



February 26, 2010

TO: The World Bank

FROM: GS/OAS

RE: **Tenth Semester Report** – Period: July 1 – December 31st, 2009
Building the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)

1. SUMMARY AND IABIN PROJECT MILESTONES BY COMPONENT

In the second semester of 2009, the GEF “Building IABIN” project continued accelerated progress compared to previous project years. Disbursements were in line with the first semester of 2009 and higher than previous semesters given that (i) TNs and the Catalogue contract(s) have advanced to the point where the data is available to be used by other TNs and other Networks (ii) a new Coordinating Institution Transfer Agreement was signed with UNEP/WCMC under the Protected Areas Thematic Network (PATN) (iii) RfPs for data content grants were active in all 5 TNs and the Catalog, (iv) data content grants funded or in preparation have reached 127, (v) the first four grants for the development of value added tools under Component #3 began development, and a third RfP was advertised, with two tentatively approved projects currently under negotiation (vi) following a resolution by the IABIN Executive Committee, a project coordinator was contracted (vii) partnerships and fundraising efforts started to nurture potential partnerships based on proposals written by the Vision/MTR (Mid-Term Review) and fundraising consultant.

The major challenges expected in the coming Semester will be to (i) take the steps to promote the sustainability of IABIN by preparation of several fundraising proposals by the Vision/MTR/fundraising consultant and the IABIN Coordinator (ii) set the vision for IABIN after the GEF Project and formulate a project profile for the GEF 2 project (iii) prioritize actions for fundraising including outreach/campaigns, communications by implementing fundraising and vision plan, (iv) continue facilitating the work of the CIs and interoperability of data across the Thematic Networks and IABIN Catalogue, specially in the case of the PATN (v) complete, make available and integrate the 127 data content creation grants, (vi) integrate Component #3 “Information Tools for Decision Making” into TNs and Catalogue, and (vii) solidify partnerships.

The IABIN Project is helping IABIN to position itself by building an important hemispheric information network and forging partnerships between Government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and museums that house biological and geospatial information. The project was awarded an extension until June 2011 and it is foreseen that it will be completed on time given that: (i) TNs have completed their work on standards and protocols, and most have fully implemented Component 1 funds for data digitization and organization tools (ii) Many

Component 2 data content grants are now complete and nearly all remaining grants will be complete by late 2010 (iii) the IABIN Catalogue has implemented grants for each TN to develop web services, metadata and other interoperability objectives, for completion by Fall 2010 (iv) the value added tools grants from Component 3 should be completed, and (v) outreach and fundraising efforts will start to nurture potential partnerships based on proposals written by the Vision/MTR/ and fundraising consultant, and the new IABIN Coordinator.

IABIN Project Milestones for July-December 2010

In the second half of 2009, IABIN made progress on a number of fronts:

- 127 (average 10k) data content creation grants were awarded or are in process between 2006-2009
- The IABIN Council and Executive Committee (IEC) members were kept informed of project execution and network activities through Semester and Workshop Reports, and by keeping IABIN.net and <http://www.oas.org/dsd/Bio-Proj-Sum.htm> up-to-date. In addition, the new IABIN Coordinator is working with IABIN Chair Gladys Cotter to distribute monthly updates to the Council.
- IABIN webpage. www.iabin.net is operational in Spanish and English and the main server was moved to the University of Tennessee under the management of USGS/NBII.
- The 6th IABIN Council Meeting took place in the Dominican Republic from July 14-17 hosted by the Ministry of the Environment (see <http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component4.htm>).
- The MTR/Vision/fundraising consultant circulated draft reports (see <http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component4.htm>).
- Four projects under Component 3: Information Products for Decision Making advanced (see <http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component3.htm>) and a new RfP was advertised.
- All TNs have developed a training module, with many training materials in both English and Spanish. PATN and PTN will develop the training materials in Portuguese too.

2. COMPONENTS 1 AND 2 – INTEROPERABILITY AND ACCESS TO DATA AND DATA CONTENT CREATION¹

2.1. IABIN Catalog Service

The following major tasks and deliverables related to the IABIN Catalog have been accomplished or are near completion.

Accomplishments:

The IABIN Catalog, initially released in July 2008, is now active on IABIN.net, as well as iabin-catalog.nbii.gov. The IABIN Catalog is currently searching approximately 220,000 biological databases, web-sites, publications, and images relevant to the Americas. Additional content is being added monthly as relevant sources are identified.

¹ Note: These 2 components have been merged in this Semester Report due to the interoperable nature of these 2 components at this time in the project

The NBII Biocomplexity Thesaurus (in English) was fully integrated into the Catalog upon launch and allows users to discover a range of resources through keywords related to their search queries. Two consultants were hired to translate and perform concept mappings of the NBII Biocomplexity Thesaurus in English into Spanish and Portuguese in October 2008. All Spanish and Portuguese translations were completed in the first semester of 2009 and database schemas are being developed to integrate these multi-lingual terms by the end of 2010. Users will be able to perform full trilingual searches utilizing the Catalog, and see results for their queries in all three supported languages.

In May 2009 the CI and Catalog Developer, SAIC, completed implementation of an advanced search interface for the Catalog. This interface allows users to search for resources using a bounding box on a map, species name, country/region, content type, language, and IABIN Thematic Network. In the second semester of 2009, this advanced search was enhanced with a web service from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), providing increased taxonomic options for searching and allowing improved retrieval of results based on species-focused searches.

Other Catalog developments include:

- Crawling of IABIN relevant test content was performed in the Catalog Test Environment (at SAIC) and the eventual production environment at NBII Denver.
- Several revisions were necessary to include as much metadata as possible related to Geographic Location, Resource Type, and IABIN TN properties. This required considerable processing and reprocessing of IABIN content to insure accurate and high quality results would occur.
- Unique view allowing IABIN users to on-demand sort and view results by Geography, IABIN TN, and Resource Type were created within the Catalog system.
- Revisions were performed to remove non-IABIN country folders from the Geographic view
- An additional view, Continent, to top-level folders in Geographical view was added.
- Multiple Image classifications and views were combined into one view to make it easier on users.
- Added Organizations and Publications folders to Content Type view.
- Added visual effect to "All Results" folder to make it stand-out from other folders to aid user's differentiation between folders and subfolders.
- Translation of Geographical, Resource Type, and IABIN TN folder names into Spanish and Portuguese was completed.
- Testing of various system components occurred to ensure Internet Browser compatibility (IE and Firefox primarily) and multi-lingual system components.
- Completed online Help/FAQs and incorporated the draft version into the external script and BioBot search input tag. The Help/FAQ files were then translated into Spanish (IABIN Secretariat supported) and Portuguese (I3N supported).

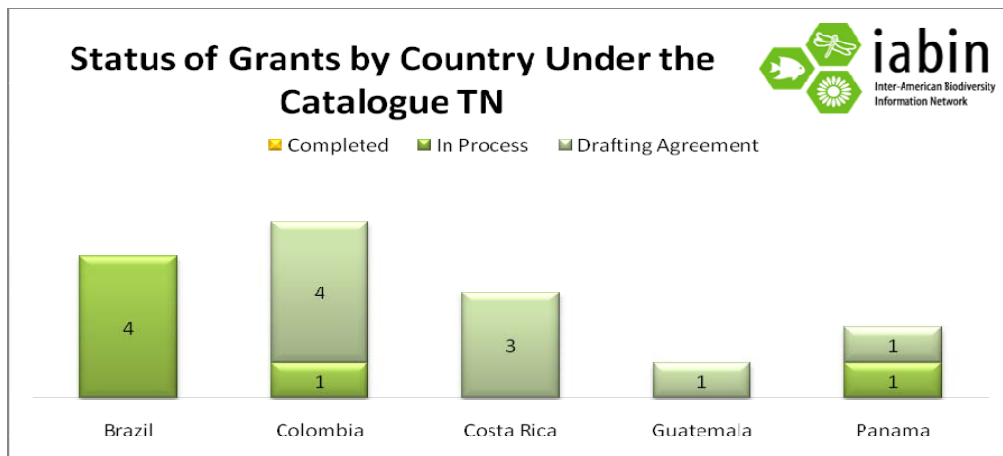
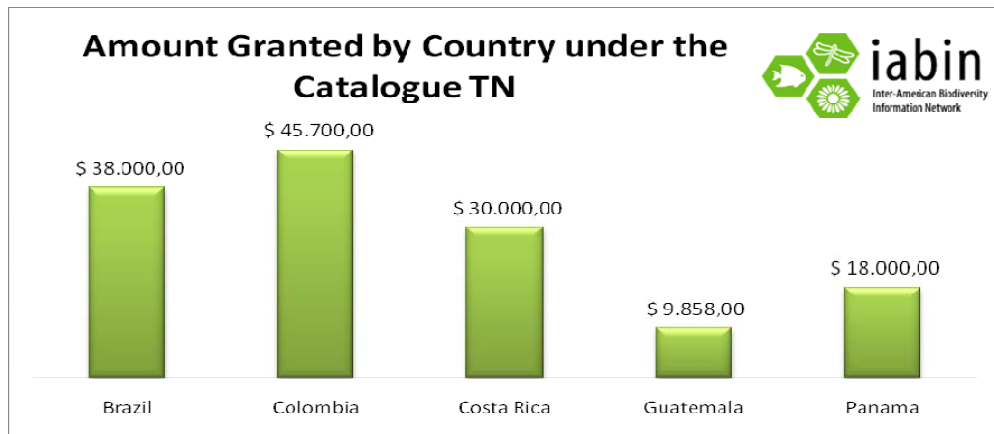
IABIN's IT Technical Working Group held a meeting in late March 2009 in Panama, where it continued integration of the Catalog with each Thematic Network and their Component 2 data content grants. At the meeting, the Catalog CI and TN technical leads completed a detailed plan for IABIN IT actions and linkages in advance of the VI Council Meeting, and for subsequent months. Participants also had a range of discussions related to indexing of IABIN TN content, sharing IABIN specimen content throughout the network, future needs for an integrated IABIN

network web site, and other technical issues. The Catalog CI established a listserv to facilitate coordination among the technical leads for each TN, and, along with the IABIN Thematic Networks Coordinator, initiated a series of teleconferences in advance of the IABIN Council Meeting to ensure technical integration of the IABIN Network in advance of the VI IABIN Council Meeting in July 2009.

Data Content Grants

The Catalog CI also developed a plan to implement Metadata Content grants, for which the first RfP was issued in May 2009. This RfP did not result in any successful applications, and as a result the CI modified the ToRs and readvertised in September 2009, resulting in 15 tentatively approved projects.

Many of these projects will result in improved interoperability of IABIN’s TNs through the creation of web services and other utilities allowing easier exchange of information among the IABIN network, its partners and other informatics initiatives.



Complete list of Data Content Grants awarded under the IABIN Catalog:

Catalogue Thematic Network Grants Summary



Country	Institution	Amount
Brazil	The Horus Institute for Environmental Conservation and Development	\$ 8.000,00
Brazil	Universidade de Sao Paulo	\$ 10.000,00
Brazil	Universidade de Sao Paulo	\$ 10.000,00
Brazil	Universidade de Sao Paulo	\$ 10.000,00
Colombia	International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	\$ 10.000,00
Colombia	Instituto de Investigaciones de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humbolt	\$ 7.200,00
Colombia	Instituto de Investigaciones de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humbolt	\$ 9.500,00
Colombia	Corporación Selva Humeda	\$ 9.000,00
Colombia	Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas SINCHI	\$ 10.000,00
Costa Rica	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)	\$ 10.000,00
Costa Rica	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)	\$ 10.000,00
Costa Rica	Organización para Estudios Tropicales – OET	\$ 10.000,00
Guatemala	CONAP	\$ 9.858,00
Panama	Fundación Ciudad del Saber	\$ 10.000,00
Panama	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute - STRI	\$ 8.000,00

Upcoming Efforts:

Below is a list of upcoming efforts related to the Catalog Development, implementation, and further promotion

- Web services to allow remote access of the IABIN Trilingual Thesaurus began development in the last month of the second semester of 2009, and will be completed by mid-2010. This will allow IABIN TNs and partners to utilize the thesaurus for other search and organization functions and make it available to the broader conservation and development community. For example, terminology (i.e. invasive species) are referred to through a number of different and similar terms throughout the Americas. Sometimes invasive species is referred to as “non-native”, “alien”, or “introduced” species. By incorporating a thesauri-based Web Service, the IABIN Catalog will be able to provide more accurate search results to its users. The planned Web Service will include three thesauri, one each in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. By incorporating these thesauri, users will be able to retrieve related results regardless of the language of the search term entered.
- In its 2010 Annual Operating Plan, the Catalog has set aside funds for a training activity for select Catalog grantees and an IT Technical Working Group Meeting. This session will assist the grantees in the development of their projects and finalize IT and infrastructure development for IABIN’s fundraising and sustainability initiatives. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of the 1st semester of 2010 or beginning

second semester 2010, in line with development of IABIN Catalog grants and fundraising efforts.

