



July 15, 2007

TO: The World Bank, the IABIN Executive Committee and IABIN Council

IABIN Executive Committee:

Gladys Cotter – (Chairperson) United States of America
Karin Molt – (Vice-Chair) Chile
Ana Aber – Uruguay
Francisco González Salas – Costa Rica
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Antonio Matamoros – Ecuador
Dionne Newell, Jamaica
Dario Luque – Panama
Beatriz Torres - Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Maarten Kappelle – The Nature Conservancy

FROM: GS/OAS and the IABIN Secretariat

RE: **Fifth Semester Report** – Period: January 01 – June 30, 2007
Building the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network” (IABIN)

1. IABIN Project Milestones by Component

- New ToRs to develop the **IABIN Catalog** under the supervision of NBII were advertised in December 2006. Two applicants responded by February, 2007; one individual and one company. The individual did not have the experience, skills, and knowledge required and since the ToRs called for an individual, the process was declared void. A sole-sourcing procurement process was initiated in March 2007 to hire the company since they had all the requirements. In April 9 2007, the OAS received the no objection form from the World Bank for the sole-sourcing process and OAS started the contract negotiations between OAS and SAIC (company to be hired). At present they are in negotiation between OAS and SAIC lawyers.
- The IABIN Secretariat and the representative of the SSTN Coordinating Institution held a meeting in Panama on February 5 -6, to **refine the SSTN 2007 work plan**.
- The IABIN Thematic Networks Coordinator organized and led the **second meeting of the IABIN IT Thematic Working Group**, which took place in Panama, on March 29-30. Significant

decisions were taken relative to the IABIN Network Architecture regarding interoperability of thematic network data and the final architecture to be implemented by each network.

- A **Ecosystem Thematic Working Group** meeting took place on March 26 -28 in Panama where the standard to be used by this network and the technical specification for the ecosystems classification crosswalk were agreed upon. These were submitted for consideration and approval of the IABIN Council during its Fifth Meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay.
- The **Species and Specimens Thematic Network (SSTN)** held a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 22 – 28 March, 2007 to validate the version 1.0 of the Plinian Core, the IABIN standard for species. Version 1.0 of the SSTN Web Portal and the SSTN Data Digitizing Tool will be ready in July, 2007.
- The **Protected Areas Thematic Working Group** held its second meeting in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil, on June 21-22. The IABIN Thematic Network Coordinator held a planning meeting with PATN on June 25 -26 to refine the work plan of this TN.
- The **Pollinators Thematic Network** has finished the Final Report from the meeting in Indaiatuba, Brazil in December, 2006. It is 30 pages detailing content, needs assessments, information technology, content acquisition, cooperation, and a summary of the December meeting.
- Discussions of the overall **IABIN PTN Portal** have been progressing by addressing the Terms of Reference (ToR), compatibility, and interoperability between portals.
- The IABIN **Invasive Species Thematic Network (I3N)** held the third meeting of its Thematic Working Group in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 7 May, 2007.
- The IABIN Council approved a new strategy for using the funds designated under Component 2 of the IABIN-GEF Project for **Training on the Use of Data Digitizing Tools** based on a proposal submitted by the Secretariat to Council members during the Fifth IABIN Council Meeting.
- The first **Request for Proposals for Ecosystems**, published on April 19, received four proposals by the deadline of 22 June. These proposals test the methodology and standards proposed for the ETN to crosswalk reference classification.
- The first **Request for Proposals for Pollinators** was published on April 23. Eight proposals were received by the deadline of July 1.
- The second **Request for Proposals for Specimens** was published on June 1 and the deadline to receive proposals is August 3, 2007.
- The third **Request for Proposals for I3N** was published on June 22 and the deadline to receive proposals is August 20, 2007
- The **Protected Areas TN** will publish its first request for proposals to digitize data in December, 2007 based on the work plan worked out during the PATN TWG meeting in Curitiba.
- The Secretariat held a **Data Providers Meeting in Chile** in April that served to launch a national initiative on species, specimens and invasive species.
- The **5th IABIN Council Meeting** took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on May 9 -11, 2007, hosted by the National Environment Directory of Uruguay, the IABIN Focal Point. Thirty of the 34 Focal Points participated. The IABIN Secretariat prepared 12 discussion papers on substantive themes for discussion and agreements during this meeting, which along with the Resolutions passed are available at the IABIN Webpage. Four **new members of the IABIN Executive Committee (IEC)** were elected: Jamaica, Panama, The Nature Conservancy and GBIF. Changes to the **IABIN Rules of Procedure** were approved by the IABIN Council.
- The IABIN Secretariat has worked with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), IPGH and USGS-EROS Data Center, and others to design and execute the **GeoSur Program**. This program will, among other things, help expand the IABIN GeoSpatial Network to South America. For the first year of this program IABIN will execute ca. US\$50K.

- The IABIN Data Content Manager participated in a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on April 21-22, 2007, organized and hosted by the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) with representatives from the National Geographic Institutes of South America and IIRSA to **launch formally the GeoSur Program** with this set of stakeholders. Participating also in this meeting were representatives from Eros Data Center, The Inter-American Development Bank, IABIN Focal Points from Chile and Paraguay.
- The First GeoSur meeting with IABIN Focal Points from South America was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay on May 8th, 2007, as an event prior to the IABIN Council Meeting. Focal Points from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay attended this meeting, where representatives of the GeoSur Program, CAF, and the Secretariat explained the goals, objectives, and scope of the Program.
- The IABIN Secretariat Director represented IABIN at a meeting of the Barcode of Life (BCoL) in Campinas, Brazil, on 22 April, 2007, which was financed in part by IABIN through a contribution from NBII. At this meeting, IABIN was recognized as a natural partner for the implementation of the Barcode of Life and other programs such as the Encyclopedia of Life (EoL).
- A pre-proposal developed by the IABIN Secretariat, the AAG, and other partners, submitted to the JRS Foundation was one of the 14 accepted among more than 200 sent. The full proposal is due on August 15th.
- The Secretariat jointly with the I3N Coordinator and a Jamaican representative, after invitation from CABI, took the lead in revising a Project Preparation Grant entitled *Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean* to be submitted to the GEF for funding. A revised version of the PPG was submitted by IABIN to CABI, including those areas where IABIN could collaborate in developing the project, along with a support letter for this PPG addressed to GEF.
- The IABIN Thematic Network Coordinator participated in a georeferencing workshop, hosted by GBIF. As a result, the IABIN Secretariat will facilitate a similar workshop jointly with the Museo de Nicaragua and is planning to host additional ones either by the end of this year or to include them in next year work plan.
- The **IABIN Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology**, developed by the IABIN Secretariat was approved by the IABIN Council at its 5th Meeting. It is posted at www.iabin.net and replaces Annex 1 of the PIP.
- The IABIN network portal has been updated and has a new design making it easier to navigate. It facilitates the process of obtaining basic information and provides the platform for the integration of the TNs (<http://www.iabin.net>). It is receiving an average of 7,567 visits per month, and an average of over 115,461 hits per month.
- The first participatory Annual Work Plan (AWP) was prepared for 2007; Total Budget: US\$4,231,088 (US\$2,157,290 IABIN-GEF; US\$2,081,718 Co-financing).
- As of June 30, 2007, IABIN has executed approximately US\$397,979, which represents 58.42% of what has planned to execute in the first semester and 18.19% of the 2007 Annual Operating Plan. At present, IABIN has executed \$1,462,259, which represents 24.37% of the entire project.

2. Summary of the “Building IABIN” Project.

The PIP outlines a \$35 million project. IABIN was awarded \$6 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to assist with this project.. The legal agreement was signed between the WB and the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS) on July 15, 2004, and was amended on February 10, 2006 and June 26, 2006. The PIP outlines agreements with the primary biodiversity informatics institutions throughout the Americas based on biodiversity data sharing priorities of

these institutions and mandates of the first three IABIN Council Meetings. Co-financing of \$28.9 million was pledged by 76 regional or national institutions and programs.

Thirty-four out of 34 countries have designated IABIN Focal Points. All 34 recipient countries have endorsed the GEF “Building IABIN” project.

