

Draft programme for SCAR-MarBIN kickoff and implementation workshop – Brussels, 25-26th May 2005

Objectives

The main objective of this Workshop is to setup the framework for the implementation of the SCAR-MarBIN project.

The implementation of the portal and network will be addressed on specific topics regarding contents, strategy and technique.

CAML data management by SCAR-MarBIN will also be discussed in preparation of the following CAML workshop (May 26-30th 2005).

Themes of discussion

1. General Presentation and Background of the SCAR-MarBIN Project

Moderators: Claude De Broyer & Bruno Danis (SCAR-MarBIN)

2. Partnership, Structure, Role of the Different Partners

Moderator: Claude De Broyer (SCAR-MarBIN)

Discussion topics : Setup of the International Steering Committee (role, composition, frequency of meetings (during SCAR, Antarctic or CAML meetings))
 Presentation of SCAR-MarBIN structure at Belgian level
 Presentation of Budgets requirements/distribution
 Invitation of each partner to present their potential contribution to the project: AAD, BAS, AWI & DZMB, SCAR, JCADM, OBIS.

3. Existing & Potential Ressources & Contributors

Moderator: Bruno Danis (SCAR-MarBIN)

Discussion topics : Presentation of a (non-exhaustive) inventory of declared and potential contributors.
 Collaboration/link issues with large biodiversity information initiatives (other than OBIS/GBIF, e.g. Fishbase, Cephbase) ?
 Determination of possible types of contributions.
 Determination of a prioritization strategy, in function of *i.e.* complexity-content-interest-technical issues.
 Stimulation of contributors to develop/implement their own interoperable databases to complete the taxonomic/geographic information coverage ?
 Discussion of some practical aspects : instructions for contributors, contact with providers, feedback.

4. Short presentation of some existing resources

In order to get a more precise image of the wealth/diversity of various resources, short presentations will be given by representants of existing databases:

- Australian Antarctic Biodiversity Database (AABD): Dave Watts (AAD)
- SOMBASE : Huw Griffiths (BAS)
- BIANZO: Tim Deprez (UG), Chantal DeRidder (ULB), Claude De Broyer or Angelino Meerhaeghe (RBINS/MUMM)

5. Register of Antarctic Marine Species

Moderators: Andrew Clarke (BAS)

Discussion topics : 1. Presentation of the European Register of Marine Species (ERMS) model by Ward Vanden Berghe (EUROBIS). Content, demonstration, technology.
2. Presentation of the Clarke & Johnston's database on benthic biodiversity as a kernel for a Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS). Discussion of possible collaboration/scientific options. Integration within a ERMS-like system. Discussion about the future implementation of RAMS. How to involve specialists for updating the species register ?

6. Portal & Network Implementation

Moderators: Bruno Danis (SCAR-MarBIN), Ward Vanden Berghe (EUROBIS)

Discussion topics : A web portal should rapidly be setup for visibility: discussion of the possible early contents, creation of a shopwindow site, final contents. Practicalities : hosting, updates, timing (what can be done before the Curitiba SCAR-Biology meeting ?). Discussion about the installation of server and links: what would be a realistic/acceptable timing, what does the realisation imply ? How should we set priorities as to which database should be made accessible ? One step further: establishment of the Network and future data harvest, determination of the best strategy. Integration of SCAR-MarBIN into worldwide initiatives (cf item 12).

7. Interoperability

Moderator: Ward Vanden Berghe (VLIZ)

Discussion topics : Presentation of the main issues regarding interoperability. What are the actual solutions used by i.e. OBIS ? What will be the future trends ? How should we deal with formats, standards (taxonomic, biological, technical, data schemas) ?

8. Distribution Data and GIS

Moderator: Dave Watts (AAD)

Discussion topics : What should be included in distribution and station data, *e.g.* geographic, bathymetric, station and expedition information ? Where is data mainly located? literature, databases, expedition databases, museum collections? How to deal with spatial distribution ? Should the development of digital Antarctic and sub-Antarctic gazetteers (*i.e.* for information retrieval and mapping purposes) also be a priority for SCAR-MarBIN? How to deal with the standardization of locality/geographic names ? The importance of metadata : how to manage sample metadata ? How could station data from classic expeditions (*e.g.* Challenger expedition) be included ? What issues will be met (*i.e.* old format of data)? What kind of GIS applications can we realistically manage in the framework of SCAR-MarBIN. What major developments can we expect in

the future ? Should/can we contribute to these developments ? Which ones will really be needed by users ?

9. Taxonomic Databases & Tools

Moderator : Claude De Broyer (RBINS) & Philippe Koubbi (ULCO)

Discussion topics : Role of SCAR-MarBIN in the promotion/development of new IT taxonomic tools (e.g. interactive identification keys) ? What kind of technical aspects/issues should be addressed ?
How should SCAR-MarBIN participate/contribute in e.g. Delta workshops ?

10. Marine physico-chemical Data

Moderator: Taco De Bruin (JCADM) ?

Discussion topics : Should SCAR-MarBIN deal with marine physico-chemical/oceano data at all, or should it link with existing or potential databases ?
How to manage physico-chemical data that will arise from CAML?
Examples of relevant data to benthologists : salinity, temperature, sediments type/quality/granulometry, contaminant levels, oxygen availability,... which of these should/can be intergrated/crosslinked in the framework of SCAR-MarBIN ?
What role can JCADM play in the harmonization of these *a priori* separate aspects of data ?

11. Dealing with CAML data

Moderators: Claude De Broyer & Bruno Danis (RBINS) ?

Discussion topics : presentation of the CAML project, and of the role of SCAR-MarBIN as its information component, providing data directly to OBIS.
What specific needs will arise from this role ?
What limits should SCAR-MarBIN set for data management in function of its equipemental/personnal capabilities ?
How should data harvest be organized ? A good case study : CeDaMar, ANDEEP,...
How should these matters be addressed in the upcoming CAML meeting ?

12. Integration into worldwide initiatives

Moderator : Edward Vanden Berghe (EUROBIS)

Discussion topics : SCAR-MarBIN will be intimately integrated whitin OBIS and GBIF
Which strategy should be chosen regarding technical options, data,... ?
SCAR-MarBIN should contribute to OBIS, which in turn will contribute to GBIF. Is this option accpetable/realistic?
Are their other important relevant initiatives SCAR-MarBIN should contribute to ?

13. Data access, authorship & copyright

Moderator: Manfred Reincke (AWI) or Pedro Martinez (DZMB)

Discussion topics : The question of data access and authorship is particularly sensitive, and contributors need to be ensured of the visibility/conservation of authorship.
How and what data should users be able to access ?
Should access levels/privileges be set to enable online edition of data ?

Authorship issues ? How to tag data in order to have them securely linked to their author in case they would be used by others ? How should authors be cited by users?

What are the solutions adopted by the European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI) workshops, which have already extensively addressed these issues ? Which ones would be transferable to SCAR-MarBIN ?

14. Data Quality Assessment/Quality Control (QA/QC)

Proposed Moderator: Pedro Martinez (DZMB) or Manfred Reincke (AWI)

Discussion topics : How to proceed for Data Quality Assessment/Quality Control ?

Should a board of editors be setup to assess the *scientific* relevance of data itself ?

How to assess *technical* quality of data ? are their automatic solutions (*i.e.* systems filtering irrelevant data) ?

15. Funding

Moderator: Claude De Broyer (RBINS)

Presentation of the actual/future funding opportunities for SCAR-MarBIN : international and Belgian contributions.

16. Practical implementation and working plans/Final discussions/Conclusions

Moderator: Claude De Broyer