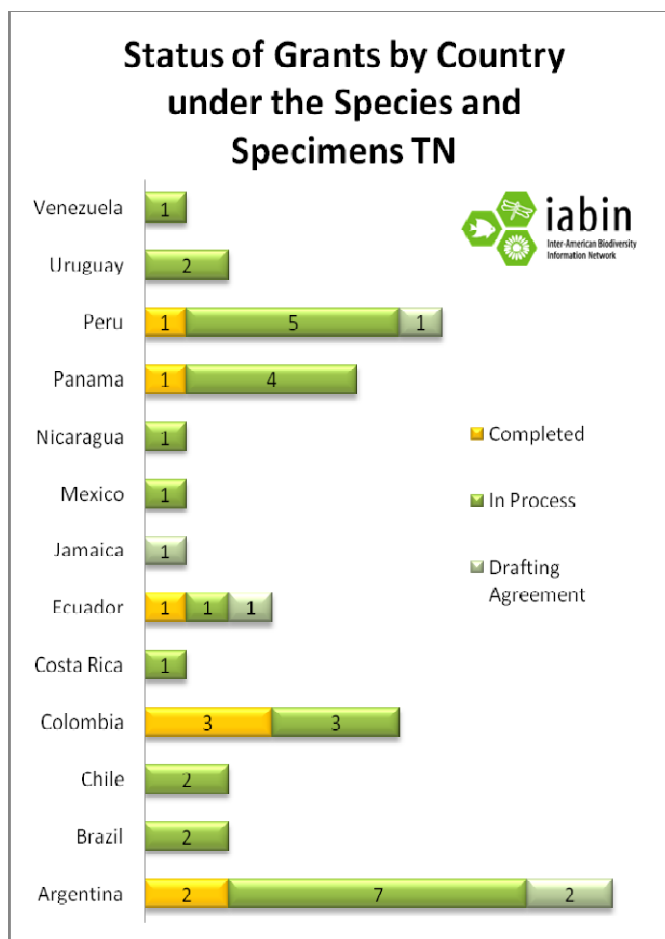
IABIN Indicators Reporting Table, 2nd Semester 2009

Indicator	Actual —2 nd Semeste r, 2009	Baseline	Last Semester's actual (Jan-Jun 2009	Target — 2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the portal of Catalog	218	200	200	250	Based on Unique Visitors per month to the IABIN Catalog (note: not # visits, but # of <i>unique visitors</i>)
4. Data and metadata content increase in the Catalog increases :	200,000	150,000	200,000	250,000	
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by Catalog	0	10/year	10	10	Based on IABIN TWG Meetings, etc.

2.2. Thematic Networks (TNs)

2.2.1 Species and Specimens TN (SSTN)

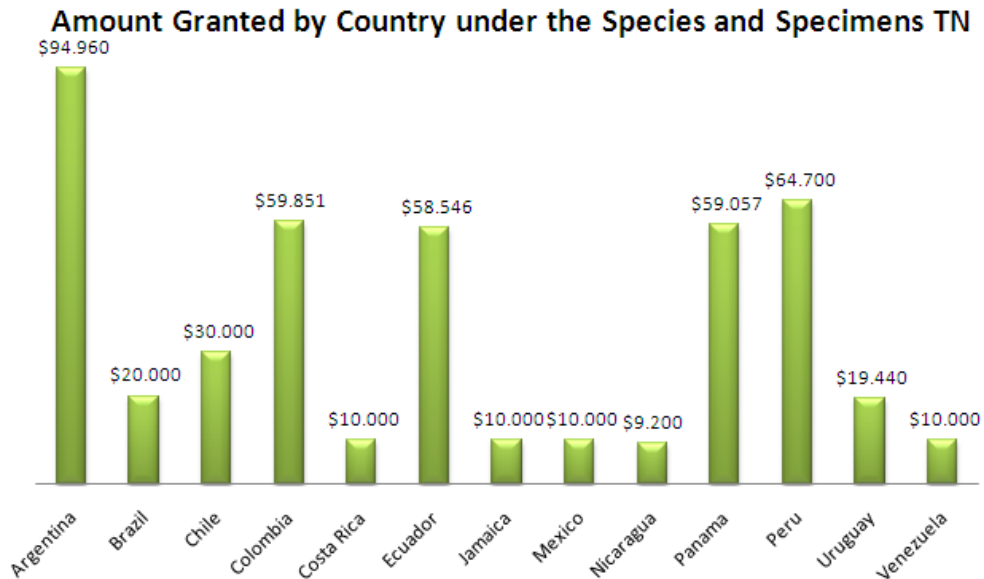
As indicated in the first semester report, the SSTN finished the execution of all activities corresponding to component 1 (interoperability and data access) in 2008 and also executed the remaining budget according to schedule. As a result, in 2009, INBio fully assumed the cost of maintaining and further enhancing the two developed tools, namely, Ara 2.0, which is the species and specimen information digitization and management tool, and the SSTN portal (version 2.0). As a contribution to the sustainability of the SSTN, INBio has been looking for additional funding to support further development of Ara 2.0. Fortunately, two grants were received late in December 2009: a \$25,000 award from the PROMEBIO project (an IDB funded project lead by INBio in Honduras) and a grant whose exact amount is still being negotiated with CONICIT (Consejo Nacional de Investigación en Ciencia y Tecnología). As a result, we expect to make available a



considerably more sophisticated new version of Ara by the end of 2010. Furthermore, INBio has decided to migrate its Atta system to the new tool that results from these enhancements (an “Atta 2.0” based on Ara).

In addition, INBio continued supporting, with its own budget, the operation of the SSTN portal, by answering questions from users, data providers and making sure the portal was up and running. Also, a task that takes considerable time is indexing and re-indexing the databases that data providers make available for the first time or enrich by digitizing more data. Unlike tool development activities, for which we raised additional funding for the year 2010, these are activities that INBio has no way of supporting for one more year on its own. A request for funding to cover these expenses was submitted to the OAS in December of last year.

Concerning component 2 (creation of data content), the SSTN provided support with the analysis of seed money grant proposals for digitization of specimen and species level information.



In addition, progress reports from institutions that are already executing a project through a seed money grant were assessed. Finally, even though training of trainer activities concluded in 2008, this year, INBio continued supporting trainees who were implementing the national-level training activities in their countries or required personalized support and developed e-learning materials for both, Ara 2.0 and the portal software.

Data providers

The following table summarizes the SSTN Data Providers as of December 2009

Institution		Expected # Specimen Records	Expected # Species Records	Specimens Data Providers	Species Data Providers
Administración de Parques Nacionales, Argentina - Algas, Líquenes y Hongos	Species		2.200		1

Administración de Parques Nacionales, Argentina - Aves Acuáticas de Laguna Blanca	Specimens	200.000		1	
Administración de Parques Nacionales, Argentina - Mamíferos de Valor Especial	Specimens	1.875		1	
Administración de Parques Nacionales, Argentina - Vertebrados Patagónico	Specimens	26.835		1	
Aves & Conservación (A&C) – BirdLife en Ecuador / Dr. Olaf Jahn	Species		842		1
Aves & Conservación (A&C) – BirdLife en Ecuador / Dr. Olaf Jahn / 3 llamado	Specimens			1	
Aves & Conservación (A&C) – BirdLife en Ecuador / Olaf Jahn / 5 llamado	Specimens	35.000		1	
Centro de Datos Para la Conservación – Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina	Specimens			1	
Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad – CORBIDI / Thomas Valqui, Pablo Venegas y Manuel Apaza	Species				
Centro Pluridisciplinar de pesquisas químicas, biológicas e agrícolas da UNICAMP	Species		1.250		1
Colección Boliviana de Fauna	Specimens				
CONICET – ARG	Specimens				
Departamento de Biología, Facultad de Química y Biología, Universidad de Santiago de Chile	Specimens			1	
Departamento de Biología, Facultad de Química y Biología, Universidad de Santiago de Chile	Species		16.158		1
Embrapa Amazônia Oriental / CPATU	Specimens	20.000		1	
Facultad de Ciencias / Miguel Simó	Specimens				
Facultad de Ciencias. Universidad de la República / Enrique Morelli	Species				
Fundacion Miguel Lillo, Argentina	Species		5.000		1
Fundación Óga - ARG	Specimens			1	
Fundación Ornitológica Sierra Nevada / Walberto Naranjo	Specimens				
Herbario CPUN de la Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca	Specimens	10.000		1	
Herbario de Panamá, Universidad de Panamá. Briófitos	Specimens	7.000		1	
Herbario de Panamá, Universidad de Panamá. Vasculares	Specimens	28.000		1	
Herbario Nacional Colombiano de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Specimens	40.000		1	
Herbarium Arequipense (HUSA) de la Universidad Nacional de San Agustín	Specimens	11.000		1	
INCIVA / Germán Parra	Specimens				
Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt (escarabajos coprófagos)	Species		250		1
Instituto de Botánica Darwinion, Argentina	Specimens			1	
Instituto de Botánica del Nordeste / María Mercedes Arbo	Species				
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales /	Specimens				

Blanca Toledo					
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales / Blanca Wendy Toledo Soriano	Species				
Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM)	Species		164		1
Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM)	Specimens	18.000		1	
Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Ricardo Palma - PERU	Specimens	11.000		1	
Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Ricardo Palma - PERU	Species		1.589		1
Museo de La Plata / : Mariano L. Merino	Specimens				
Museo de Malacología de la Universidad de Panamá (MUMAUP)	Specimens	10.000		1	
Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola (MIZA), Universidad Central de Venezuela	Specimens	20.000		1	
Museo Entomológico León, Nicaragua	Specimens	60.000		1	
Museo Nacional de Costa Rica	Specimens	58.100		1	
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología, Uruguay	Species		379		1
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología, Uruguay	Specimens	32.000		1	
PRONATURA Veracruz A.C. / Eduardo Martínez	Specimens	18.867		1	
Red Nacional de Jardines Botánicos de Colombia	Species		1.450		1
Sociedad Malacológica de Chile / Sergio Letelier	Specimens	20.000		1	
The Institute Of Jamaica / Elizabeth Morrison and Damian Jackson	Specimens	13.500		1	
the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	Species		4.000		1
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador	Specimens	10.000		1	
Total		651.177	33.282	26	11

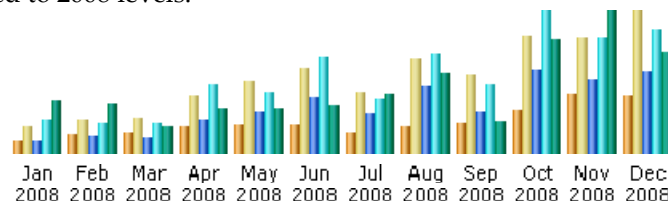
IABIN Indicators Reporting Table, 2nd Semester 2009

Indicator	Actual—2 nd Semester, 2009	Baseline	Last Semester's actual (Jan-Jun 2009)	Target—2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the SSTN portal	2540 monthly average visits to the page registered in the second semester. Total 14702 visits in 2 nd semester 2009	1831 monthly average visits to the page registered in the first semester.	1831 page visits / month	2750 page visits on average per month.	Detailed information available on http://species.iabin.net/awstats/awstats.pl?month=01&year=2009&output=main&config=species.iabin.net&filename=index
4. Data	# Specimen data	# Specimen data		# Specimen data	The support

and metadata content increase in the SSTN portal:	<p>providers and specimen records: 9 new data suppliers for a total of 288 116 new specimens records.</p> <p># Species data providers and species records: No new suppliers of information of species were added</p>	<p>providers and specimen records: 7 data providers with a total of 3 420 718 specimens records.</p> <p># Species data providers and species records: 1 supplier was added to the SSTN with 3 784 records during 2007 in accordance to the report of that year.</p>		<p>providers and specimen records: 26 data suppliers for a total 651 177 specimens records projected to 2010</p> <p># Species data providers and species records: 11 data suppliers with a total of 33 282 species records.</p>	information that complements this indicator is page 11
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by the SSTN	11 people trained use of Tools developed by SSTN	9 people from 9 Countries were trained during the second semester of 2009 in accordance with the report presented.	1 person trained	5 people trained using virtual mechanisms.	During the second semester of 2009, three Workshops were held, two faced and one virtual, in which 11 people from three countries participated (Panamá, Nicaragua y México).