The overall project is:

- (i) Developing an Internet-based, decentralized managed network to provide access to scientifically credible biodiversity information currently existing in individual institutions and agencies in the Americas,
- (ii) Providing the tools necessary to draw knowledge from that wealth of resources, which in turn will support sound decision-making concerning the conservation of biodiversity, and
- (iii) Providing a mechanism in the Americas to exchange information relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, thus promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation to help fulfill the mandate of the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. Component 1. Interoperability and Access to Data

3.1. IABIN Catalogue Service

The Terms of Reference to hire the contractor who will develop the Catalog were published in late 2006 and although two bids were received by the due date, the procurement process was cancelled since one of the applicants was a firm and the ToRs called for an individual. The ToRs were later on changed to carry out a sole-source procurement. The OAS received the not objection form the World Bank on April 9, 2007. The OAS is still negotiating the contract.

3.2. Thematic Networks (TNs)

3.2.1. General comments:

As previously reported all TNs (Species and Specimens, Protected Areas, Ecosystems, Invasive Species, and Pollinators) now have a CI selected by the IEC (Table 1). These TNs along with the Secretariat prepared the first participatory IABIN Annual Work Plan for 2007 and are currently implementing it.

Table 1. Status of each CI.

Thematic Network/ Catalogue Service	Objective	Coordinating Institution	Status	Signed MOC/ CI Transfer Agreement
Invasive Species	Encourage the creation and standardization of national and sub-national databases on invasive species, promote their interoperability, create value-added products, and expanded this network to all IABIN member countries	United States Geological Survey (US) with funds managed by GS/OAS	PAD	27-Feb-07/ NA
Species and Specimens	Define and implement the architecture, tools, standards and protocols to access specimen and species information located in institutions throughout the region by using distributed access standards	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (Costa Rica)	19-Sep-05	24-Feb-06
Protected Areas	Promote more effective sharing of information on protected areas within and between the countries of the region, building on and contributing to existing global experience in this area through close collaboration with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza (Brazil)	6-Oct-05	9-Mar-06
Ecosystems	Implement an electronic and institutional network dedicated to regional ecosystem information that supports the decision making process. Ultimately, tools developed by the Network should allow the user to consult specimen, species and ecosystems databases in an integrated manner (in coordination with other Thematic Networks).	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama) with funds managed by GS/OAS	25-May-06	21-Aug06/ NA
Pollinators	Develop an electronic Global Species Database (GSD) of Pollinators as a linking element to facilitate the integration of biological, ecological and agricultural information, in an efficient retrieval system	Coevolution Institute (US)	25-May-06	23-Aug-2006
Catalogue Service	Provide a mechanism to locate, evaluate, and access biological data and information from a distributed network of cooperating data and information sources from across the Americas through an Internet-based search service. Allow Internet users to search through an assortment of standardized descriptions (metadata) of different information products (such as databases, maps, websites, other information systems, etc.) to identify those that meet their particular requirements	US Geological Survey (US) with funds managed by GS/OAS	Procurement process declared and TORs re-advertised April 2007	Feb-27-07/NA

The most significant achievement in this period came from the IABIN Information Technology (IT) Thematic Working Group (TWG) meeting, held in Panama in March 2007. In this event, significant advances were made over the IABIN Network Architecture, especially regarding the interoperability between each thematic network's data.

7. Provide the necessary data to build up the IABIN Catalog (common services) by using Dublin Core standard for identifying relevant web-sites, images, publications, and other electronic materials.

Figure 2 illustrates an overview of the PATN Architecture approach, together with the definition of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) role in the PATN Architecture. The definition of the WDPA role was discussed with Charles Besançon, from UNEP-WCMC, and is compatible with the “WDPA System Designs Specifications V 1.2”.

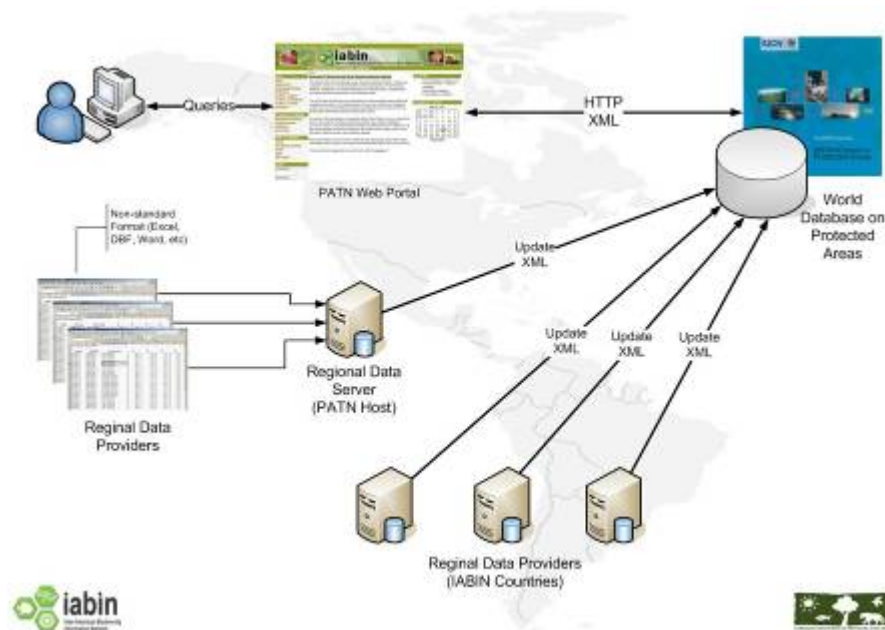


Figure 2. PATN Architecture

The CI for PATN considers the definitions of the architectures and basic standards and protocols the main achievement for the period.

In this period, the CI for PATN participated at an OAS meeting related with information tools for Protected Areas Managers. With the presence of several experts, demonstrating a number of interesting tools, the event had great value to PATN purposes.

The PATN staff at Fundação O Boticario organized the V Brazilian Congress on Protected Areas, which took place from June 17 - 21, and at the II PATN Thematic Working Group Meeting, which occurred on 22-23 June. Fundação Boticario and IABIN Secretariat worked together on a new PATN action plan.

The Brazilian Congress on Protected Areas is among the most important events in Latin America dedicated to the subject of protected areas. Since its first edition in 1997, the event has brought together globally renowned experts. The Congresses are also a great inspiration and motivation to those dealing with environmental issues. In 2007, the Congress hosted the International Symposium on

Nature Conservation, giving continuity to the II Exhibition on Nature Protection as well. There were at least 1,800 participants from Brazil and other countries.

The participation of PATN staff in IABIN events (IT Thematic Working Group meeting in Panama, the workshop on interoperability in Bogota, the PA meeting in Washington, etc.) resulted on a significant increase in the replies to PATN staff questionnaires and requests, as a result of having networked with the Focal Points and Technical Representatives. After the participation of Antonio Cristiano Cegana and Eduardo Dalcin, as Coordinating Institution staff, at the “Taller Iberoamericano para el intercambio de información sobre biodiversidad con énfasis en colecciones biológicas”, in Bogota, Colombia, there was an increase of 13,2% at the contact with Focal Points and Technical Representatives.

