



Linking biodiversity data and conservation decision-making processes

Gerard Bota (gerard.bota@ctfc.cat)



The challenge: general context

- Non-stop increasing biodiversity information
- Loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU context
- Multiple information sources not directly "controlled" by regional governments and not interconnected
- Etc.





The challenge: regions context



- Common duty to be more eficient on how we spend the funds and to take good decisions
- Increasing social and legal requeriments in order to halt biodiversity loss
- Commitment with sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the implementation of regional policies
- Etc.



The challenge

• Reduce the gap between biodiversity information providers and decision-makers









OBJECTIVE

BID- REX aims to improve the use of biodiversity information and increase the impact of regional development policies for preservation of the European natural heritage by providing decision-making processes with appropriate biodiversity information.

















Key messages

- ✓ Understanding end users' (e.g. decision makers) needs is the crucial first step in the delivery of useful and impactful data and information.
- ✓ Feedback and communication from decision makers to data suppliers, of the decisions taken and impacts achieved, provides context, motivation, and guidance on what data is needed and in what format to be of most use and make it fit-for-purpose.
- ✓ Developing an environment of mutual trust between data providers and users promotes supply and uptake.

Example 1



Good practice: Biodiversity information flow in the Basque Country

To improve data flows in the Basque Country is focusing on three key aspects: **data, relationships and people.**

- Unify standards, criteria and tools to incorporate in the specifications of the public contracts
- Work with local data providers using leading entities to organize and coordinate local groups of data providers and to train volunteers in the collection of primary data
- Make visible the work of all partners
- Promote and improve sectoral forums that involve key stakeholders (authorities, NGOs, professionals, researchers, etc.) in favour of integrating data on biodiversity.
- Improve the skills of all the stakeholders involved related to the production, management and use of biodiversity information.



Key messages



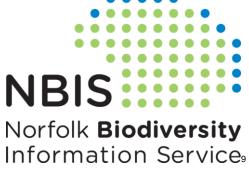
- √ Raw data is normally not useful for decision-making processes. We need to transform it to information and knowledge.
- ✓ To support decision-making processes, information should be directly and easily accessible and useable.

Example 2



Good practice: Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service - a "one stop shop" for biodiversity data and Information

- •A **single source** of environmental information for Norfolk
- Validation and evaluation of these data
- •Identification of gaps in knowledge taxonomic, geographical and temporal
- A permanent and secure location for data
- Improved flow of data from individual recorders to users at both local and national levels
- •Quick and easy access to information for all.

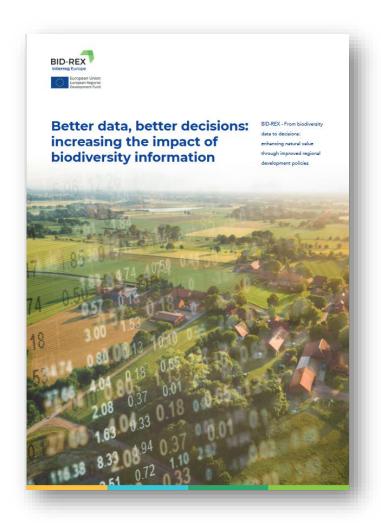


Key messages



- ✓ New data sources are continually developed and made available. Keeping up-to date and aware of these new sources, understanding their potential, and ultimately using them to inform decisions, is a significant challenge to their uptake.
- ✓ Data can have many lives it can be repurposed, adapted, and applied for multiple functions 'collect once, use many times'.
- ✓ Policies, methods, and tools are constantly changing, it is therefore important for all groups in the data value chain to continue developing by learning from what has worked well, and what has not, adapting to successes and mistakes to meet decision makers' needs.





The BID-REX technical document shows project main results and recommendations to improve the use of biodiversity information in decision making processes!

https://www.interregeurope.eu/bid-rex/library/





Thank you!

gerard.bota@ctfc.cat

Questions welcome