Indicator 1: Increase of Visits to the SSTN portal 2008 and 2009 Statistics

The graphs below show the statistics for 2009 and 2008. It is clear that in 2009 total access is more than twice compared to 2008 levels.



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2008	148	298	354	844	318.60 MB
Feb 2008	213	361	459	765	296.76 MB
Mar 2008	226	381	431	756	163.74 MB
Apr 2008	302	634	861	1728	274.70 MB
May 2008	325	780	1058	1501	271.26 MB
Jun 2008	316	903	1414	2354	288.38 MB
Jul 2008	235	665	1008	1372	358.37 MB
Aug 2008	302	1013	1662	2434	466.32 MB
Sep 2008	330	833	1036	1705	193.08 MB
Oct 2008	472	1248	2013	3548	671.60 MB
Nov 2008	650	1233	1815	2816	854.68 MB
Dec 2008	632	1546	2005	3026	594.57 MB
Total	4151	9895	14116	22849	4.64 GB



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2009	591	1571	2796	5237	743.30 MB
Feb 2009	770	1491	2409	4332	692.02 MB
Mar 2009	737	1562	2579	4335	681.20 MB
Apr 2009	624	1721	2749	4186	678.78 MB
May 2009	662	1985	3181	4888	515.29 MB
Jun 2009	699	2661	3750	5130	780.48 MB
Jul 2009	665	2378	3039	4215	527.75 MB
Aug 2009	708	2455	2895	3753	602.17 MB
Sep 2009	846	2968	3854	4781	912.70 MB
Oct 2009	871	3168	4346	5379	941.68 MB
Nov 2009	711	2189	3049	3908	7.97 GB
Dec 2009	453	1544	1946	2258	311.95 MB
Total	8337	25693	36593	52402	15.18 GB

Indicator 4: Data and metadata content increase in the SSTN portal

Specimen records and data providers in 2009:

- 2009.07.03 Centro del Datos para la Conservación, Perú. 46,127 especímenes. [0]
- 2009.07.03 Museo Nacional de Costa Rica. 28,617 especímenes [1]
- 2009.07.08 Distribución de Peces de Aguas Continentales de Argentina. 11 442 especímenes. (Datos actualizados el 2009.09.16) [2]

- 2009.09.16 Instituto de Botánica Darwinion, Argentina. 42 768 especímenes (Datos actualizados el 2009.12.17) [3]
- 2009.08.17 Aves & Conservación - BirdLife Ecuador. 91 448 especímenes. (Datos actualizados el 2009.10.16) [4]
- 2009.09.17 Colección Nacional de Herpetología - Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales 'Bernardino Rivadavia'. 25 938 especímenes. [5]
- 2009.09.17 Colección Nacional de Mastozoología - Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales 'Bernardino Rivadavia'. 22 830 especímenes. [6]
- 2009.12.02 Museo de Malacología - Universidad de Panamá. 6705 especímenes.[7]
- 2009.12.16 Plantas Vaculares del Herbario. Panamá. 12 241 especímenes. [8]

Updated Providers

- 2009.08.17 Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Colombia. Actualmente provee 33 890 especímenes. (Fue añadido como proveedor el 2008.04.28) [9]

Species data providers and species records: No new data providers were added under species.

References:

- [0]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/42/>
 [1]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/41/>
 [2]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/43/>
 [3]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/45/>
 [4]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/44/>
 [5]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/47/>
 [6]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/46/>
 [7]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/48/>
 [8]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/49/>
 [9]. <http://ara.inbio.ac.cr/SSTN-IABIN/datasets/resource/35/>

Indicator 5: Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by the SSTN

Date	Country	Objectives	Type	Participants
December 1-3, 2009	Panamá	1. Explain the integration data to SSTN (Topics: data provider installation TapirLink, standard Darwin Core, portal data indexation y re indexation). 2. Present Ara new version and realize an evaluation of users needs from the last version. 3. Train informatics personal of Panama University in SSTN Tools administration la (TapirLink y Ara)	On-Site	Noris Salazar from Instituto Smithsonian and team (2 people). Mireya Correa and assistant from the Herbario de la Universidad de Panamá. Darío Córdoba (Museo de Malacología, Universidad de Panamá) his assistant. Justo Pinillo, engieneer from the Universidad de Panamá.
November 23-24, 2009	Nicaragua	1. Present Ara new version and realize an evaluation of users needs from the last version. 2. Clarify doubts related to Ara's uses.	On-Site	2 people from Museo Entomológico de León

November , 2009	México	1. Installation and configuration of the TapirLink data provider	Virtual	Eduardo Martinez (Pronatura Veracruz)
April, 2009	Chile	1. Installation and configuration of the TapirLink data provider 2. Installation and configuration de Ara.	Virtual	Reinaldo Avilés Pizarro (CONAMA)

2.2.2 Invasive Species TN (I3N)

Objectives

Activities in the second half of 2009 focused on completion of content grant agreements, growing I3N records, and I3N database redesign. The network is also looking toward the future and exploring means of sustainability.

Milestones and achievements in the second semester of 2009 (categorized by main subtitles in work plan)

Tools and Standards

- I3N presented the I3N database, risk assessment, and pathways analysis tools at the Fourth meeting of the GEF Regional Project for Biosafety held July 22 – 24 in Barbados.
- The I3N coordinator gave a presentation, displayed a poster, and lead a demonstration on the I3N database, tools, and accomplishments for the IABIN Focal Points at the VI IABIN Council Meeting held July 14-16 in the Dominican Republic.
- The details for a contract on the Redesign and Conversion to Open Source of the I3N Database were finalized and initial work on the new system began in the second semester.



Collaboration and Communications

- In July 2009, the coordinator and US-Lead for I3N attended the VI IABIN Council meeting in the Dominican Republic. The meeting was an opportunity to meet with IABIN Focal Points and discuss future activities of I3N in their country. At the meeting I3N representatives met specifically with the Focal Points of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago to discuss their interest in participating in a pilot project in the Caribbean related to invasive species information collection and early detection.
- The I3N Coordinator represented I3N at the 3rd Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) Standards Workshop in Elmira, New York July 25 – 30. The workshop was lead by the I3N US National Lead There are now six data models in place to share diverse invasive species information among different databases with different structures. For details and the GISIN3 Workshop Report, see: <http://www.gisinet.org/Documents/GISIN3workshopSummaryJul09.pdf>
- The I3N Coordinator represented I3N at the Fourth meeting of the GEF Regional Project for Biosafety held July 22 – 24 in Barbados. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss collaboration in the Caribbean on issues of biosecurity. It was an opportunity to present on the I3N, meet with national representatives from across the region, engage with representatives of the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group, and US Department of

Agriculture representatives in Trinidad and Tobago.

- Interactions at both of the above mentioned meetings provided input in July for the drafting of the proposal for funding submitted to the Organization of American States FEMCIDI fund. The proposed project, entitled "User-Centered Information Network for Early Detection and Control of Invasive Species in Ports". This project, to take place in coordination with representatives from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, received preliminary approval in December and is being re-drafted to meet new FEMCIDI guidelines for 2010.
- In October, a representative of I3N made a presentation at, and the I3N National Lead participated in, the inception meeting for the GEF/UNEP project "Mitigating Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean" in Kingstown, Jamaica. The I3N has been selected to lead efforts for information collection and sharing related to the project and use of the I3N database in this service has been approved.
- In addition to attending the above meeting, the I3N representative also met with customs officials at the port of Kingstown and received further support for the above mentioned FEMCIDI proposal.
- In November, the I3N Coordinator and US National Lead, as well as another IABIN representative, met with Stas Burgiel, the Policy Coordinator for the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. That discussion is ongoing. Additional collaboration with GISP is expected as the I3N National Lead for Argentina has been designated Vice Director of GISP for Latin America.
- The I3N Coordinator represented the network at the Biodiversity Information Standards Meeting from November 9 – 13 in Montpellier, France. The meeting was an opportunity to attend sessions on invasive species, meet with other professionals in the field, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- The I3N U.S. National Lead was invited to be United Nations Environment Programme Expert of the Day in 2009. The topic of discussion was invasive species online databases and I3N was covered in one of the questions:<http://www.unep.org/experts/Default.asp?page=home&l=&expertID=409&SessionID=621>
- I3N leads and the IABIN Focal Point from Uruguay continued to participate in coordinating meetings of the National Council of Invasive and Exotic Species and to participate in the drafting of a National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Species. The I3N Leads began the next phase of development of the national database for Uruguay and are expanding the species and occurrences found in the database.
- The I3N U.S. Lead and I3N Coordinator were among the authors of a paper, in which I3N is discussed as a model for regional IAS data collection and sharing. Peer-reviewed article published: Simpson, Annie, Christine Fournier, Elizabeth Sellers, Michael Browne, Catherine Jarnevic, Jim Graham, Les Mehrhoff, John Madsen, Randy Westbrooks. 2009. [Invasive species information networks: collaboration at multiple scales for prevention, early detection, and rapid response to invasive species](#). Biodiversity (10:2&3):5-13.
- The I3N-U.S. lead represented the I3N and the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) at the IUCN World Congress in Barcelona, and spoke about I3N tools at Learning Opportunity #375: "Safeguarding biodiversity and livelihoods from biological invasion" as well as in two Information Cafes on invasive species information management. For the Learning Opportunity summary report, see: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/learning_opp_final_report_en.pdf

- The I3N-Brazil National Lead participated in organizing and presenting at a symposium on invasive alien species at the 6th National Congress on Protected Areas in Curitiba, Paraná state, in September. The I3N-Argentina National Lead also presented on the value of I3N data in the prevention and control of invasive species in protected areas.
- The National Lead of I3N Brazil formatted a country database for Suriname and data collection has begun.
- The National Lead of I3N Argentina drafted an agreement with the National Parks Administration of Argentina which will permit all IAS occurrence records in national parks in Argentina be loaded into the I3N Argentina database starting in February 2010.
- The National Co-Leads of I3N Uruguay have developed a poster, information booklet, and strategy for a public awareness campaign for informing the invasive whelk *Rapana venosa*.
- The National Co-Leads for I3N Uruguay continued their participation and representation of I3N in the National Committee of Exotic and Invasive Species in Uruguay. Additionally, they are involved in the development of a national strategy for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Species.
- The I3N community was kept informed via the Web site and the I3N listserv with postings and announcements.
- Countries' additional products and initiatives include: All countries that participate in I3N make their datasets available to the public via the Website. In addition, some countries choose to provide reports, publications, presentations, photographs and other materials of interest to invasive species specialists. Please click on http://i3n.iabin.net/participants/country_contributions.html to access any of these country resources.