3.2.2.2. Species and Specimen TN (S&S TN)

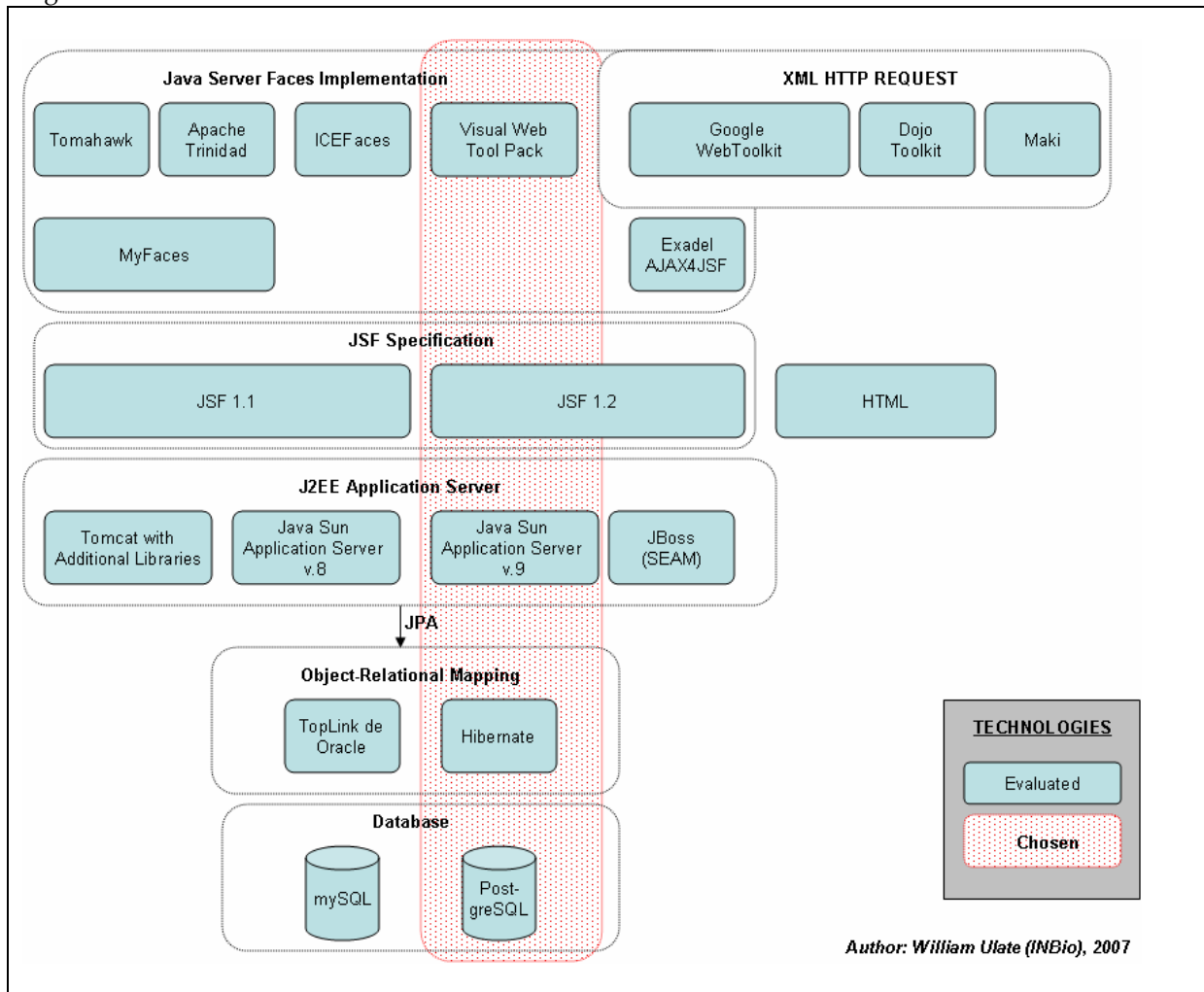
In the first semester of 2007 the implementation of the two main SSTN tools was started: the portal that integrates information on species and specimens (called *the portal*) and the data digitizing and management tool for species and specimens (called *the digitizer*). Progress in the development of the first version of the portal was 95% in relation to expected outputs for 30 June. This progress is considered satisfactory since the software on which the portal is based was being developed by GBIF and it was changing and GBIF had some delays in its development. The development of the portal was an excellent opportunity for the staffs of GBIF and SSTB to collaborate closely. This collaboration has been strengthened by other concrete activities being developed in the second semester of 2007. The IABIN Thematic Network Coordinator saw the beta version of the portal which is now being tested with different data sets.

Progress in the development of the first version of the data digitizing and managing tool was about 70% in relation to expected outputs to 30 June. The main reason for the delay was a steeper learning curve than anticipated in the use of the multiple tools involved, which are very new and not well documented, and which very few programmers have used in an integrated way, thus the learning process for the SSTN staff has been slower than planned. Figure 3 shows the variety of tools that were analyzed and those which were selected.

At present, SSTN is doubling efforts to have the first version ready by the end of August, 2007 in order for the tool to be used by the organizations that applied and were selected for data digitizing grants for Species. The due date to receive the proposals for Species data digitizing grants close on August 3rd and the process to sign the grant agreements takes about 4 weeks, so it is expected to have the data digitizing tool ready for them.

In addition to developing the portal and digitizing tool, the SSTN participated in the meeting of the IABIN IT Technical Working Group in Panama (28-30 March), in the IABIN Council Meeting in Uruguay (9-11 May) and the SSTN planned and facilitated the Validation Workshop for the Plinian Core 2.0 in San Jose, Costa Rica and participated in the selection of the first set of grants to digitize Specimen data. The SSTN has also made progress in obtaining data providers to test the first version of the portal (Entomological Museum de León in Nicaragua, Herbario de la Universidad de León in Nicaragua, STRI in Panamá, Herbario de la Universidad de Panamá, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Instituto von Humboldt in Colombia, IIAP en Perú, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, NatureServe in USA. and INBio in Costa Rica). Finally, there were 321 visits to the portal in June, 2007 (191 for the Spanish version, and 130 for the English one).

Figure 3



3.2.2.3. Ecosystems TN

During the period January-June, 2007, the activities of the ETN have been focused toward the following objectives:

1. Hire personnel for the ETN.
 - During this period, 3 individual consultants were hired: Miguel Vazquez (EcoCiencia, Ecuador), Miguel Blanco (Nicaragua), and Eric van Praag (Venezuela).
 - The technical personnel that provide support to the ETN at STRI was also enhanced during this period, by hiring a new System Administrator (Milton Solano) and two programmers.
 - Also an NGO (NatureServe) was chosen on a competitive basis to develop the contents of the Terrestrial Standard Format Database.
2. Expert Committees and Expert Committee Meetings.
 - Expert Committees were formed in the areas of Terrestrial, Aquatic and Marine Ecosystems.

- An Expert Committee Meeting was convened in Panama City on March, 2007. Key recommendations from the Expert Committees were:
 - Development of a Pilot project that will show how the Ecosystem Classification cross-walk will work
- 3. Development of the ETN Portal and ETN Architecture.
 - Version 1 of the ETN Portal came on line in March 2007.
 - A document was created describing the ETN architecture.
- 4. Develop the Infrastructure to provide geospatial Ecosystem data on line.
 - Activities for the implementation of the Geospatial Network in South America began during this semester. This work is being done in coordination with and funding from the Cooperación Andina de Fomento (CAF). This project will be carried out over a period of two years.
 - The World Bank provided the funds to follow up on the geoservers already created under the IABIN DGF project in Central America. This follow-up consisted of visits to the institutions that have geoservers. These visits were done jointly with CCAD's Instituto Regional de la Biodiversidad (IRBio), who under an agreement between IABIN and the CCAD has agreed to strengthen the existing national infrastructures in Central America.
 - In conjunction with the two activities above, the ETN:
 - Prepared a web survey to obtain information about existing geospatial infrastructure and ecosystem data in the countries.
 - Requested the formation of National Biodiversity Networks to encourage the participation of national organizations, universities and institutions as data providers.
 - Requested the countries to develop implementation plans to provide data through the system.

Results of the survey and the Implementation Plans are slowly coming in from the countries. Central American countries are creating or have already created National Biodiversity Networks.

- Made arrangements for NBII to provide a new GeoIntegrator for the IABIN Geospatial Network that will allow the visualization and integration of geospatial data with data from the other TNs.
- A request was presented to ESRI asking for 5 years ArcIMS free licenses for all the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean involved in the Geospatial Network.
- 5. Development of a Reference Standard Format for Terrestrial, Aquatic and Marine Ecosystems.
 - Preliminary versions of the Terrestrial, Aquatic and Marine Reference Standard Format were developed or adopted.
- 6. Development of a Reference Standard Format Database for Terrestrial, Aquatic and Marine Ecosystems.
 - A web form (based on the preliminary version of the Terrestrial Standard Format) was developed to enter information for each class in each Terrestrial classification system that will enter the information directly into a database.

