

Workshop 1.2: Inventories and mapping

TITLE: Inventories, mapping and data sharing for supporting biological conservation and management planning: examples, difficulties and prospects of implementation

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ABSTRACT: Biodiversity inventories, especially if supported by precise mapping data, are fundamental tools for most of researchers, conservation managers and policy makers. However, several gaps in coverage and quality were identified in most of the world. Moreover, after their collection, all the information should be ideally archived and made available in online platforms, in order to ensure continuous revision, implementation, and for research, conservation and awareness. In the Mediterranean Basin, several yet poorly interconnected databases are present. Cases of obsolete and/or even inaccessible databases are unfortunately common. This is mainly due to the lack of constant availability of human and economic resources after their first release, leading to a loss of useful information.

A solution, inspired by positive and long-standing examples, is to use the inventory data for planning biodiversity conservation projects. This would provide support for keeping up with inventories and researches. Accordingly, the second phase of the Mediterranean Island Wetlands-MedIsWet is a project for implementing restoration activities in several Mediterranean islands. This project is the continuum of desktop and field wetland inventories, freely available online. The Petites Îles de Méditerranée-PIM has also promoted, since its institution, the inventory of the numerous-once unexplored-small islands of the Mediterranean. This inventory has allowed to uncover their high vulnerability and to fund initiatives for their inventory and conservation status improvement, such as in the case of the National Park of Port-Cros in France or the next invasive species control and habitat restoration for the endangered plants of the islets of S. Macario in Sardinia and Gavdos in Crete.

All the above reasoning leads to the following points of discussion to: (i) find standardized inventory approaches for facilitating data updating, interconnection and comparison; (ii) find more feasible and less costly solutions for implementing and managing data sharing platforms (iii) formulate more inclusive data sharing agreements, acknowledging the crucial role of expert providers; (iv) create interactive networks of data providers to ensure exhaustive and relevant research and policy actions; (v) develop conservation projects based on inventory data.

KEY WORDS: Database implementation and management; Knowledge sharing; Mediterranean islands inventories; Scientific-based projects.