Project Management

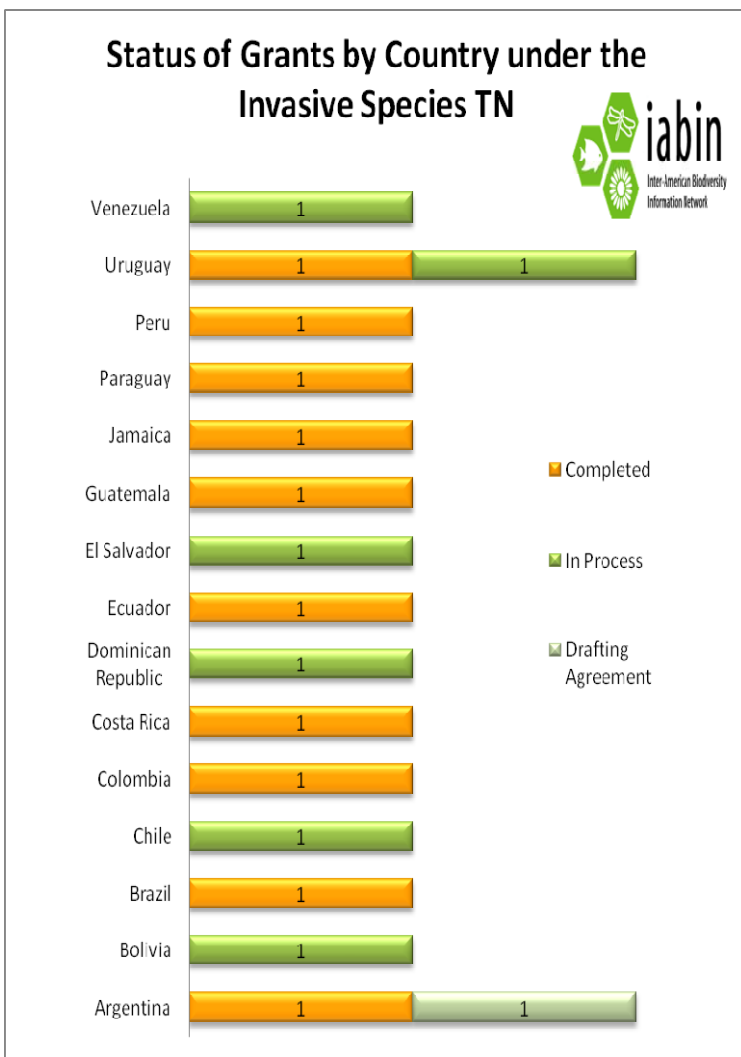
- Each country that actively participates in I3N has one or more organizations, represented by individuals, leading its efforts. These individuals, called I3N Leads or Co-Leads, coordinate I3N activities among the I3N Coordinating Institution, their country's IABIN Focal Point (see description below), and data providers. Current active members (18) are: Argentina, Bahamas, [Bolivia](#), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, USA, Uruguay. In the first semester of 2009 I3N sought participation of a National Lead for Venezuela and for Suriname. Due to turnover in the IABIN Focal Point position for Venezuela, whom would approve the new I3N National Lead, and the departing of the pre-selected Suriname National Lead from her government post, no National Leads have yet been selected for these positions.
- I3N work with other TNs, IABIN IT TWG, and Catalog Coordinator:
 - SSTN: Instituto Alexander von Humboldt led cooperative species trainings with the SSTN.
 - PTN: CI representatives are also members of I3N CI.
 - PATN: I3N risk analysis tool includes PATN data.
 - Catalog: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the IABIN Catalog.
 - IABIN IT TWG: I3N IT Lead is also actively co-leading the IABIN IT TWG.


Capacity Building

- There were no official I3N trainings held in the second semester of 2009.

Data Content Grants

- The I3N Bolivia database was finalized in December and is now available on-line through the I3N home page.
- Ten countries now have their own standardized I3N Web sites based on the I3N Country Web system, and more are under development (click on country name to see country home page): [Argentina](#) | [Bolivia](#) | [Brazil](#) | [Colombia](#) | [Costa Rica](#) | [Jamaica](#) | [Paraguay](#) | [Uruguay](#) | [Guatemala](#)
- On-going content grants include Argentina, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The graphs below show the distribution of the I3N data content grants by country as well as the status of each Project.



Invasive Species Thematic Network Grants Summary		
		
Country	Institution	Amount
Argentina	Fundacion Nacional del Sur	\$ 9.780,00
Brazil	The Horus Institute for Environmental Conservation and Development	\$ 10.000,00
Colombia	Instituto de Investigaciones de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humbolt	\$ 11.523,10
Costa Rica	Asociación para la Conservación y el Estudio de la Biodiversidad	\$ 10.000,00
Ecuador	Corporación Centro de Datos para la Conservación	\$ 10.000,00
Guatemala	Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas a Través de la Oficina Técnica de	\$ 10.000,00
Jamaica	Institute of Jamaica	\$ 9.911,13
Paraguay	Asociación Guyra Paraguay	\$ 9.936,00
Peru	Universidad Ricardo Palma - Museo de Historia Natural	\$ 7.918,26
Uruguay	Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay	\$ 10.000,00

IABIN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Actual—2 nd Semester, 2009	Baseline	Last Semester's actual (Jan-Jun 2009)	Target — 2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the portal of I3N	2,091	?	2,781	6,000	-690 visits: The decrease in overall visits is not surprising for the second semester. I believe two factors primarily lead to this decrease: 1) We advertised no RFPs or TORs in the second semester, both of which usually increase traffic to the site. 2) There are several vacation months in the second semester that decrease time spent by our target audience on-line. These months include July, August, late November, and December – all months that saw decreases in visits. November was only slightly down over the previous semester and October was actually up. However, the amount of time spent on the site was up and the number of new visitors was also up.
4. Data and metadata content increase in the I3N increases:	1,817	?	2,400 (est)	2,400	Because most of our databases are already on-line we expect to see a maintenance, or small decrease, in the amount of new data over the next couple of semesters. This reflects the fact that the bulk of IAS data digitization has already taken place in participating countries.
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by I3N	0	?	103	65	There were no training events held in the second semester of 2009. We expect to hold tools training events in 2010, but the focus audience for these trainings is smaller than the broad IAS and database trainings previously held.

Financial Status (including co-financing funds)

- USGS/NBII and its partners continued to provide strong co-financing to the GEF funds of I3N. USGS/NBII alone provided approximately \$317,588 in the second semester of 2009, for a

total of approximately \$1.97 million over the life of the project (see separate co-financing form).

- I3N has disbursed Component 2 funds for data content building. All \$160,000 in these funds have been allotted or given to partners in fourteen separate grants.
- I3N is actively seeking new sources of funds for operation and continuing capacity building and data collection.

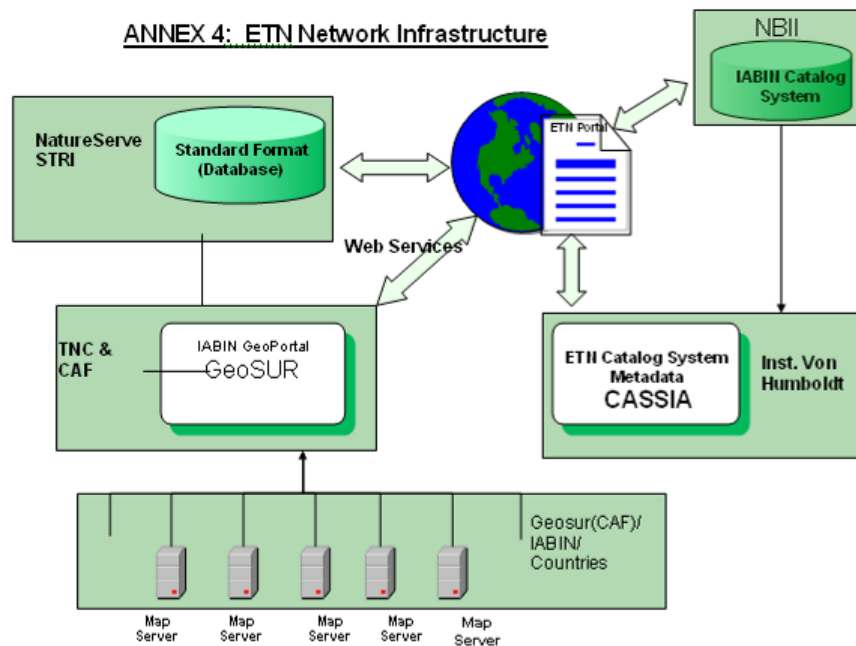
2.2.3 Ecosystems TN (ETN)

1. Development of a Standard Format Database for Terrestrial, Marine and Fresh water Ecosystems

- New revisions to the Terrestrial, Marine and Continental and Insular Waters Standard Format were recommended by the group of experts, who met in Panamá in October, 2009. The recommendations from the different groups are presented in the workshop report.
- Changes in the Terrestrial Standard Format and the Continental and Insular Waters Standard Format have been effected.
- Changes in the Marine Standard Format are still in development.

2. Development of the ETN Portal and ETN Architecture

- A new version of the ETN portal has been designed and it is on line. The Portal, which is available initially in Spanish, has been developed in accord with the ETN Architecture presented below.



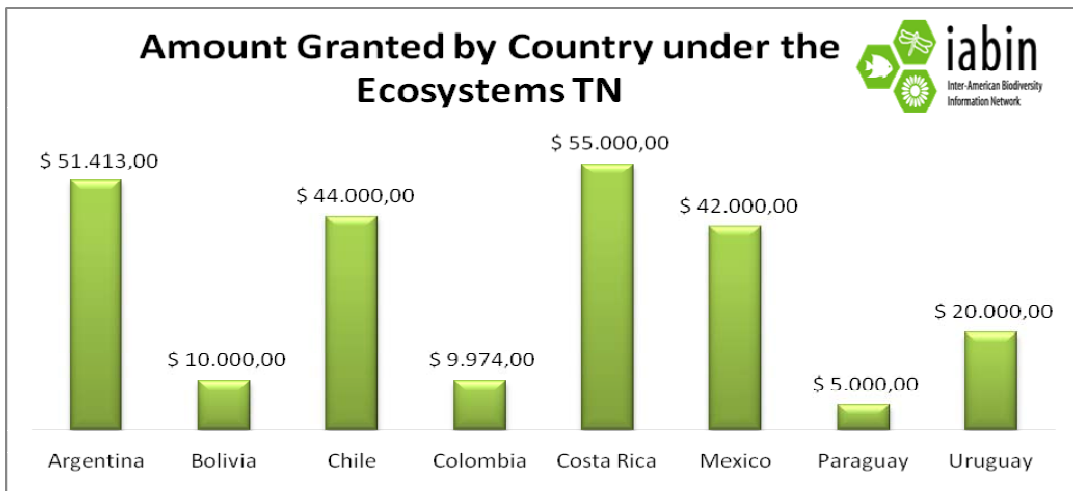
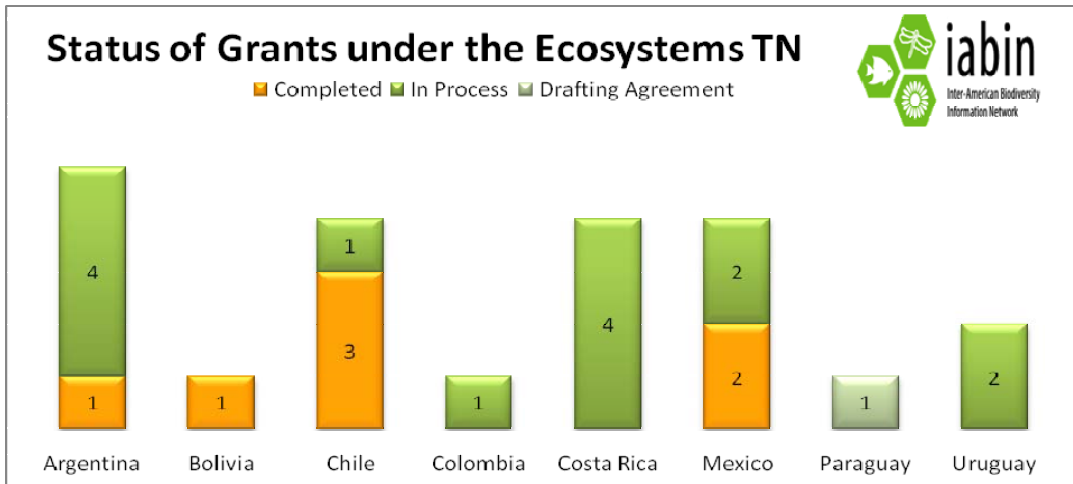
- Revisions to the Terrestrial, Marine and Continental Waters Standard Formats have continued.
- A new map visualizer for the ETN has been prototyped and can be seen at the following address: http://gg.usm.edu/CA_Ecosystems/ . The layers presented in the prototype correspond to variables in the layers of the Terrestrial Standard Format. The visualizer

system will connect the standard format database and the maps that reside at servers in participating institutions. This functionality is currently being implemented. The visualizer will also work with the Marine Standard Format and the Continental and Insular Waters Standard Format databases. The visualization tool is being developed by the TNC office in Costa Rica as part of a Component 2 Data Content Grant. The visualizer will be accessible through the ETN Portal in February, 2010.

4. Ecosystem (ETN) Data Content Grants

- One request for proposals was published during the second semester of 2009: the 6th Call to digitize terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystem data. Eight proposals were received: 3 from Peru, 2 from Paraguay, 2 from Argentina, and 1 from Ecuador. These will be reviewed and 3 will be funded in 2010. After these three Grants are given (\$7,500 each) no funds will be left for data Grants under the ETN.
- A list of all the organizations receiving Grants and the amount is presented in the table below.