3.2.2.4. Invasive Species TN

Tools and Standards

- The I3N Country Web System template was installed and launched to the public in Argentina (www.inbiar.org.ar) and Paraguay and is being installed in Brazil, Uruguay and Colombia. The *I3N Country Web System* includes a Web template, an intranet system designed for loading data into the *I3N Database* template, and an administrative system through which authorizations for data providers are assigned and the information is analyzed before its publication on the Internet.
- Risk and pathways analyses tools are in development. They use I3N data and controlled vocabulary, and can use data from PATN & SSTN. Their objective is to support prevention, early detection and control, to enable governments to determine management priorities based on I3N data. Results can be used in national IAS strategies, reports and policy development.
- GISP-TNC Model for a National Invasive Species Strategy: National strategies on invasive alien species are an important foundation for a country to effectively address biological invasions. The tools developed by I3N can support several components of a strategy, such as improving prevention systems and providing baseline data for decision-making. Countries using I3N tools can use them directly as they develop their national IAS strategies. The first national strategies template (click here to see in [Spanish](#) or [Portuguese](#)) for South American countries, which was recently developed by GISP and TNC South America IAS Program, explicitly recommends using I3N tools and explains how. The benefits of the strategy to I3N include: It shows the usefulness of I3N in time for the COP 9 (May 2008) in-depth review on invasive alien species, where GISP will highlight results; provides cofinancing for GEF grant; improves I3N workshop content and interest; provides additional publicity opportunities for I3N. Furthering our collaboration, we provided The Nature Conservancy (TNC) South America a forum for disseminating a National Invasive Species Strategy template; this promises to have a major impact in the region.
- Mapping occurrence records has been a subject of I3N-TWG discussions. We added a new TWG member to help with this aspect: Pan American Institute on Geography and History (PAIGH/IPGH) expert (J. Klaver), who brings a geospatial and Pan-American geography point of view. The I3N-Paraguay grantee developed point mapping using Google Maps and their I3N Web system; other countries may adopt this. We need coordination with other IABIN TNs and Catalog. We are awaiting guidance from Secretariat and IT-TWG.
- The new Central I3N Web site, which is rich in content and complies with new IABIN guidelines for Thematic Networks, was launched in March at i3n.iabin.net. A significant jump in visits and hits was seen at that time, when comparing visits from the new beta site during first and second quarters. We will be translating it into other IABIN languages later this year. (Documents accessible from website as of May 07: national documents = 243; general documents = 43.)

Collaboration and Communications

- Humboldt Institute: Based on the discussions among I3N Leads and CI at the South American I3N workshop in May, the Humboldt Institute decided to shift their strategy on I3N and is now preparing to use the I3N Country Web system for managing and displaying its data (instead of its own system).
- I3N was represented at the Brazilian Congress on Protected Areas and the PATN Workshop in June by Rafael Zenni of I3N-Brazil.

- We continued with an even stronger and very active collaboration with The Nature Conservancy - South America Invasive Species Program.
- We established a formal collaboration with The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), signing a Letter of Agreement.
- Several I3N meetings were held in Uruguay in May 2007: Technical Working Group Meeting, Uruguay national I3N chapter meeting, Caribbean Region I3N meeting, and regional meeting of I3N in South America (see photo). (To review presentations and other documents, please go to the "Workshops & Meetings" page on I3N.iabin.net.) In addition, I3N CI participated in other side and pre-meetings with partners in the region, including with national institutions interested in working on invasive species informatics, The Nature Conservancy, the GEOSur geospatial mapping initiative and the Global Invasive Species Program. Also, I3N held strategic discussions with the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). Representatives from more than 20 countries attended the I3N meetings.
- The meetings were successful and extremely well received by focal points and experts, meriting repeated mentions throughout the Council meeting and multiple compliments. This significantly strengthened the reputation of the I3N as a competent, effective convener in invasive species information sharing and its role as a hemispheric leader in invasive species issues.
- A concept paper regarding the roles and relationships between I3N stakeholders was updated and circulated.



Project Management

- Two new countries (Costa Rica and Panama) joined I3N. Current active members (17) are Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, USA, Uruguay.

Capacity Building

- I3N in the Caribbean: We are planning our outreach to new islands with several activities in 2007 and are working with Jamaica Focal Point I3N to coordinate training for Caribbean IABIN workshop in the fall.
- I3N Invasive Species Scientists Offered Database Training to Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Participants learned how to employ the I3N occurrence and tracking database and Web site templates.
- A full 3-day I3N training workshop was offered in Bolivia with funding from The Nature Conservancy's South America Invasive Species Program.

- A 4-hour database training update was offered in Chile with funding from The Nature Conservancy's South America Invasive Species Program.

3.2.2.5. Pollinators TN

After the successful December 12-15, 2006 meeting in Indaiatuba, Brazil, where the group of experts discussed needs, addressed issues, and provided recommendations for developing a Pollinator Thematic Network for the Americas, the IABIN PTN group has continued to meet and make great progress on the IABIN PTN Portal.

In order to better assess available data resources, needs, priorities, and information gaps for pollinators in the Western Hemisphere, the team distributed and received approximately 180 questionnaires, and counting, that will help guide the development of a comprehensive pollinator thematic network. The questionnaire assessed participants' needs and where they currently go for their pollinator information. It also asked if the participants taking the questionnaire have pollinator information to share, and if so, if they would be willing to share this information in the system.

This is a significant accomplishment, with the questionnaire taking approximately 20 minutes to complete. Despite this over 180 people were more than eager to participate once they were told the purpose of the data request. We are currently working with the raw data to assess information needs for the Pollinator Thematic Network.

The Final Report from the meeting in Indaiatuba, Brazil has been completed. It is 30 pages detailing content, needs assessments, information technology, content acquisition, cooperation, and a summary of the December meeting.

Discussions of the overall IABIN PTN Portal have been progressing by addressing the Terms of Reference (ToR), compatibility, and interoperability between portals.

The IABIN PTN team has also been researching The Directory of Experts. The team have agreed upon a two tiered directory that will consist of a directory that is accessible to everyone (the public) and another directory that will be accessible only to members with a login username and password.

4. Component 2: Data Content Creation

In general, this component deals with matching grants and training that began with RfPs for Data Digitizing Grants in late 2005. A concerted effort has been undertaken by the Secretariat to meet with potential data providers in order to inform details of network development, particularly as it relates to the TNs, standards and protocols adopted by IABIN, and the data content building grants.

4.1 Data Providers

The Data Content Manager carried out a 2-day meeting in Santiago de Chile with potential Data Providers in that country on 2-3 April, 2007. The meeting was hosted by CONAMA and the National Museum of Natural History. The objective of the meeting was twofold: 1) to identify

potential biodiversity data providers in Chile and 2) strengthen the development of a national network on species, specimens, invasive species in the short term, and pollinators, ecosystems and protected areas in the medium term. There were 46 participants from all regions of Chile. This meeting had been planned to take place in 2006, but due to internal changes at the Museum, it was postponed until 2007.

The strategy in 2007 for meetings with potential data providers in the countries where such a meeting has not yet taken place will be to wait until the TNs have developed their data digitizing tool in order to present the tools during the meetings. Thus, the meetings planned for Peru, Bolivia and Panama will take place towards the end of the second semester of 2007.

The CI for the PTN has identified potential sources of Western Hemisphere bee specimen records, both in the Americas and elsewhere (Table 2).

Table 2. Potential Sources of Bee Specimen Records (estimated)			
Location of Collection/Database	Specimens Databased	Specimens Not Databased	Total Specimens
North America Total	838,000	1,140,000	1,968,000
York, Winnipeg, Ottawa; CA	20,000	120,000	
USGS, Beltsville, MD, USA	40,000	0	
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA	200,000	100,000	
ARS, Logan, UT, USA	300,000	550,000	
AMNH, New York, NY, USA	100,000	100,000	
University of California, Riverside, CA, USA	5,000	150,000	
Smithsonian NMNH, Washington, DC, USA	0	60,000	
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA	13,000	10,000	
Conabio, Unibio, etc., MX	150,000	50,000	
South America	0	846,600	846,600
Museu Nacional Univ. Fed. Rio Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ		40,000	
Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, PA		16,000	
Museu de Zoologia da USP, São Paulo, SP		35,000	
UFPR -Univ. Federal Paraná, Curitiba, PR		340,000	
FFCLRP/USP, Ribeirão Preto, SP		170,000	
IBUSP, São Paulo, SP		26,000	
PUCRS, Porto Alegre, RS		20,500	
ICB, UFMG, Belo Horizonte, MG		30,000	
UFV, Viçosa, MG		20,000	
Depto. Sistemática e Ecologia, UFPB, João Pessoa, PB		20,000	
UFPE, Recife, PE		20,000	
EBDA, Salvador, BA		25,000	
INPA, Manaus, AM		35,000	
UFBA, Salvador, BA		5,000	
UFMA, São Luis, MA		13,000	
Univ. do Norte Fluminense, Campos de Goytacazes, RJ		12,000	
UFSC, Florianópolis SC		1,300	
UNESC, Criciúma, SC		6,500	
UEFS, Feira de Santa, BA		6,000	

UFAC, Rio Branco, AC		300	
UFCCG, Patos, PB		5,000	
Western Hemisphere Total			2,814,600

In addition to those collections already described, there are additional collections that contain significant types or important regional representation. These collections, listed by city, are identified and are provided in Table 3. Data from these collections should be pursued in the longer term, with priority attention given to those containing significant type specimens.

