+108%)
* SlideShare: 6 followers; 10 shares; 2,236 views

ACTION: Send powerpoint presentations on OBIS to PO so they can be shared at SlideShare
2 training courses in 2013 were cancelled.

2 training courses in 2014 are planned:

- IODE Ocean Teacher/ODINAfrica (OBIS/AfreMAS) (likely March 2014, Nairobi)
- IODE Ocean Teacher/OBIS data management (5-9 May 2014, Oostende)
OBIS in Scientific Literature

Cummulative # papers citing OBIS

# papers citing OBIS per month

- 1998
- 2000
- 2002
- 2004
- 2006
- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014

Years

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800

Cummulative count

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2

Papers per month count
OBIS (via W. Appeltans) is member of Scientific Steering Committee (organize session, review papers, organize special section in journal)

ACTION: Who wants to be involved in the organisation of the session and special section at WCMB3?
Presentation of OBIS at:

* IODE-22, 11-15 March 2013
* Ensenada
* Pre-session 9-10 March 2013
The IODE Committee:

- **Approves** the proposal that OBIS nodes can participate as NODCs and ADUs in the IODE network, and to publish the procedures, tasks, standards and best practices associated to OBIS nodes in an IOC Manual & Guides for OBIS nodes.
IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021

*OBIS contributes to all 6 functions

*RP post for OBIS in IOC draft Programme and Budget 2014-2015
IOC XXVII

* OBIS side event, 28 June 2013 presenting:
  * Scientific value, strategic plan and resource requirements
2 July 2013, Mrs Wendy Watson-Wright addresses the Assembly with a powerful message to raise support for OBIS
The Assembly adopted decision IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.3.4.1 (OBIS)

- Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be considered as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget resolution XXVII/DR.(6.1, 6.2);

- Agrees further that without direct funding from UNESCO’s regular programme, Member States will need to take up responsibility to enable the IOC to fulfil the commitment it made to the continuation and further development of OBIS;
UNESCO GC

- 5-20 November 2013
- Approval of 37/C5 Programme and budget 2014-2015
UNESCO's Major Programme II – Science for peace and sustainable development

- **Main Line of Action 3**: Promoting knowledge and capacity for protecting and sustainably managing the oceans and coasts
  - **Expected Result 4**: Scientific understanding of ocean and coastal processes bolstered and used by Member States to improve the management of the human relationship with the ocean
  - **Expected Result 5**: Risks and impacts of ocean-related hazards reduced, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures taken, and policies for healthy ocean ecosystems developed and implemented by Member States

- **Main Line of Action 4**: Fostering international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction
  - **Expected Result 9**: Global cooperation in the ecological and geological sciences expanded and UNESCO designated sites used as learning places for sustainable development
Developing a framework for biological and biogeochemical ocean observing systems
GOOS
Observing system / data management

* Overall framework (with WMO, UNEP, ICSU)

* Cooperation with meteorology in observations, data management, and services (with WMO)

* Ocean data management
UNESCO holds over one million species observations from 15,000 marine species in the marine World Heritage sites, of which 1,000 species are new to science since the sites' inscriptions.
UNESCO World Heritage
UNESCO’s 2014-2015 Budget = US$507M (22.4% reduction)

* => IOC budget reduction of 22.4%
  * => RP post?
  * => IODE RP budget US$ 160 K (was US$ 60K in 2012-2013, of which 50% for OBIS)
* IODE officers will decide end of January how much of its budget will go to OBIS.
ACTION: Contact IOC National Delegation to donate to the IOC Special Account for OBIS.

- Australia: 90,000 (2011-2013)
- Canada: 20,000 (2011-2012)
- Brazil: 10,000 (2011)

Nov 2013: Donation to OBIS (5 * CAN$ 10,000)!
Extra-budgetary projects

- iMarine EC
- GEOWO W EC
- DIPS FUST
- ODINAfrica FUST
- DIPS + CMA2 FUST

Office logistics, facilities

IODE PO (Flanders Government)
OBIS Secretariat

2.2 Financial Status

Project proposals in prep involving OBIS secretariat:

* Fridtjof Nansen (FAO)
* GEF-ABNJ/deepsea (FAO)
* Gaps Maps (GEOBON, CBD, GEF)
* LiCo (CIFAR)
* Species index (Michelin)
2.3 External collaboration

UNGA invited IOC-UNESCO to provide scientific and technical support to the Regular Process (Resolution A/RES/66/231)

IOC-UNESCO (incl OBIS) observer in:
• Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (AHWGW)
• Group of Experts of the Regular Process (GOERP)

• FUST-DIPS
  • Statistical data analysis workshops planned for 2014
• PhD U. Sheffield with Tom Webb
UN WG Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (UN BBNJ)

Intersessional Workshop on conservation and management tools, including area-based management and environmental impact assessments, 6-7 May 2013 (New York).