Ecosystems Thematic Network Grants Summary 		
Country	Institution	Amount
Argentina	Universidad Maimónides	\$ 11.500,00
Argentina	Centro Nacional Patagónico Coordinador Golfo Nuevo	\$ 10.000,00
Argentina	Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, CONICET - Innova -	\$ 10.000,00
Argentina	Centro Nacional Patagónico Golfo de San Jose y San Matias	\$ 10.000,00
Argentina	Fundación Oga	\$ 9.913,00
Argentina	Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, CONICET	\$ 7.500,00
Bolivia	RUMBOL SRL	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Corporacion Taller la Era Coordinador	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Promar Pacifico Ltda.	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Universidad de Chile	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Promar Pacifico Ltda.	\$ 14.000,00
Colombia	Colombian Museum of Natural Marine History (MHNMC)	\$ 9.974,00
Costa Rica	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 10.000,00
Costa Rica	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 15.000,00
Costa Rica	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 15.000,00
Costa Rica	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 15.000,00
México	Universidad Autonoma de Baja California	\$ 5.000,00
México	Universidad Autonoma de Nayarit	\$ 5.000,00
México	PRONATURA Veracruz A.C.	\$ 12.000,00
México	Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico	\$ 20.000,00
Paraguay	Asociación GUYRA	\$ 5.000,00
Peru	Promar Pacifico Ltda.	\$ 7.500,00
Uruguay	Programa EcoPlata-DINAMA	\$ 10.000,00
Uruguay	Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente.	\$ 10.000,00



5. Metadata

- The Sub-project Agreement with El Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales to (i) develop a bibliography for terrestrial ecosystem documents using the Dublin Core standard and (ii) review the quality of metadata submitted by institutions receiving ETN grants was completed and final payment was made. We are in the process of determining how the Cassia metadata can be harvested.

6. Training

- Training involving experts in the terrestrial, marine and freshwater areas took place on the week of October 5, 2009 in Panama City, Panama. The meeting had the participation of 25 people most of which had been or still are recipients of IABIN data content grants for ecosystems data entry. One of the objectives of the meeting was to review the functionality of the web interface of the ETN databases both to input data and to review them. Several minor adjustments proposed at this training, the list of participants and the agenda can be found in the final report for this meeting of experts.

7. Data Quality

- A \$20,000 Grant given to NatureServe during 2008 to monitor data quality continued in operation.

8. Indicators

Records in the ETN (Terrestrial Standard Format)

Countries	Records
Clasificación Referencia (NatureServe)	679
Bolivia	547
Brasil	7
Argentina	196
Chile	127
Uruguay	5
Belice	90
Guatemala	116
Mexico	78
El Salvador	44
Honduras	152
Nicaragua	100
Costa Rica	81
Panama	82
Total	2304

Note: There are 7 records from Brazil added by Gonzalo Navarro.

Records in the ETN (Marine Standard Format)

Countries	Records
Mexico	13
Chile	5
Uruguay	1
Colombia	41
Argentina	71
Total	131

Records in the ETN Catalog

Institution	Country	Records
UABC	México	6
CENPAT	Argentina	15
TNC	Costa Rica	4
Fundación Óga	Argentina	8
Limnología	Chile	4
Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales	Argentina	440
Piso Vegetación Chile	Chile	2
Promar Pacífico	Chile	7
Pronatura Veracruz	México	8
RUMBOL	Bolivia	3
Total		497

Visits to the ETN Portal

Year	Jan-March	April-June	July - September	October - December	Total
2006				215	215
2007	313	1091	503	612	2519
2008	555	1232	1265	962	4014
2009	922	438	743	821	2924
Total	1790	2761	2511	2610	9672

IABIN Indicators Reporting Table, 2nd Semester 2009

Indicator	Actual – 2 nd Semester, 2009	Baseline	Last Semester's actual (Jan-Jun 2009)	Target – 2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the portal of ETN	1564		1360	2000	The new visualizer, more data and new reports should significantly increase usage in the later part of next semester.
4. Data and metadata content increase in the ETN:	Standard Format: 2435 Metadata: 497		Standard Format: 1622; Metadata: 303	Standard Format: 3000; Metadata: 650	The standard format for Continental and Insular waters for South America and Central America will be ready during the first semester of 2010.
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by the ETN	25			3 institutions	The people trained to use the ETN standard formats have been those who have received grants. In total 23 grants have been awarded. Other training has been in metadata through a grant to the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales. They have assisted those who have received ETN Grants on the development of metadata on an individual basis. The ETN have also participated with the program GeoSUR assisting institutions in the different countries to establish the server that hold their ecosystem maps (see Annex 8: Final report to GeoSUR).

2.2.4 Pollinators TN (PTN)

Activities and Results

The IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network web portal is central to the architecture of PTN. IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network 1) Data Entry Tool, 2) Data Portal 3) Contacts Database and 4) training manuals are accessible at <http://pollinators.iabin.net/>.

IABIN PTN Training

The IABIN PTN team conducted the IABIN PTN Pollinator-Plant Data Digitization Training Workshop. The training took place in the City of Knowledge, Panama from August 17-20, 2009. The facility accommodated ~20 people, including participants and trainers. Goals, an agenda, logistics, and training options were planned from San Francisco, CA (office location of the coordinating institute, Pollinator Partnership).

The invitation to participate was sent out to all Content Grant applicants (those that received the grant, those that were not funded, and those currently being evaluated) and to all the Focal Points. A diverse group of people received the invitation, including scientists, government officials, zoo and museum curators with digitized data of specimens or observations; or non-digital data on pollinating animals and/or pollinator-plant associations. Participants were chosen based on their geographical location, their data, and their response a questionnaire. A total of 26 applications to attend the training were received. 24 applicants were chosen to attend the IABIN PTN Training and were led by 2 trainers. University of Sao Paulo graduate students were brought along to assist.

Participants learned how to digitize and share specimen or observation data, and pollinator-plant association records with the network and others using the Pollinator Data Digitizer and the Pollinator Data Portal developed and hosted by the IABIN PTN. Participants were provided with training manuals to help guide their learning of the various tools and applications.

The objectives of the workshop were to learn to:

1. Digitize and share specimen or observation data, and pollinator-plant association records with the network and others using the Pollinator Data Digitizer,
2. Use the Pollinator Data Portal developed and hosted by the PTN, and
3. Enter data and navigate the PTN Contacts database.

A pre- and post-workshop assessment was conducted to gauge the quality and effectiveness of the training in meeting the objectives. In general, the quality and effectiveness were rated as very positive. The PTN has begun to plan for a second IABIN training activity. The location is tentatively set for University of Sao Paulo in Sao Paulo, Brazil in April 2010.

Council Meeting – Dominican Republic

Laurie Davies Adams of the coordinating institution, Pollinator Partnership, represented the PTN at the IABIN Council Meeting held in the Dominican Republic, July 2009. She prepared a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the PTN progress.

9th Annual North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) International Conference

Antonio Saraiva and Elizabeth Sellers, members of the IABIN PTN team, were co-IABIN PTN Task Force Chairs 9th Annual NAPPC International Conference, hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Crystal City, VA. This Task Force focused on ways to increase the effectiveness of the Pollinators Thematic Network of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network. Photographs from the NAPPC Conference are available at <http://pollinator.org/nappc.htm>.

Organization of American State Evening Reception

Invited guests enjoyed an evening at the Organization of American States' Hall of the Americas on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Guests enjoyed IABIN PTN speeches by Richard Huber and Laurie Davies Adams while eating and drinking pollinated hors d'oeuvres and drinks. It is estimated that 100+ guests were present. Distinguished guests include Richard Huber and other IABIN PTN team members, Counselors from the Embassy of Japan Yoichi Watanabe and Hoaki Kojima, the Deputy Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Rowan Gould, Former Canadian Minister of the Environment David Anderson, amongst many others.

Results

As a result of our work this semester, the IABIN Pollinator Thematic Network team has made major strides in the development of the digitalization tool and portal. Please visit <http://pollinators.iabin.net/> to see the most up-to-date progress.

(On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest ranking)

How useful was the training? Prior to training: 9.4 - after training: 9.3

How easy will digitization be? Prior to training: 4.9 – after training: 7.1

Knowledge of DwCore: previous 53% - After Training: 88%

Knowledge of DwC Interaction Extension: Previous 24% - After Training: 88%

Would you recommend this training to others? Yes (100%)

Was language a barrier to learning at this training? Yes (12%) No (88%)

Was there sufficient time for this training? Yes (94%) No (6%)

Lessons Learned, Problems and Possible Solutions

The PTN meets monthly for two hours. Extensive conference call notes are taken and action items are highlighted for each conference period. We consistently deliver our work product in a timely manner and put a lot of hard work into collaborating with partners in 3 different time zones and two different native languages.

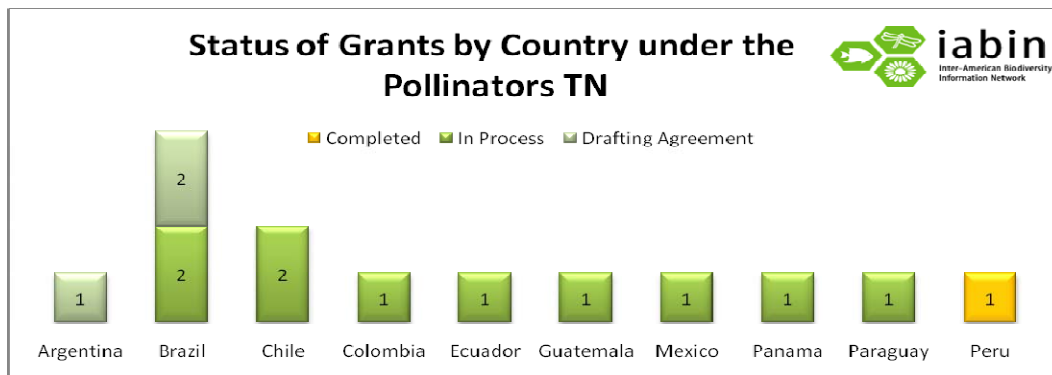
We have found that various forms of communications cannot always be relied upon. Emails are not transferable, teleconference call numbers are unclear, documents and attachments cannot be opened, etc. We have tried to quell the communication problems by using the on-line community at my.nbii.gov to upload documents and WebEx (shared desktops) is used in addition to our conference calls. Communication issues were highlighted in planning the IABIN PTN Training as we were dealing with participants from countries all around the world. Therefore, it was necessary to work with each participant on a one-to-one basis to coordinate their travel, questions, etc. All those questions and logistics were funneled through P2.

Additionally, another issue that came up during training planning was airfare costs, which rose significantly from when we put together a budget and when flights were actually purchased, despite the fact that we called for flight costs midyear for each country. However, when the training took place many months later, the price of fuel had radically increased. This, thus, increased the cost to put on the IABIN PTN Training.


Data Content Grants

The PTN is currently working with 14 content grantees to help them digitize and standardize their data (where necessary) and publish it online through the Pollinator Data Portal (PDP) and the IABIN metadata catalog. Countries represented by these grantees include Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Chile, Paraguay, Ecuador, Mexico and Argentina. All but one (UFPR-Brazil) of the PTN Content Grantees have received training in the use of the Pollinator Data Digitizer, Pollinator Data Portal and Pollinator Contacts Database. Each content grantee is also listed in the Pollinator Contacts database.

Four of the grantees are still in process of drafting the agreement for signature. Two have completed the whole process. Eight are in the process of digitizing their data. We expect all of them to have completed digitization and publishing of the data by the end of 2010.



Six of the grantees are already using the Pollinator Data Digitizer to digitize and standardize their data, which is hosted at the Universidade de Sao Paulo. Three of the grantees opted to use other software. The remaining five will probably also use the PDD but are still in the process of deciding about the tool. All of them are following the template that PTN has provided them, which follows Darwin Core (draft version 1.4).