Collections (City)	Country	Continent	World	NA	CA	SA
San Jose	CR	C. America			1	2
La Habana	CU	C. America			1	1
Vienna	AT	Europe				2
Berlin	DE	Europe	1		1	1
Eberswalde	DE	Europe				2
Frankfurt	DE	Europe				1
Munich	DE	Europe				2
Paris	FR	Europe	1		1	1
Copenhagen	GB	Europe			2	2
Glasgow	GB	Europe				2
London	GB	Europe	1	1	1	1
Oxford	GB	Europe				2
Budapest	HU	Europe				2
Genova	IT	Europe				1
Napoli	IT	Europe				2
Torino	IT	Europe				2
Warsaw	PL	Europe				2
St. Petersburg	RU	Europe				2
Stockholm	SE	Europe				2
Uppsala	SE	Europe				2
Halifax	US	N. America		1		
Ottawa	CA	N. America		1		
Vancouver	CA	N. America		2		
York	CA	N. America		2		2
Chamela	MX	N. America		1	1	
Cholula	MX	N. America		1	1	
Mexico	MX	N. America		1	1	
Ann Arbor	US	N. America		2		
Berkeley	US	N. America		1	1	
Cambridge	US	N. America		1		
College Station	US	N. America		2		
Columbus	US	N. America		2		
Davis	US	N. America		1	2	
Gainesville	US	N. America		1		2
Ithaca	US	N. America		1	2	2
Lawrence	US	N. America	1	1	1	1

Lincoln	US	N. America		2		
Logan	US	N. America	2	1	1	1
Los Angeles	US	N. America		1	2	
Moscow	US	N. America		2		
New York	US	N. America	1			1
Philadelphia	US	N. America		1	1	
Pittsburgh	US	N. America		2	2	
Pullman	US	N. America		2		
Raleigh	US	N. America		1		

Table 3. Bee Collections Containing Significant Type Specimens (1) or Having Important Regional Representation (2). (continues)

Collections (City)	Country	Continent	World	NA	CA	SA
San Diego	US	N. America		2	2	
San Francisco	US	N. America	1	1	2	
Washington, DC	US	N. America	1	1	2	1
Tucson	US	N. America		2		
Urbana	US	N. America		1	2	
Buenos Aires	AR	S. America				1
La Plata	AR	S. America				1
Mendoza	AR	S. America				2
Tucuman	AR	S. America				1
Belem	BR	S. America				1
Belo Horizonte	BR	S. America				2
Curitiba	BR	S. America			1	1
Feira de Santana	BR	S. America				2
Ilheus - CEPLAC	BR	S. America				2
Ilheus - UESC	BR	S. America				2
Joao Pessoa	BR	S. America				2
Macapa	BR	S. America				2
Manaus	BR	S. America				2
Patos	BR	S. America				2
Porto Alegre	BR	S. America				2
Ribeirao Preto	BR	S. America				1
Rio de Janeiro-MN	BR	S. America				1
Rio de Janeiro-FIOC	BR	S. America				2
Salvador	BR	S. America				2
Sao Luis	BR	S. America				2
Sao Paulo-MZ	BR	S. America				1
Sao Paulo-USP	BR	S. America				2
Vicosa	BR	S. America				2
Concepcion	CH	S. America				2
Santiago	CH	S. America				2

Valparaiso	CH	S. America				1
Bogota	CO	S. America				1
Cali	CO	S. America				2
Medellin	CO	S. America				2
Villa de Leyva	CO	S. America				1
Lima	PR	S. America				2
Maracay	VE	S. America				2

In the case of the **Invasive Species data providers**, Table 4 summarizes information on country reports developed through this network:

Table 4. I3N Summary of Country Reports Received April 2007*

Country	Species (06 / 07)	Occurrence records (06/07)	Trainees (06 and 07)	Data providers (pers/instit)	Policy, mgt, etc	Publications, posters	Other products
<i>Arg</i>	407/452	450/1087	5	238	Yes	Yes: 3	--
<i>Bra</i>	267 / 281	9524 / 9639	--	613 / 260	Yes	Informe Nacional sobre especies exóticas invasoras	--
<i>Col</i>	-- / 368 [diff. format]	-- / 230 [diff. format]	--	45 / --	Yes	Yes: 3	Yes
<i>CoR</i>	--		--	--	Yes	Yes: 1	--
<i>DoR</i>	138 / 138	-- / 342	--	112 / 24	Yes	Yes: 2; article listing the benefits of I3N activities to the country	Yes
<i>Jam</i>	83 / 84	247 / 271	21	30 / 12	Yes	2 posters, 2 brochures	Yes
<i>Mex</i>	--	--	--	--	Yes	None reported	Yes
<i>Per</i>	--	--	35	--	Yes	Poster	--
<i>Par</i>	-- / 23	-- / 77	--	11 / 6	Yes	None reported	
<i>Uru</i>	107 / 170	911 / 1306	--	19 / 7	Yes	Yes: 3; scientific article that contains a reference to I3N: Especies acuáticas exóticas en Uruguay: situación, problemática y manejo	--
<i>USA</i>	[diff. format]	[diff. format]	15-50	- / 7	Yes	Yes: 2	Yes

*Notes on Table:

- Second column: The total number of species in new I3N database, as of 31 December 2006, and as of March 31, 2007 (only Arg, Bra are online)
- Third column: The total number of occurrences (location records) for all species in new I3N database, as of 31 December 2006, and as of March 31, 2007 (only Arg, Bra are online)
- Fourth column: The number of individuals and institutions that have contributed data to new database.
- Fifth column: Persons and institutions that provided data.
- Sixth column: Related achievements, such as national policies influenced, key national coordination meetings held, etc. (05-07)
- Seventh column: publications, posters created
- Last column: Any other related achievements, such as partnership agreements, university theses, international meeting presentations, etc. (05-07)

4.2. Data digitizing grants

Invasive Species Thematic Network (I3N)

- The third Request for Proposals for I3N was published on June 22 and the deadline to receive proposals is August 20, 2007
- In response to the Second Request for Proposals published in October, 2006, five proposals to digitize I3N data were received by the deadline in January 2007 and four were approved for grants: Instituto Horus de Desenvolvimento e Conservação Ambiental (Brazil), Universidad Ricardo Palma, Museo de Historia Natural (Peru), Corporación Centro de Datos para la Conservación (Ecuador) and Asociación para la Conservación y el Estudio de la Biodiversidad (ACEBIO) (Costa Rica). The Grant Agreement between the grantees and the OAS has been signed and the grantees have started work.
- As previously reported, five grants were awarded in early 2006, as a result of the First Request for Proposals to digitize I3N data, and the projects were finished in the first semester of 2007, which are:
 - Argentina – Fundación Universidad Nacional del Sur. Consolidation of the Argentinean database on Biological Invasions
 - Jamaica - Institute of Jamaica. Implement, update and maintain an I3N IAS Database in Jamaica
 - Paraguay - Asociación Guyra Paraguay. Building Capacity for the Paraguayan Invasive Network
 - Uruguay - Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay (UDELAR) through its Facultad de Ciencias. Implement, update and maintain an I3N IAS Database in Uruguay
 - Colombia - Instituto de Investigaciones de recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt. Implement, update and maintain an I3N IAS Database in Colombia.
 - Special value added by grantees: Jamaica created brochures and posters that could be adopted by other countries. Paraguay created a mapping function for the *Country Web System*. Argentina has so far selected 20 species native to Argentina that are invasive elsewhere, and is compiling information from the grey literature on those species that relevant to managers but difficult to obtain by outsiders.

Species and Specimens Thematic Network (SSTN)

- The second Request for Proposals for **Specimens** was published on June 1, 2007 and the deadline to receive proposals is August 3, 2007.
- In response to the First Request for Proposals under SSTN, published in October 2006, fifteen proposals to digitize Specimen data were received by the deadline in January

2007. Of these, 7 were selected to receive grants: Fundación Miguel Lillo and Instituto Superiod de Entomología (Argentina), Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Instituto e Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras – INVEMAR (Colombia), Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Círculo Herpetológico de Panamá. The grant agreements have been signed between the grantees and the OAS and work on the projects have commenced.

- The first Request for Proposals for **Species** will be published on July 25, 2007.