• Pat Halpin chaired a session on behalf of IOC/OBIS

Outcome:
The technical experts of the UN Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction recognized **IOC’s role in data and information sharing**, and

**considered IOC (OBIS) as an appropriate mechanism for the management of biodiversity data in areas beyond national jurisdiction.**
UN WG Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (UN BBNJ)

Sixth meeting of the UN BBNJ, 19-23 August 2013 (New York)

IOC/OBIS&Tara side event
Sustainable Development Goals

TST Issues Brief: Oceans and Seas

OBIS, IODE and GOOS in the Way Forward section

The TST mentioned in the "Way Forward" section of the issue brief the need to create a knowledge environment to improve our knowledge about the state of the oceans and marine ecological processes, including through maintaining and expanding ocean observation, data management and information systems.
OBIS is recognized as a data core component of GEOSS.

**Abstract**
OBIS strives to document the ocean's diversity, distribution and abundance of life. Created by the Census of Marine Life, OBIS is now part of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, under its International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme.

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**Information Documents**
OBIS strives to document the ocean's diversity, distribution and abundance of life. Created by the Census of Marine Life, OBIS is now part of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, under its International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme.
GEO

• GEO BON
  - WG marine ecosystem change
  - WG data integration and interoperability
**GEOSS interoperability for Weather, Ocean and Water**

**OBIS provides support by:**

- Hosting the database and portal at IODE
- Developing biological OA indicators

**THEME[ENV.2011.4.1.3-1]:** Inter-operable integration of shared Earth Observation in the Global Context

**Duration:** Sept. 1, 2011 – Aug. 31, 2014

**Total EC funding:** 6,399,098.00 €

**Project Web Site:** www.geowow.eu

**EC Grant Agreement no. 282915**
Shells are dissolving

By the end of the century pteropod shells will be degraded by 50 to 80%.
iMarine is an initiative aimed at establishing and operating an e-infrastructure supporting the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources.

Research Infrastructures CP & CSA funded by the European Commission under the FP7 Capacities Programme - eInfrastructure Unit DG CONNECT (1 Nov 2011 - 30 April 2014)
4th TCOM Jan 2013
3rd and 4th iMarineBoard meetings 2013
iMarine Stakeholders Meeting, May 2013
iMarine rehearsal, Sept 2013

IMDIS 2013, Italy
POSITION paper

Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and the 'Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES)
Through funding from UNESCO Emergency Fund OBIS provides support to the CBD regional EBSA workshops

* OBIS data maps
* Data analysis and mapping support
Areas identified to meet the EBSA criteria (May 2013, SCBD)
PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY:
USE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR DESCRIBING
ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS (EBSAs)
IOC-UNESCO and CMAS signed MOU.

Proposal to organize an international marine biodiversity recording day on 8 June 2014 (Worlds Ocean Day) in collaboration with OBIS

CMAS General Assembly, 17-22 April 2013
MOU between IOC-UNESCO and Tara Expéditions

As part of this agreement, Tara Expéditions agreed to share the scientific data collected during their expeditions with OBIS (likely via Pangaea/EurOBIS).
OBIS is a member of the GOBI advisory board

Ward Appeltans attended the advisory board meeting 19 Aug 2013 New York
IODE/OBIS to co-chair a data management workshop 22-24 April 2014 in Monaco

- Access to OA data
- Coordination of efforts and products
- Data policy, metadata template, vocabulary
- Planning of scientific workshop
The International Maritime Organization asked if OBIS can contribute data and information to the designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA), e.g. areas were oil spills or ship accidents have high impacts on biodiversity.

- Biodiversity hotspots
- Important areas for breeding, foraging, spawning, migration routes etc..
Fin whale: abundance / density season

These models are used to estimate official “takes” for marine mammal protection act and endangered species act regulations in the USA.

OBIS-SEAMAP
2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition

IODE/OBIS asked to develop a data management plan by April 2014

Will need engagement of several OBIS nodes!!
MoC not yet signed. Waiting for new version from GBIF.

Invitation to join a GBIF Expert Working Groups to provide GBIF with guidance in a thematic area (e.g. marine systems with OBIS)
International cooperation
• Through organization of **meetings and scientific conferences** and data analysis workshops.

• Establish **partnerships**, cooperation agreements, participation in boards and networking activities.
Indicators can serve national, regional and global assessments of the Ocean

- 2014: CBD 4th Global Biodiversity Outlook
- 2014: GEF Transboundary Water Assessment
- 2015: 1st UN World Ocean Assessment
- 2018: 1st IPBES assessment
One Planet – One Ocean

THANK YOU