Pollinators Thematic Network Grants Summary 		
Country	Institution	Amount
Argentina	Universidad Nacional de Misiones	\$ 10.000,00
Brazil	Universidade de S. Paulo. Coordinator	\$ 15.000,00
Brazil	EMBRAPA	\$ 10.000,00
Brazil	Universidade Federal do Paraná	\$ 9.924,00
Brazil	Universidade Federal do Maranhao	\$ 9.940,26
Chile	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaiso	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Corporacion Instituto de Ecología y Biodiversidad	\$ 10.306,00
Colombia	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	\$ 10.000,00
Ecuador	Fundación para la Conservación la Educación Biológica	\$ 10.000,00
Guatemala	Universidad de San Carlos USAC	\$ 10.000,00
México	Universidad de las Américas	\$ 2.948,00
Panama	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	\$ 15.000,00
Paraguay	Asociación GUYRA Paraguay	\$ 10.000,00
Peru	Red de Accion de Agricultura Alternativa y CONAM	\$ 10.000,00

IABIN Indicators Reporting Table, 2nd Semester 2009

Indicator	Actual – 2 nd Semester (Jul – Dec 2009)	Baseline	Actual – 1st Semester (Jan-Jun 2009)	Target – 2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the web site of Pollinators Thematic Network (PTN) http://pollinators.iabin.net/	848 visits	Sem1 '07: 1061 visits Sem1 '08: 323 visits Sem2 '08: 505 visits	796 visits	5% increase	There was a 6.5% increase in the number of visits to the PTN Web site http://pollinators.iabin.net between the first and second semesters of 2009. This increase is likely due to increased interest within and communication with the international pollinator research community.
Increase of visits to Pollinator Data Digitizer http://pollinators.iabin.net/digitizer	246 visits (155 new visits from 23 countries from America, Europe and Asia)	Not available (the analytics software was not installed on the first semester of 2009)	Not available (the analytics software was not installed on the first semester of 2009)		A training workshop held in August 2009 promoted the network and may have also contributed to an increase in the access to the web site and tools. We understand that the training also has this positive multiplier effect.
Increase of visits to the contacts database http://pollinators.iabin.net/contacts	454 visits (217 new) from 26 countries				
4. Data and metadata content increase in PTN:					

New Specimen Occurrence Records: Pollinator Data Portal (http://pollinators.iabin.net/portal/welcome.htm)	281,037 Cum. Total	Sem2 '07: 36,000 Sem2'08: 162,542	86263 added July-dec09 (including records from Colombia (50360) Brazil (35069), and Peru (834))	Add 100000 records	The data portal was not designed to record the dates when new records are added. Therefore we are only able to provide cumulative totals of new records for this tool. Most new data grantees are in a process of digitizing their data, and therefore, those data are not yet available. After digitization we will still have to pass through a data quality assessment. There was a considerable delay in getting contracts signed in many cases.
New Interaction Records (plant-pollinators): Mainly through the Pollinator Data Digitizer (http://pollinators.iabin.net/digitizer/)	18798 (added July-Dec 09)	Sem2 '09: 18,348	0	Approx. 200	This involves 17,535 records from CEPANN (Brazil), 813 from RAAA (Peru) (both used PDD) and 450 registers from Colombia, not digitized using the PDD
-New Data Providers:	5 Content Grantees	Sem2 '07: 2 Content Grantees	4 Content Grantees	Add data from 4 grantees	Fourteen content grantees (per Olga) are currently working with the PTN and are in various stages of digitizing and publishing their pollinator occurrence and plant-pollinator interaction data online.
- Records in Contacts Database: (http://pollinators.iabin.net/contacts/)	142 Cum. Total	Sem1 '07: 91 Sem1 '09: 99	43 added jul-dec09 # added Jul-Dec '09 or cumulative total	Add 10	Records are added to the Pollinator Contacts database on an ad hoc basis as members of the public contact us via the Web site. We also encourage/add larger numbers of records at conferences and workshops.
- Metadata Records cataloged by NBII:	* The tool used to assess this information is undergoing maintenance and is not available at this time.	Sem2 '07: 1196 Cum. Total	* The tool used to assess this information is undergoing maintenance and is not available at this time.	Add 3100	This measure of metadata records currently only consists of those records already cataloged by NBII as part of the regular operations of the NBII Pollinators Project. Currently, there are three grants providing pollinator metadata to the catalog.

					This includes providing metadata for the portal providers, bibliographic references (2400), and images (700).
5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by Pollinators Thematic Network (PTN)	Panama Aug. 2009: 20 trainees 2 trainers	Dec '06: 40	0	20	A PTN training workshop is planned for April 2010. The consortium has also identified several other opportunities to combine PTN training with other future events.

2.2.5 Protected Areas TN (PATN)

Activities in the second half of 2009 focused on improving protected areas (PA) data quality through the review of data gaps and needs as well as the development of standards, protocols and tools for data management and update. Activities also focused on optimising and promoting access and exchange of protected areas data through the development and promotion of the new PATN web portal as well as the award of data content grants to eight countries within the region.

The following activities were undertaken by the PATN during the second semester of 2009:

Review and update of countries' IABIN PA technical representatives and data providers: One of the main challenges faced by the PATN over the past years was to identify and communicate with the individual responsible for the PA information within the countries' protected areas agencies. In order to address this, a review of the PATN contact list was undertaken, with the purpose of updating the protected areas representative and data provider's contacts for each country in the Region, in terms of both organisations and people. A list was produced containing complete information on PA technical representatives and data providers for 76 individuals for 36 IABIN countries.

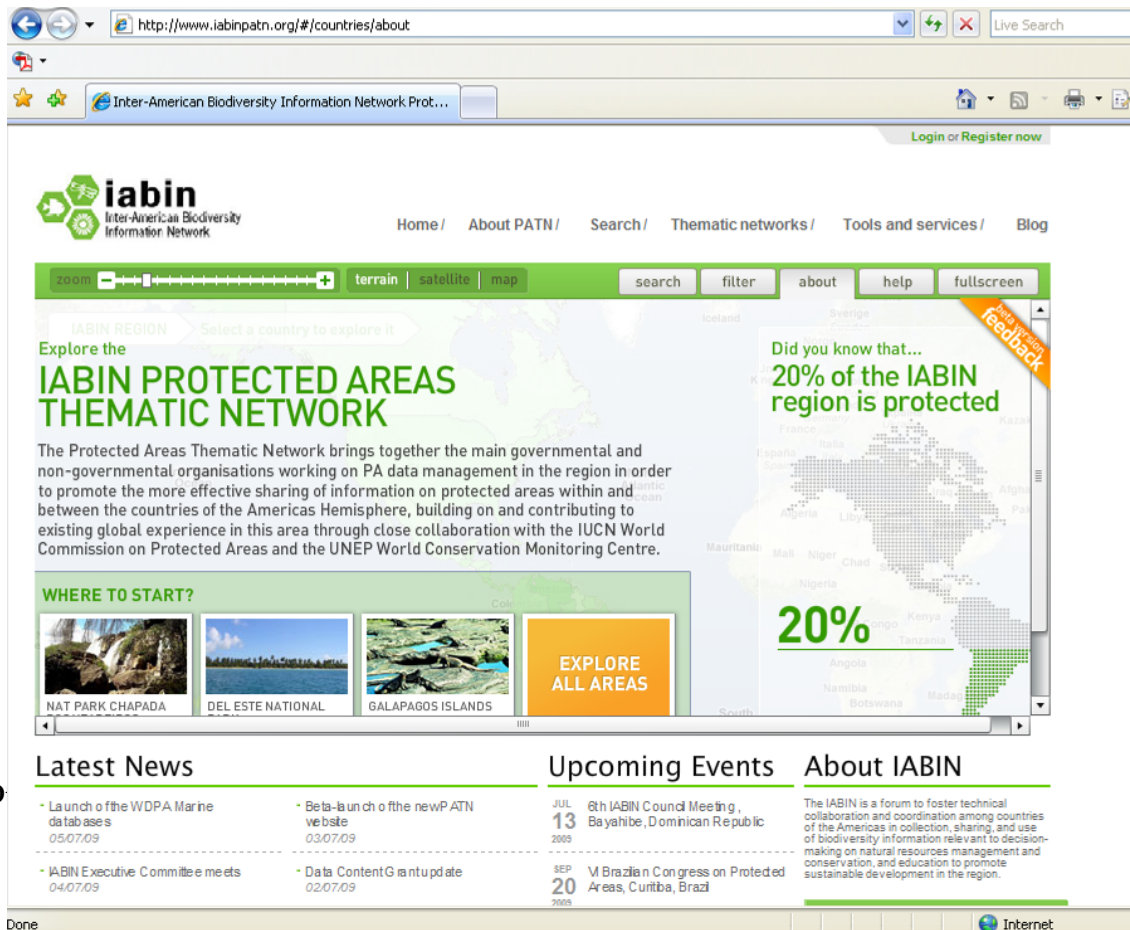
Review of protected areas data availability: Over the past years countries have been making a significant investment on the generation of new PA data. Since its inception, the PATN has made significant effort to update the region's dataset, however, due to different reasons, information contained within the PATN database for some countries is still missing, out of date or qualitatively poor. In order to address this issue, a review and analysis of the American region dataset was undertaken to identify PA data gaps. Through a data quality assessment, priorities for PA data collection and management were identified. Results showed that the ten countries with the lowest quality datasets are mainly composed of the Caribbean islands and that in the South of the continent, updates are mostly needed from Argentina, Guyana, Paraguay and Colombia.

Identification of data management needs and gaps: A review of data management needs and gaps was undertaken in order to identify what challenges are facing countries in the creation, compiling and management of their protected areas databases, and how they can be assisted.

Results showed that inadequate funding is still a major problem in the management and updating of protected area databases, hindering staff numbers and training, the lifespan of databases and the acquisition of adequate software and hardware. Collection of information remains sporadic, with data held across many different organisations, which are not always easily contactable. The lack of a process by which data providers can upload data themselves also impedes updates. Web portals, better database platforms and GIS are required that allow the data to be both easily accessible and uploaded. Better work plans to determine the needs and the continuation of databases are also required.

Review of the IABIN PATN data structure and data management standards and protocols: The PATN is currently undertaking a review of the PATN data structure and the PATN data management standards and protocols, which was proposed, but not yet finalised, by the previous PATN Coordination institution. This reviewed version will be disseminated across the region in order to promote the compatibility and interoperability amongst countries and regional databases with the PATN and the WDPA databases.

Redevelopment of IABIN PATN Web Portal: A new and interactive PATN web portal has been developed by adapting the WDPA interface into the PATN context. The PATN web portal is accessible at www.iab PATN.org. By building on the WDPA technology, the PATN Portal allows users to explore and visualize protected areas through our map viewers as well as to download various data formats and statistics maps. In the upcoming months, this portal will be improved to allow authorized data providers to upload their protected areas data. Relevant materials and publications related to the PATN have been made available through this portal allowing users to obtain further information on the network and its activities.



The IABIN PATN has participated at the VI IABIN Council Meeting, held in La Romana, Dominican Republic in July 14-16, 2009. During the event, progress made by the network was presented and the new PATN web portal was launched.

Upcoming Efforts

In order to optimise and promote access and exchange of protected areas data, the PATN will be working during the upcoming semester on the development of a PATN data management generic tool, which could be used by those countries that lack PA data management systems. This tool will be developed using open source software and will be fully compatible with the PATN and WDPA databases, allowing the automatic data flow.


The PATN will also work on the generation and maintenance of the PATN database, which will build on the existing WDPA technology. A webservice will be also developed and disseminated within the region in order to facilitate the automatic exchange of data between the PATN's and other protected areas databases.

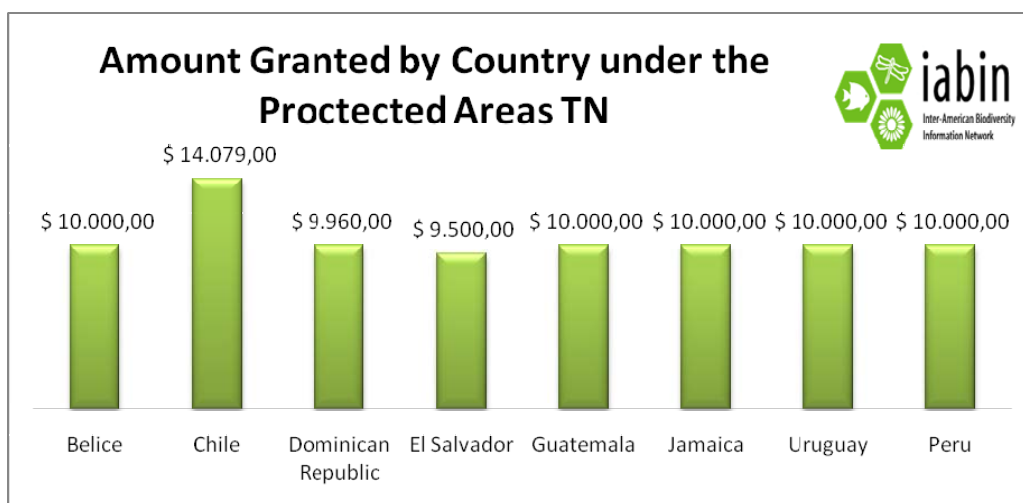
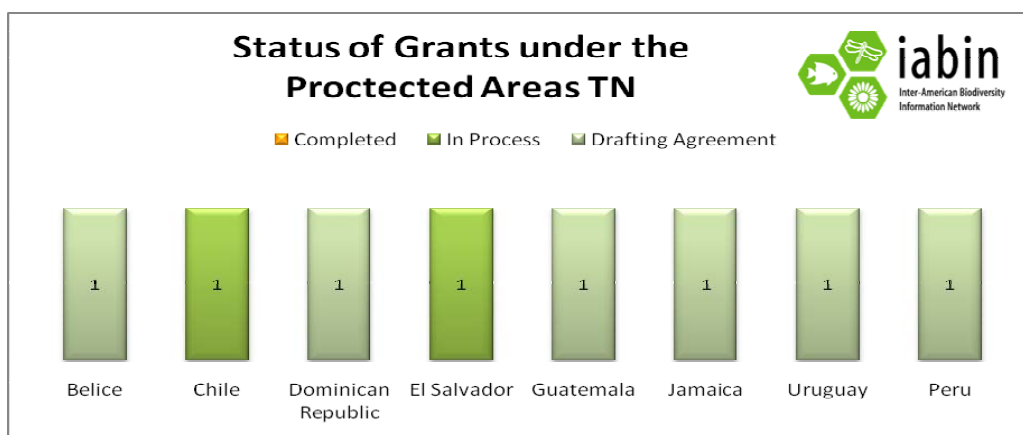
Data Content Grants