Ecosystems Thematic Network (ETN)

- The first Request for Proposals for Ecosystems was published on April 19. Four proposals were received by the deadline of 22 June and are being evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Selected grantees will be notified by July 23.

Pollinators Thematic Network (PTN)

- The first Request for Proposals for Pollinators was published on April 23 with a deadline to receive proposals of July 1, 2007. Eight proposals were received and are being evaluated. Selected grantees will be notified by August 8.

Protected Areas Thematic Network (PATN)

- The Protected Areas TN will publish its first request for proposals to digitize data in December, 2007

5. Component 3: Tools for Decision-making

The IABIN Council, at its 5th Meeting, discussed the document prepared by the Secretariat regarding the needs assessment and current decision-making tools assessment they carried out. The Council decided to wait until the IABIN-GEF Project Midterm Evaluation to see how best use the funds under this component.

In addition, the DGF IABIN Geospatial Network, which is an initiative of the Connectivity Program of IABIN under this component, concluded formal activities under the World Bank grant in April. This initiative has developed the following tools and applications for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean that are available to the whole network:

These tools and applications can be accessed at <http://geospatial.iabin.net>

Additionally, there have been advancements in compiling information on Tools for Decision Making developed by organizations or institutions other than IABIN without accessing cash under this component, which will be promoted as appropriate to end-users. These activities include:

- Protected Areas Tools
2 workshops were held at OAS Washington on July and January 2007.

Objective:

1. Share info on tools that are available for viewing and integrating geospatial or geo referenced data for Pas.
2. Understand/share info regarding compatibilities/incompatibilities that result from use of standards/protocols.
3. Possibly make recommendations for improving compatibility.
4. Also a new bit of info – IABIN is having a Technical working group meeting the week before in Panama with all the 5 thematic networks of IABIN (species specimens, pollinators, ecosystems, PAs, Invasives) so we will hopefully have the output from that meeting that might be of interest.

Several Speakers gave talks, which along with a report on this meeting are available on the web (see results of last meeting on January 9, 2007 please see link:

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/Events/english/BiodiversityInformaticsTools/07.01.23.htm>

6. Component 4: Sustainability of IABIN

6.1. IABIN Secretariat.

The IABIN Secretariat is hosted in Panama at the City of Knowledge. The IABIN Secretariat is staffed with the Secretariat Director, Data Content Manager, and Thematic Networks Coordinator. Iván Valdespino, Director (Panama), Rita Besana, Data Content Manager (Mexico), and Boris Ramirez, Thematic Networks Coordinator (Colombia), have been contracted on GS/OAS contracts. Jeannette Marie Gálvez Bunting, Administrative Assistant, was hired using City of Knowledge funds as stipulated in the IABIN/City of Knowledge Agreement. The Secretariat completed the following tasks not noted above:

6.1.1. Planning, Coordination and Reporting

- Monthly phone conferences were conducted with G. Cotter, Chair of the IEC, her staff and GS/OAS for planning, coordination, and monitoring of project progress.
- Frequent communication maintained with Focal Points and Council members in general.
- Semester report completed by the GS/OAS-IABIN Secretariat. 2006 second semester report in English was translated into Spanish and distributed to IEC members and posted in IABIN website.
- The First GeoSur meeting with IABIN Focal Points from South America was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, as an event prior to the IABIN Council Meeting. Focal Points from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay attended this meeting, where representatives of the GeoSur Program, CAF, and the Secretariat explained the goals, objectives, and scope of the Program. As a result, the work program proposed was agreed upon, including development of implementation plans by participating countries and the carrying out of the first training event on geospatial tools and applications to be held late in July, 2007 in the United States (see further details under fundraising).



IABIN Focal Points from South America participating at the IABIN-GeoSur coordination meeting

- Jacqueline Klaver of the IPGH has coordinated with the IABIN Secretariat, USGS, and the GeoSur Program to propose a Remote Sensing Application Workshop for Central and South America in 2008. The objective of this workshop will be to facilitate analysis and applications of geospatial and remotely sensed data, including its integration with biodiversity data, and to further Central and South America's capacity to use, present, and act on these data, as well as to add data content to the GEOSUR servers. Some funding has been requested from IPGH, a commitment of 25K has been obtained from CAF, and upon inclusion on the IABIN 2008 work plan some 10K can be allocated for this activity that will benefit network countries.
- The Secretariat has prepared a draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the independent evaluation at mid term of the IABIN-GEF project. IEC Chair and Vice-Chair, the OAS, and the World Bank are revising this. It is expected that by the end of July, 2007 the ToRs will be finalized, translated into Spanish, and advertised.
- The Co-Chair of the IABIN Sustainability Committee, created at the Fifth IABIN Council Meeting, and the IABIN Secretariat have prepared a document outlining the plan of action, tasks, and challenges for this committee to come up with concrete activities to secure the long-term sustainability and to develop a common, updated framework for the network to continue thriving in the future. This document is being translated into English for dissemination within the committee in order for it to initiate concrete activities as mandated by the IABIN Council.

6.1.2. Co-financing

- Secretariat collaborated with SG/OAS by contacting partner organizations and CIs and encouraging them to submit co-financing information (Tables 5 and 6).

Table 5.

CORE PARALLEL FINANCING

Period: January - June 2007

	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Total
GEF Financing	\$167,122	\$72,195	\$0	\$107,752	\$50,911	\$397,979
Parallel Financing						
Coordinating Institutions						
SSTN -- Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad	\$239,730					\$239,730
ETN - Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	\$20,175					\$20,175
I3N -- U.S. Geological Survey	\$98,000	\$86,375		\$36,600		\$220,975
PTN -- CoEvolution Institute *	\$134,132					\$134,132
PATN -- Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza	\$442,986					\$442,986
Grants						
Asociación Guyra Paraguay		\$27,487				\$27,487
Fundación Universidad Nacional del Sur (Argentina)		\$8,155				\$8,155
Inst.de Investigación Alexander Von Humboldt (Colombia)		\$14,809				\$14,809
Institute of Jamaica		\$6,688				\$6,688
Universidad de la República - Facultad de Ciencias (Uruguay)		\$7,545				\$7,545
U.S. Geological Survey/National Biological Information Infrastructure (USGS/NBII)	\$125,200	\$30,950	\$35,000	\$75,368		\$266,518
City of Knowledge				\$17,807		\$17,807
GS/OAS					\$110,937	\$110,937
Total Assured Parallel Financing	\$1,060,223	\$182,009	\$35,000	\$129,775	\$110,937	\$1,517,943
Total IABIN Financing	\$1,227,345	\$254,203	\$35,000	\$237,527	\$161,847	\$1,915,923

* Includes from November 30, 2006 through June 30, 2007

Table 6.

NON - CORE PARALLEL FINANCING

Period: January - June 2007

Institution Name	Component 1	Component 2	Component 4	Total
City of Knowledge *	13,489			\$13,489
World Bank's Mesoamerican Biological Corridor*	11,000			\$11,000
NatureServe*	49,377			\$49,377
Museo Argentino De Ciencias Naturales*	13,435			\$13,435
World Wildlife Fund**	104,200			\$104,200
EcoCiencia**	20,030			\$20,030
Inst.de Investigación Alexander Von Humboldt**	10,588			\$10,588
The Nature Conservancy**	26,000			\$26,000
Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (Chile)		11,725	13,028	\$24,753
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (Chile)			1,908	\$1,908
Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenam.Territorial y MA-DINAMA (Uruguay)			19,141	\$19,141
Total assured parallel financing	160,818.00	11,725.19	34,076.97	\$206,620

* Contribution to ETN

** Contributions to PATN

6.2. Partnership and Communications

6.2.1. Fifth IABIN Council Meeting

The Fifth IABIN Council Meeting took place on 9-11 May in Punta del Este, Uruguay, hosted by the National Directorate for the Environment (DINAMA), the IABIN Focal Point in that country. This meeting was attended by 79 participants of which 30 were Focal Points representing equal number of countries out of the 34 IABIN countries.

The IABIN Secretariat prepared 12 discussion papers on substantive themes for discussion and agreements during this meeting. A document compiling all resolutions and agreements was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed for comments to Focal Points. All these documents are available at the IABIN Webpage.



