

## The summary of 16th APBON Web seminar

### “GEOBON Strategy”

1. Date and time

12th April, 10AM-11AM (JST)

2. Place

Webex meeting room (Online)

3. Participants

18 people from 11 countries (2 speakers, 15 participants, 1 secretariat)

4. Agenda

Moderator: Dr. Alice Hughes

Presentation 1: “GEOBON Strategy” by Dr. Maria Cecilia Londono

Presentation 2: “Bringing to life a global biodiversity observing system.” by Prof. Andrew Gonzalez

5. Q and A session

- **What are the main actions in the short term** to act and generate the data for the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)?
- **How do we make use of the resources** we have and act to mobilize the kind of data we need to **develop these indicators?**

Historically, GEOBON has been about building capacity and developing a conceptual framework for monitoring. **What we have to do is pivot now, to be outward facing.** It means engaging with partners and offering services. **One concept is the idea of “Knowledge-to-Action Hubs”.** This is a trendy notion that many organizations are implementing because everybody is realizing that **the only way to support change is through engagement and trust building around the co-design of implementation.** The indicators of “Knowledge-to-Action Hubs” are designed based on the parties’ needs. There is a pull from the CBD for us to respond to the knowledge workflows.

**The monitoring framework of the KMGBF is a big opportunity for us to capitalize on all that we have been doing.** The gap we are trying to fill is between the data and the NBSAPs. We should focus on what is needed at the different countries and the different regions.

- Would it be able to develop **partnerships between GEOBON and GEF to streamline funding** to mobilize data and build capacity for where we urgently need to understand change?

I had a meeting with the IUCN Species Survival Commission. They are now developing a new initiative in China, but it is illegible to GEF funding. They realized that the Red List just is not providing the resolution of data needed.

**The key is to connect the people in the countries that could access those funds.** Then they understand the need of having a monitoring system, global observation, and observing system in place. That is the challenge.

The angle of **GEF into countries and then from countries back to GEOBON is the only route** as I talked with the CBD secretariat. Also, the amount of money is not enough either. Nonetheless, if we start to demonstrate capacity, even with modest means, then that could provide some momentum.

Regarding the IUCN Red List, the idea that mapping the red list criteria to EBV is under consideration. However, that would have to happen very fast and require resources. We can start to think about some temporal sensitivity across the frameworks.

- What could be **the motivation for local researchers to survey to contribute to global monitoring?** Is there any case, campaign or strategy for involving local researchers?

Network of the forest researchers is very tight. However, for marine, each of the marine stations has a kind of long-term data but observes different things by their interests in Japan.

Many research institutions do not recognize the voluntary collective effort as a valuable contribution to society. However, **contributing to the global database could make opportunities for research, technology development, training, and publications** that emerged from that. We are moving away from a single laboratory approach to research to a much greater systematic effort. I think I am excited to be a part of the global system.

Knowing **what individual members can bring to the network is important.** It could be the motivation that to know their experience is valuable and something new for others and they have a space where they can confident that their opinion is reflected.

People lose their way chasing these metrics, but **we all got into ecology because we are fascinated by the natural world.** We need to get back to reawakening and facilitating the ability to indulge the passion.

- If there is any chance, **we can start with available information and test the initiative by GEOBON** as a demonstration and identify the gap at the regional level.

For Asia Pacific, we have a comprehensive network such as APBON and LTER. We can show our initial results to the global community to get more budget and partnership to fill the gap. Considering Asian culture, it is difficult to work and chat without project or action hubs.

It could be something GEOBON and APBON could work together on. What is the next step of how APBON could become a flagship region for the GBioS's prototype?

The next step is to collect the information which is related to members' daily scientific research. Then try to see what we have/do not have in the AP region as the activities, data, or knowledge. I hope this could contribute to GBioS and IPBES regional assessments as well. Tight linkage with LTER networks and Flux networks will be a key to gathering the information as well.

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- How can we work more effectively with AOGEOSS to have that complementary data between the biodiversity data itself and the geospatial data?

The Essential Biodiversity Variables rely on both geospatial biodiversity data, but also complimentary satellite imagery. If we can work well, it provides a truly useful lesson for the greater good of GEOBON as to how those two groups can work in partnership to leverage those complementary types of data.

We should **fully use the scheme of the GEO**. Historically, APBON has a tight linkage with the GEOSS Asia Pacific symposium, and it is a part of the AOGEO task force. We contribute to the AOGEO symposium every year and we can use the occasion as a networking. **The supersite concept that tries to link satellite remote sensing and in-situ observation could be a good example** for collaboration as well.

There is a network called GERI which stands for Global Ecosystem Research Infrastructure. It is an integrated network of site-based research infrastructures from multiple continents. We just need to make sure that **networks complement each other rather than overlapping, especially if we're looking at similar funding mechanisms**.

**Ensuring clear communication between all factions is important.**

- Regarding the “Knowledge to action hubs”, **what would be the scope of the partnership?**

It seems very broad.

**The needs of the multiple users should be addressed.** Guiding knowledge to action on monitoring, **we need to take it to the one-one scale through local organizations where things happen on the ground.** For Colombian BON, the EBVs has used by local communities. It has been succeeding because local communities have felt that now they are more in power, having data on biodiversity and having indicators about their rights and diversity there.

Fundamentally, it is a **commitment to an action outcome.** It could potentially be a very broad partnership network and it depends a lot on the entity that's being assessed. In the case of EBV, is applied in situ. We have examples in Canada, **working with First Nations who are engaging with an EBV process** and finding it very useful to respond to the NBSAP process. Another example would be **the engagement with the UN SEEA process.**

- Who can access the financial facility?

**Identifying the needs is important** and it allows us to create a conversation around funding.

- What is GEOBON’s strategy **to work closely with the parties in preparing the NBSAPs** in terms of indicators?

Regarding the NBSAPs revision, the amount of the GEF fund is small for what we need to do for the monitoring. We need to work together, and it is a kind of opportunity for GEOBON to align concepts and tools and all these ideas at the national level.

- What APBON could prepare by the All-Hands Meeting?

- How can we use the meeting to propel us forward under the GBF?

Valuable information to other participants could be

- How does APBON work together as a regional group? (e.g., Introduction of ASEAN clearing house mechanism)

- What are the challenges/opportunities?

- **State of play**

  - e.g., **What does APBON have?**

    - Where does APBON want to be?**

    - Can APBON drive that through the idea of BON-based monitoring?**

    - What APBON can do on a five years timeline? (If you cannot do that today, what is missing?)**

This kind of comprehensive information from the APBON to the GEO community is quite important for the ministerial summit of GEO(November) and the AOGEO symposium.