In September 2008, the PATN distributed a request for proposals in order to support countries on the achievement on the following objectives:

1. To improve and develop technical capacity of individual IABIN countries, when appropriate, to collect and manage their protected areas data in a way that meets their specific needs and context;
2. To help develop or improve, when appropriate, individual country's protected areas data management systems;
3. To update the data available at the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) with highest quality official protected areas data available.
4. To develop and implement a sustainable strategy in order to periodically update the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

In 2009 a total of eight (08) data content grants were approved and are currently being negotiated or implemented by the following countries:

Protected Areas Thematic Network Grants Summary 		
Country	Institution	Amount
Belice	Land and Surveys Department	\$ 10.000,00
Chile	Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente	\$ 14.079,00
Dominican Republic	Subsecretaría de Áreas Protegidas y Biodiversidad	\$ 9.960,00
El Salvador	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	\$ 9.500,00
Guatemala	Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP)	\$ 10.000,00
Jamaica	National Environment and Planning Agency	\$ 10.000,00
Peru	Kawsay Pacha Asociación Biodiversidad	\$ 10.000,00
Uruguay	Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente	\$ 10.000,00



PATN Indicator Measuring Matrix

Indicator	Actual— 2 nd Semester, 2009	Baseline	Last Semester's actual (Jan- Jun 2009)	Target—2010	Summary Comments
1. Increase of Visits to the portal of PATN	200 visits per day	200 visits per day	n/a	1000 visits per day	The IABINPATN beta launch was in June 2009, it is too early to judge indicators of growth.
4. Data and metadata content increase in the PATN increases :	10 countries updated totaling 5000 protected areas	10 countries updated	n/a	20 countries updated	Again the contract for the PATN has just begun so no time as yet to judge growth.

5. Number of people trained per year on data creation tools, data quality and use of tools developed by PATN	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 country representative per country	2010 will be the 1 st year the tools will be used.
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SUMMARY COMPONENTS 1 AND COMPONENT 2

Thematic Network	Visits (average visits/month)	Records (total at Jun 2009)	Trained People
IABIN Web	1197	N/A	N/A
Catalog	1277	200,000	27
SSTN (Specimens)	1831	3,461,304	38
SSTN (Species)	1003	3,784	
I3N	463	17,732	675
PTN (Specimens)	398	1,048,024	
PTN (Interaction)	340	17,534	128
PATN	856	23,530	38
ETN	680	1,925	141
Total	974	4,773,833	1047

3. COMPONENT 3: TOOLS FOR DECISION-MAKING

The following four sub-projects for the development of value added tools were selected to receive funding through IABIN's Component 3 and are under different stages of implementation:

3.1 Project Title: [Developing the Functionality of the IABIN Ecosystems Thematic Network \(ETN\) Database](#)

Institution: NatureServe

Funding: US\$49,971.00

Purpose: The purpose of this agreement is to make of the ETN Database a functional database that support comprehensive information about ecosystems of the Americas, facilitates the cross referencing between classifications, provides ecosystems distribution maps at different levels of resolution, informs about the conservation status of the ecosystems, and relates subsets of its data to other IABIN thematic network databases, all this through a web interface that is user friendly for both, data providers and information users.

Project status, milestones and achievements: The project has achieved a 60% of progress based on the activities accomplished thus far. The spreadsheets for the migration of US Terrestrial Ecological Systems data from the NatureServe databases to the ETN databases are almost completed and by February the data of about 700 ecosystems will be populated in the ETN database, complementing with the US component, the reference classification of Latin America and the Caribbean that currently exist in the ETN.

Query options have been developed to customize the outputs of the ETN data base according to the users thematic and geographic interest. The following screenshots show the types of

queries that are already functional, but we are working with the ETN programmer on additional queries and printable reports to improve the user interface of the ETN database.



Regarding the information about the conservation status of ecosystems, we have started a conversation with the lead of the IUCN *Ad hoc* Working Group for the Development of Red List Categories and Criteria for Ecosystems in order to coordinate and align our objectives and work in this front with that of this group. Thus far we are planning a first workshop for the beginning of March to bring together members of this *Ad hoc* Group and IABIN ETN collaborators and coordinators to outline the common ground and identify immediate next steps



Main challenges for next semester and any pending activities: One of the queries that still need to be developed is the crosswalk among any two terrestrial ecosystems classifications that have been entered in the database. The crosswalk script for this database already exists, but we are in the process of completing the migration of important sets of data, such as the US ecosystems and the World Bank Central American Ecosystems map, in order to run the crosswalk script again among all the entries in the terrestrial ecosystems database.

This will be a challenge given that the number of entries has increased from 1560 to 2371. Still, it is important to allow the database users to query for similarities among any two sets of ecosystems.

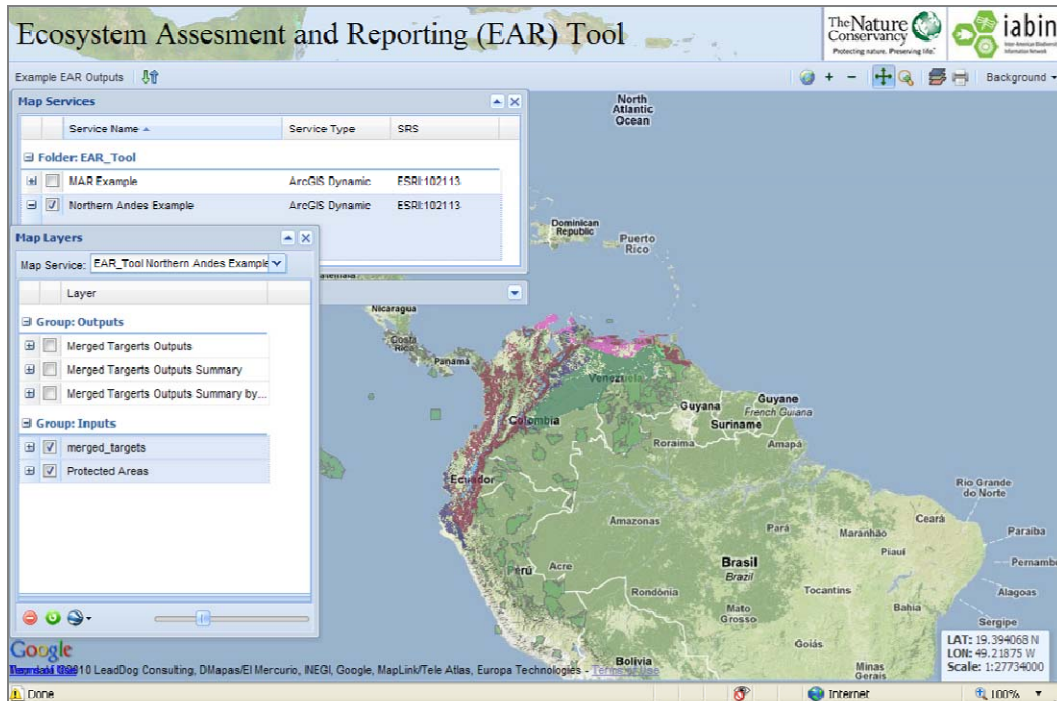
The other main challenge for the next semester is to finish the data preparation and the map viewer tool which will serve all the terrestrial ecosystems maps: the US, South America and Central America maps representing the reference classification and the national maps that the countries have used to enter the national classifications in the ETN standard format.

3.2 Project Title: [Internet-Based GIS Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting Tool for Conservation Decision-Making](#)

Institution: The Nature Conservancy

Funding: US\$75,000

Purpose: The tool developed for this project demonstrates how data from the Ecosystems and Protected Area Thematic Networks can be effectively integrated and used in the decision making process to guide and enhance environmental management decisions. The principal outcome of this project was the development of an Internet-based Geographic Information System (GIS) Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting (EAR) Tool for conservation decision-making. The tool can be accessed either through an internet browser or executed on a local machine using GIS software, providing a user-friendly “manager’s dashboard” approach for querying current spatial information on ecosystem condition, socioeconomic threat to these ecosystem, and protected area management status. By integrating biodiversity, socioeconomic and protected area datasets, the Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting Tool provides a simple, but powerful interface designed to answer questions such as “Which ecosystems are least protected?” “Of these ecosystems, where and how do we need to improve management?” and “Where are the opportunities to most efficiently reduce threats to these ecosystems?” This decision-support tool takes advantage of powerful new internet-based GIS technologies that go beyond traditional desktop GIS functionality, and have been designed using open advanced analysis techniques in a dynamic and easy-to-use web interface. By integrating data from the Ecosystems and Protected Area Thematic Networks that have been assigned biodiversity, threat, and management status, conservation decision-makers are able to cross-query ecosystems/species with protected area information, then report back spatial and tabular results formatted using user-defined categories on the condition and vulnerability of selected ecosystems. This information can then be used by conservation decision-makers to develop focused and prioritized strategies, effectively allocating resources and activities to the most appropriate places in order to achieve maximum results.



Project status, milestones and achievements: This development of this tool has been completed. TNC is currently working on the translation of the user manual in order to finish the project. Primary impacts of this tool include:

- Integration of data from Ecosystems and Protected Area Thematic Network databases:** The EAR tool integrates ecosystem, threat, and protected area data and provides an interactive and user-friendly approach to identify conservation gaps, prioritizing conservation actions. In addition, the tool has been specifically designed to integrate and take advantage of TNC's ecoregional datasets and methods for measuring effective conservation. To date, TNC has completed over 140 freshwater, marine, and terrestrial ecoregional assessments and new assessments are continually being completed. These ecoregional assessments provide a range of useful data that can be used in the EAR tool.
- Tools for visualization and analysis of Ecosystem and Protected Area TN data and information:** Having been built using new Internet-based GIS technology, the EAR tool can be linked to existing GIS datasets, designed with flexibility, scalability, and diversification in mind. By integrating existing TNC ecoregional data with IABIN's Ecosystems and Protected Area Thematic Networks datasets, the tool maximizes the utility of these data by providing users with advanced query and visualization functions. Users are able to visualize the current status of each ecosystem patch by combining the three measures, obtaining spatial and tabular answers to questions such as: What is the current protection status of each ecosystem? How close are we to meeting conservation goals, what percentage has been achieved? If I need additional hectares to reach my goal, where are the most suitable areas to implement a protection strategy? Using ESRI's ArcGIS Server™ technology, users are able to query large distributed GIS databases, execute advanced GIS functions, and view model results via an internet browser or other thin clients (e.g. ArcExplorer).