IABIN Focal Points, Secretariat, Coordinating Institutions and other Participants to IABIN Fifth Council Meeting

Three members of the IEC who had served for three Council Meetings ended their terms: Maria Luisa del Rio (Peru), Daven Joseph (Antigua and Barbuda), and Christoph Haeuser of GBIF. To replace them, four new members of the IABIN Executive Committee (IEC) were elected: Dionne Newell (Jamaica), Dario Luque (Panama), Maarten Kappelle (The Nature Conservancy) and Beatriz Torres (GBIF).

The IABIN Council accepted the proposal made by the Focal Point from the Dominican Republic to host the Sixth IABIN Council Meeting in that country in 2009. And, recently, we have received an official letter from the Secretary of Environment of Dominican Republic committing to the hosting of the Sixth IABIN Council Meeting.

6.2.2. Other Partnership and Communications

- During this period most efforts has been to develop strong partnership with several institutions that help support development of the different Thematic Networks. In addition, a strong collaboration has been forged with AAG, CAF, and USGS to advance technical programs and fundraising activities for the development of the network, which has been reported in detail in other parts of this report.
- IABIN – IWCAM biodiversity informatics workshop focusing on marine issues for the Caribbean Region

Dionne Newell, IABIN Focal Point for Jamaica and member of the IABIN Executive Committee, agreed to coordinate the proposed Caribbean initiative that has been budgeted at 30k. In May-June 2007, Ms. Newell queried the Caribbean Focal Points and received feedback that they would like to do a targeted activity that furthered database development in the priority areas as indicated in the previous 2 Council meetings – marine species, coral reefs, and marine protected areas (MPAs).

The venue and dates of this meeting are still to be decided. It may be done in conjunction with the Integrated Watershed Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) that is planning to have an “indicators of watershed management and coastal areas” workshop in late 2007.

- During this semester, the Secretariat has received and answered an estimate of 11,700 e-mail messages and has actively circulated through posting on our Webpage, IABINfriends, and other web portals all information related to procurement processes. In addition, Focal Points have acknowledged the steady flow of information and request for involvement sent by the Secretariat.
- The IABIN Secretariat is also working with TNC to draft a letter of intent to formalize the active collaboration we are developing with them. Originally, we intended to sign a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC), but given that IABIN does not have a legal status this could not be pursued.
- At the invitation of the Consortium of Canadian Universities (including McGill University, Université Laval and la Université du Québec a Montréal), the IABIN Secretariat has been actively involved in the development of the Panamanian Researchers Network (PRN), which is being promoted by SENACyT. The PRN has four main themes that are of national interest: bioinformatics, the environment, nutrition and infectious diseases, and inter-cultural relations. IABIN is the main partner for bioinformatics.
- The ETN Coordinator and the Thematic Network Coordinator held a meeting with ANAM to coordinate the implementation of the ETN in Panama.
- The ETN Coordinator and IRBio Coordinator (Biodiversity Regional Institute for Central America) visited the IABIN Focal Points and Ministries of Environment in Central America to coordinate activities in the region in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- The IABIN Secretariat attended several events related to the OAS General Assembly that took place in Panama in June. In addition, the Secretariat provided technical and administrative support to the OAS Office in Panama during the Assembly.
- The IABIN Secretariat held several meetings and phone conversations with the Focal Point in Panama and staff from ANAM in order to identify the I3N Lead in this country.

- The IABIN Secretariat has also maintained its active collaboration and coordination with City Of Knowledge, not only in matters regarding the hosting of the Secretariat but also on fundraising (e.g., swap of debt for knowledge management concept, which was explained at the IABIN Council) and organization of sustainable development events and visualization of IABIN at international fora (e.g., EIMA).

6.3. Fund Raising

- The IABIN Secretariat jointly with the Association of American Geographers (AAG), and the Neotropical Project (led by Jeff Waldon at Virginia Tech) prepared the pre-proposal *“Enhancing Knowledge for Establishing Ecosystem Conservation Priorities in the Neotropics by Integrating Biodiversity and Geospatial Data,”* which was submitted to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation for US\$200K. IABIN & AAG’s proposal was one of the 14 pre-proposals selected to submit a full proposal out of a field of more than 200 submitted. The full proposal will be submitted by August 15, 2007, for a joint project between IABIN, the and the American Association of Geographers.
- The IABIN Secretariat has worked with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), IPGH, USGS-EROS Data Center, and Vincent Abreu of the ETN (also involved in the IABIN Geospatial network), and others to design and execute the **GeoSur Program**. This program will, among other things, help expand the IABIN GeoSpatial Network to South America. The GeoSur Project was formally presented to the Council at its Fifth Meeting in Uruguay. IABIN will be executing a budget of ca. 50K for technical aspects of the GeoSur Program under its responsibility.

As part of the execution of the GeoSur Program, a workshop will be held from July 30 – August 10, 2007, at the Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA. The workshop is titled *“South American Workshop on New Geospatial Technologies, Establishment of Web Map Services, Spatial Data Cataloguing, and Regional Data Integration,”* and its principal objective is to support the implementation of spatial data dissemination mechanisms in South America for better decision-making.

In order to secure a broad participation of IABIN South American countries in the workshop, the IABIN Secretariat and the GeoSur Program submitted a proposal to the Professional Development Scholarship Program of the OAS. As a result, 20 fellowships were secured to cover airfare for equal number of South American technical personnel to participate in the course described.

- The IABIN Secretariat worked with World Bank IABIN project team and Vincent Abreu to prepare and submit two proposals for Internal Competition under the World Bank’s Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD, www.worldbank.org/tfessd), which were approved. These proposals are: Developing Guidelines for Management of Environmental Information in World Bank and IADB projects (US\$40K) and Integrating Ecosystem and Species Data into Disease Forecasting Models (200K). Work is underway by the World Bank IABIN Project team with the support of the Secretariat for the execution of these projects.
- IABIN was invited by CABI to collaborate on drafting a Request for a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) titled *Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean*, to be submitted to the GEF for funding. The IABIN Secretariat jointly with the I3N Coordinator

and a Jamaican representative took the lead on revising the proposal to include those areas where IABIN could collaborate in developing the project. A revised version of the PPG draft was submitted by IABIN to CABI, along with a support letter for this PPG addressed to GEF.

- We have received complementary funds from the Andean Development Corporation and other sources to partially pay for Secretariat staff attendance to meetings.

7. Component 5: Project Administration

- Secretariat Travel Plan has been kept updated reflecting vision of Secretariat's role and activities for next 12 months.
- The PIP and Operational Manual have been updated and may be found on www.iabin.net.

8. Achievement of Project Objectives

8.1 Indicators

At the Fifth IABIN Council Meeting, the IABIN Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology was approved by the Council and has replaced Annex 1 of the PIP.

The following matrix (Table 7) shows the nine indicators approved by the World Bank and the IABIN Council and their measurements.

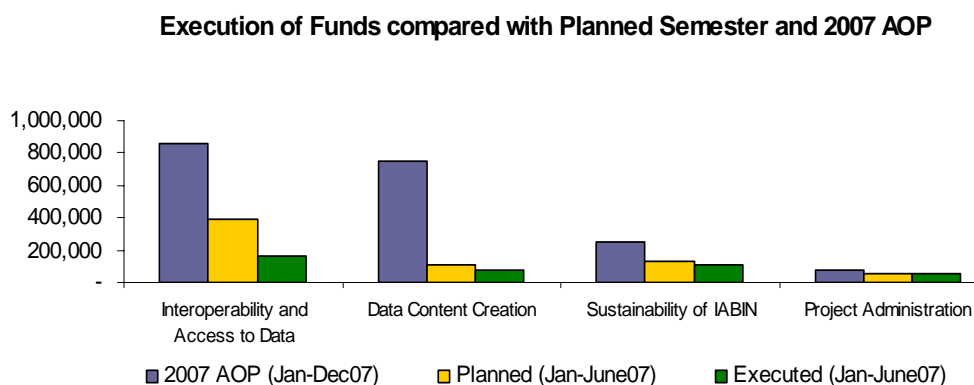
Table 7. IABIN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Responsible	Baseline as of Dec 2006	Measurement on 1 st Quarter 2007	Measurement on 2 nd Quarter 2007
1. Increase of Visits to the portals of :				
IABIN	IABIN Secretariat	5,190 visits/month as of 9/05	22,701 (7,567 visits/month on average)	22,701 (7,567 visits/month on average)
IBN	A. Grosse		10,141 (3,638 visits/month on average) old website	4,493 (1,498 visits/month on average) new website launched in April
SSTN	E. Mata	0		321 in June, 2007
ETN	V. Abreu	0	Launched in March 2007	2, 097 (524 visits/month average)
PTN	L. Adams	0		
PATN	E. Dalcin	95 visits/month	208 visits/mo (average of Jan-Apr visits)	
Catalog	M. Frame	0		
2. Use of the decision-support tools available through IABIN increases	IABIN Secretariat	0e		Nothing to measure yet
3. TNs and Catalog websites established and integrated into IABIN Portal.	IABIN Secretariat	0		All TNs have a portal but they are not yet integrated
4. Data and metadata content increase in the IABIN Catalog and TNs increases:				

Total in IABIN	IABIN Secretariat			1,632
I3N	A. Grosse	0		1,632
SSTN	E. Mata	0		No data as yet
ETN	V. Abreu	0		No data as yet
PTN	L. Adams	0		No data as yet
PATN	E. Dalcin	0		No data as yet
Catalog	M. Frame	0		No data as yet
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by IABIN TNs				
I3N	A. Grosse			155
SSTN	E. Mata	0		None yet
ETN	V. Abreu	0		None yet
PTN	L. Adams	0		None yet
PATN	E. Dalcin	0		None yet
Catalog	M. Frame	0		None yet
6. At least three decision-support tools available through IABIN	R. Huber	0	None developed by IABIN GEF project yet. Three tools were developed under the DGF project without accessing GEF funds: (species distribution model, anthropogenic stress map for Managua Lake, and the protected area decision support system),	At its Fifth Meeting the Council decided to wait until after the Midterm Evaluation to proceed or not with the development of these tools
7. Funding and other resources secured for continued and effective functioning of IABIN	IABIN Secretariat	0		\$50,000 from CAF \$15,000 from NBII
8. New partnerships facilitated by IABIN involving access to biodiversity information within the Americas	IABIN Secretariat	GBIF NBII CoK		TNC, IUCN, WCMC CABI, BirdLife, OBIS, ESRI, CCAD, CAF, Bar Code of Life, AAG, WWF
9. Project is rated satisfactory or better by the World Bank and by the IABIN Council	IEC			At the Fifth Council Meeting, the progress was rated satisfactory

9. Financial Status.

In general, budget execution has been lagging in the first semester of 2007, as compared to targets established in the 2007 Annual Operating Plan.



The level of execution in: (i) Component 1 was 42.76%, due to the rescheduling on implementation of activities by the Coordinating Institutions; (ii) Component 2 was 66.48%, due to the extension given to advertise the call for proposals for the Data Content Grants for Pollinators and Protected Areas; (iii) Component 4 and 5 was 85% and 92% respectively. The details on level of execution are in Table 8 and Table 10 below:

Table 8. Level of Execution by IABIN Components (Period: January – June 2007)

COMPONENTS/SUBCOMPONENTS/ACTIVITIES	2007 Annual Operating Plan	Semester			
		Planned	Executed	Variance: Planned - Executed	Variance: Executed / Planned
		Jan-Jun07	Jan-Jun07	(US\$)	%
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	\$858,769	\$390,813	167,122.14	\$223,691	42.76%
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	\$753,800	\$108,600	72,194.50	\$36,406	66.48%
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	\$247,745	\$126,282	107,752.11	\$18,530	85.33%
Total 05 -- Project Administration	\$77,945	\$55,431	50,910.64	\$4,521	91.84%
Grand Total	\$2,188,259	\$681,127	\$397,979	\$283,147	58.43%

Table 9 shows the funds available for the second semester of 2007 (July - December 2007), as compared with the targets established in the Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

Table 9. Funds available for the by IABIN Components

COMPONENTS/SUBCOMPONENTS/ACTIVITIES	2007 Annual Operating Plan	Executed	Funds available for next semester	Allocation of funds available
	Jan-Dec07	Jan-Jun07	July-Dec07	%
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	\$858,769	167,122.14	691,646.86	38.63%
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	\$753,800	72,194.50	681,605.50	38.07%
Total 03 -- Inform. Products for Decision Making	\$250,000	-	\$250,000	13.96%
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	\$247,745	107,752.11	139,992.39	7.82%
Total 05 -- Project Administration	\$77,945	50,910.64	27,034.52	1.51%
Grand Total	\$2,188,259	\$397,979	\$1,790,279	100.00%

The following table shows the level of execution by components and subcomponents from the inception date on November 2004 through June 30, 2007, in comparison with the Project Appraisal document (PAD)

Table 10. Execution of funds to June 30, 2007 by IABIN Component/Subcomponents

Components / Subcomponents / Activities	PAD: Life of Project	Cumulative Expenses to June 30, 2007	Level of Execution (Cumulative Expenses / PAD)
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	\$1,725,000	\$591,620	34.30%
IABIN Catalogue Service	\$260,000	\$6,354	2.44%
Specimens and Species Thematic Networks	\$400,000	\$224,754	56.19%
Ecosystems Thematic Network	\$250,000	\$77,873	31.15%
Invasive Species Thematic Network	\$165,000	\$29,738	18.02%
Pollinators Thematic Network	\$180,000	\$39,500	21.94%
Protected Areas Thematic Network	\$230,000	\$95,400	41.48%
Thematic Networks Coordinator	\$240,000	\$118,000	49.17%
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	\$2,460,000	\$246,227	10.01%
Metadata Content Program	\$260,000	\$0	0.00%
Specimen Content Program	\$400,000	\$14,625	3.66%
Species Content Program	\$400,000	\$0	0.00%
Ecosystems Content Program	\$400,000	\$0	0.00%
Invasive Species Content Program	\$315,000	\$111,402	35.37%
Pollinators Species Content Program	\$270,000	\$0	0.00%
Protected Area Content Program	\$175,000	\$2,200	1.26%
Data Content Manager	\$240,000	\$118,000	49.17%
Total 03 -- Inform. Products for Decision Making	\$500,000	\$0	0.00%
1 Value-added Proposals / Projects	\$400,000	\$0	0.00%
2 Outreach Training Workshops	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	\$915,000	\$436,530	47.71%
IABIN Secretariat	\$455,000	\$257,805	56.66%
1 Secretariat office	\$30,000	\$8,729	29.10%
2 Secretariat travel	\$131,400	\$66,585	50.67%
3 Director	\$273,600	\$170,500	62.32%
4 Operating Expenses	\$20,000	\$11,990	59.95%
Partnerships and Communications	\$460,000	\$178,725	38.85%
1 Specialized Consultancies	\$50,000	\$0	0.00%
2 IABIN Council Meetings	\$195,000	\$92,664	47.52%
3 IEC Technical Meetings	\$40,000	\$19,091	47.73%
4 Communication tools, newsletters and brochures	\$50,000	\$2,724	5.45%
5 Outreach Meetings and Events	\$125,000	\$64,247	51.40%
Total 05 -- Project Administration	\$400,000	\$187,882	46.97%
OAS			
1 Operating Expenses	\$114,210	\$67,862	59.42%
2 Consulting	\$237,790	\$103,475	43.52%
3 Travel	\$48,000	\$16,545	34.47%
Grand Total	\$6,000,000	\$1,462,259	24.37%

10. Other IABIN-related Projects

The Andes Amazon Protected Areas Database Project

The Andes Amazon Protected Areas Database is managed by the (RANPA- Red de Áreas Naturales Protegidas Amazónicas) a project financed by the Gordon and Betty (GBMF) and executed by the Department of Sustainable Development at the Organization of American States (OAS-DSD). The main goal of this project is to develop an information system to keep a public online database with information about the status of the protected areas in the Andes – Amazon basin region. The database is designed as a national parks and protected areas management effectiveness tool for decision makers and investors/donors in conservation and represents the official version of the governmental agencies responsible for the administration of the areas in the 8 countries that share the Amazon basin.

The launch of the Second International Workshop of Amazon Protected Areas on 10-15 July, 2006 in Colombia (Bogota, Leticia, and Amacayacu) approved the expanded 104 field database that is in process of being filled out by the 8 Countries and will be launched at the Quito, Ecuador workshop in September, 2007 (See http://www.iabin.info/RANPA_SP/Servicios/basesdedatos.htm.)

The third capacity building workshop took place in Venezuela entitled “Áreas Protegidas Amazónicas” on the March 14th, 2007. Several speakers presented biological and park management effectiveness information.

The database has made advancements with other interoperable tools such as the (i) NASA-JPL TerraLook and (ii) Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS) of the Department of Geography, University of Maryland.