- **Utilize tool output to develop scenarios and plans of conservation action for decision makers:** Effective conservation decisions often require up-to-date information on the viability of an ecosystem, the level of socio-economic threat to that ecosystem, and the actual protected area management that is being implemented on the ground. These types of information are often used to help policy and environmental managers set conservation priorities, respond to critical needs in an effective manner, and distribute limited resources efficiently. The EAR tool provides decision-makers crucial direction by providing spatial information on the most appropriate places to do conservation work and indicate what actions are needed to improve biodiversity conservation for each ecosystem by explicitly addressing the following questions: Where is biodiversity reasonably secure and expected to persist? What are the gaps in biodiversity protection and threat abatement? Where are there opportunities to expand and enhance biodiversity protection? What progress are we making as a result of conservation actions, and what biodiversity has been lost?
- **Methodology employed and activities carried out to achieve the planned products** With ongoing development of IABIN's Ecosystem and Protected Area TN databases, there exists tremendous opportunities to leverage these databases with TNC's ecoregional assessment databases to further advance biodiversity protection. The EAR tool takes advantage of new and powerful Internet-based GIS technology that integrates viability, threat, and conservation management status, providing integration results in easily digestible maps and reports. These maps and reports can be generated dynamically from the tool, providing a current conservation action prioritization for a given area or ecosystem. In summary, key activities carried out during this project include: (i) **Design of data model** that integrates TNC's ecoregional assessment products with the ecosystem and protected area standard format databases into a suitable and efficient framework for internet-based GIS analysis and reporting; (ii) **Implementation and testing of data model** – several terrestrial and marine ecoregional datasets throughout Mesoamerica and the Caribbean have been chosen to prototype and test the data model; (iii) **Hardware setup and loading of supporting database** - Consolidation of database onto a robust server with high-speed internet connection and access to IABIN's existing distributed databases (iv) **Design of tool and output products** - Design of an ArcGIS Server-based tool and method for creating output products compatible with the data model and useful for decision-makers. The tool has been designed primarily for use by non-GIS people who have little GIS technology training. When using GIS data from the Ecosystems and Protected Area TNC databases, users can perform complex spatial queries and receive back maps and reports indicating model results; (v) **Implementation and testing of tool** (vi) **Delivery of final report and tool with accompanying user manual.**

3.3 Project Title: [Sistema para el modelado de escenarios de acciones de desarrollo o posibles amenazas a la biodiversidad](#)

Institution: Asociación Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)

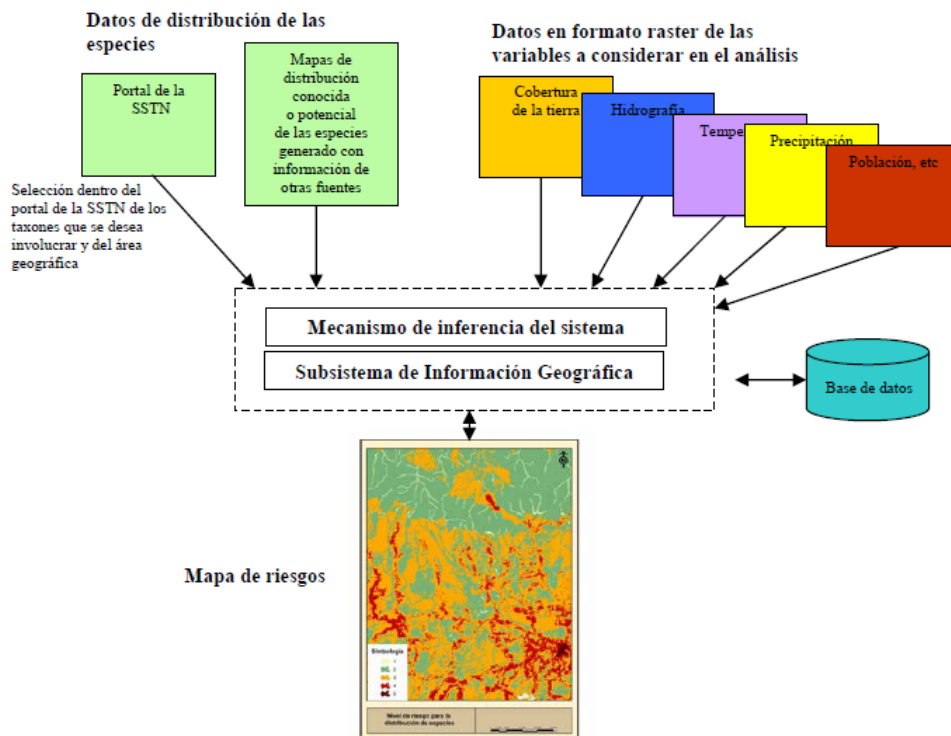
Funding: US\$107,298

Purpose: Given the large number of variables involved and the high sensitivity of populations to changes in variables such as climate, infrastructure development, invasion of species, etc, an analytical model to predict the impact of those changes in a population are

practically impossible. Thus, this project proposes the development of an interactive, user-friendly and modular system that integrates biotic and abiotic data to visualize and model scenarios for potential threats and leads to better biodiversity resources management. The system is highly interactive to facilitate experimentation with causal variables and their effects, user-friendly to make more appealing to decision makers and modular so that it can be implemented as a stand alone system or as part of the SSTN portal. The project articulates the following types of activities: software development, application of the resulting software to a pilot case in Costa Rica, and an evaluation by experienced potential users. The target beneficiaries are decision makers that define policies and concrete biodiversity conservation actions.

Description of the System: The tool allows users to select a specific geographic area, and the system will gather maps potentially generated from other information sources for the segment you want to get information with known distributions. For this end, the database must be updated in advanced with the required information, using an interface mechanism that can be configured for the user depending on his criteria to rate the categories to choose from. Based on this information, the system executed a difficult analysis and generates the corresponding risk maps for the involved species.

The interface of the system is multilingual. In other words, the administrator will only have to translate the extern text files and the interface can be configured for a new language. The initial system is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. The software operates in a Web environment and will be available through the SSTN, IABIN and others related websites. The following figure shows the structure of the system for a better understanding.



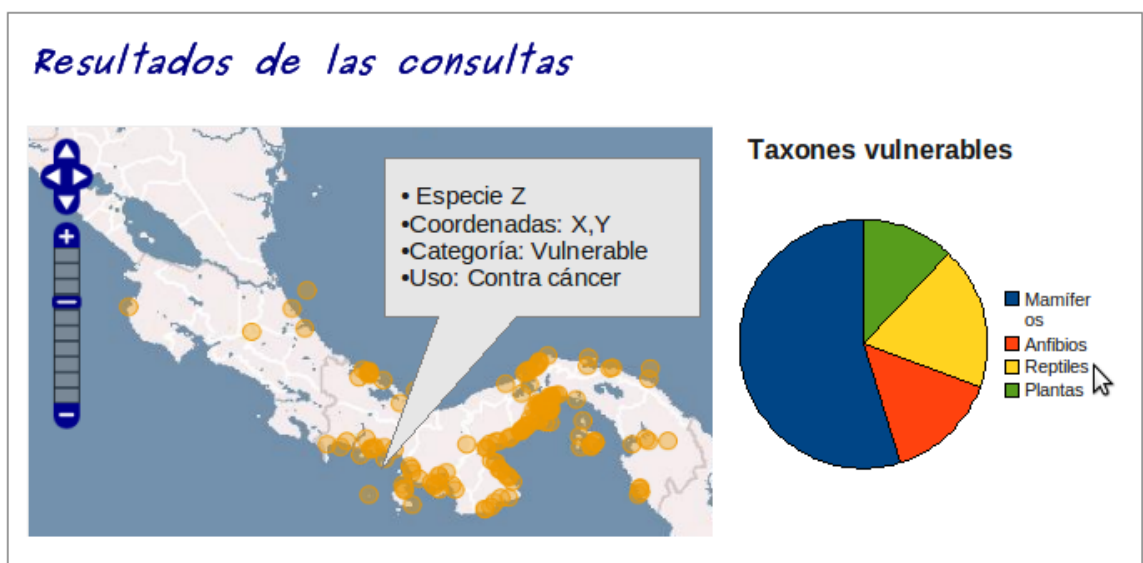
3.4 **Project Title:** [Sistema para la toma de decisiones con base en categorías de conservación y usos de la biodiversidad.](#)

Institution: Asociación Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)

Funding: US\$75,000

Purpose: To develop and document an open source and bilingual (English and Spanish) Software tool, which facilitates the geo spatial and statistic analysis of biodiversity information from species, specimens, conservation categories and biodiversity uses, to support at least three kinds of decision making: Scientifics (e.g. determination of collection areas), conservation (e.g. establishment of protected areas) and administrative (e.g. wood extraction ratifications) decisions. Likewise, this tool will take advantage of the new Ara's functionality developed by the SSTN, in order to promote and encourage greater use of species and specimens information digitalization processes. Finally, this tool will prove and illustrate the utility of the new model through the development of a case study: Analysis of Costa Rica PAS's Limits and potential of other areas potential to be converted into PAS based on the distribution of threaten plants in Costa Rica and its categories of use.

Project status, milestones and achievements: The development of this system has passed the analysis and design stages, as well as the stage to collect information that must be converted into the databases which will be available for the user's tests. As stated in the proposal, the development of this system consists not only on providing the tool for the users to use with their own data, but accompanied with to data bases. The first is a database about documented uses through bibliographic references. The second one is a database about threatened plant species according to the established list of each country in Central America. As of December 2009, the tool has been designed and the first version (stand alone) it's being implemented. A delay of two or three months is estimated in the implementation of the tool due to the unanticipated complexity of the system. Nevertheless, the data collection process has been concluded and the construction of the databases will be initiated in February of the present year. The graph below shows an example of the results of the analysis module produced under this tool.



Additional Information on Component 3:

At the VI IABIN Council Meeting, component 3 was further refined and the IABIN Focal Points agreed that Component 3 products will be based upon the following criteria:

- Cross national requirements to be completed within two years.
- Consistent with national policy requirements using appropriate tools (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans [NBSAPs]).
- FPs to identify and provide their national priorities by July 31, 2009
- Synergistic to international commitments (e.g. CBD, CITES)
- Projects must be replicable
- Must leverage additional information resources
-

As a result, a third Request for Proposals was advertised on October, 2009. Seven proposals were received and two were selected for funding. The GS/OAS is currently working with the two grantees (The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture Colombia (CIAT) and The Conservation Biology Institute) in order to prepare the sub-project agreements. Further details, please see <http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component3.htm>.

4. COMPONENT 4: SUSTAINABILITY OF IABIN

Following the VI IABIN Council Meeting in July 2009, a number of new steps toward IABIN's sustainability have been taken:

- I3N has been tentatively approved for a \$200,000 project in the Caribbean, funded by the Organization of American States (as outlined above). This project will improve IABIN's and I3N's outreach to this currently underserved area of IABIN member states and improve
- The IABIN "Action Plan" recommended by the World Bank has been kept updated and distributed twice to the IEC for their review. This plan details governance and process steps to support the sustainability and permanence of IABIN.
- The IABIN Fundraising and Mid-Term Review (MTR) Consultant, John Waugh, presented the results of the MTR at the VI Council Meeting and has integrated feedback from the TNs and Focal Points into three full proposals, to be finalized and presented to funders in the first semester of 2010.
- The new IABIN Coordinator, Arturo Restrepo, with the assistance of the Chair and OAS, has begun preparation of additional proposals, also to be distributed in 2010.

4.1. Secretariat

The Data Content Manager and the Thematic Network Coordinator successfully completed their planned five year contracts in the Second Semester of 2009. During this period, they provided joint supervision of the Administrative Assistant, the Web/Communications Assistant and management of the Secretariat's office. The office was officially closed, with the assistance of OAS-Panama and the City of Knowledge (CoK), in December 2009. Communications with CoK have been kept open since then, and a number of contracts for both the JRS Foundation Project and GeoSur continue to be managed through CoK.

4.2. Outreach and Communications

The *Sixth Council Meeting* was held at the Dominican Republic from 14-16 July 2009

Meeting Objectives:

- Evaluation and Lessons learned in 4.5 years of implementing the IABIN-GEF Project
- IABIN 2010-2015 – What will IABIN be?
- Define IABIN’s Niche in the Global Bioinformatics Community
- Define IABIN’s mission and workplan for 2010-2015
- Funding to implement main lines of work to achieve objectives.
- Review of current Stakeholders Roles and transition to their future roles
- Review and strengthen plans for GEF 2 follow up project

Meeting Outputs:

- Lessons Learned
- IABIN’s Niche, Mission and Objectives
- Outline of Implementation Plan 2010-2015 Including funding and sustainability
- Assignment of responsibilities to develop detailed work plans for each objective, including work plan for the IEC for the following months
 - Recommend adjustments to IABIN-GEF project to reflect progress, challenges from last four years of project implementation
 - Discussion and decisions on technical development and sustainability of the Thematic Networks;
 - Work plan for Component 4 Sustainability
 - Follow-up GEF 2 profile and workplan;

6th IABIN Council meeting: Members of the IABIN Executive Committee (IEC):

Country	Elected	Name
Chile	2005 (4th Council Meeting)	Karin Molt (Vice-Chair, April 2005)
Dominican Republic	2009 (6th Council Meeting)	Marina Hernandez
Grenada	2009 (6th Council Meeting)	Mervin Haynes
Guatemala	2009 (6th Council Meeting)	Edgar Selvin Pérez
Jamaica	2007 (5th Council Meeting)	Dionne Newell
Panama	2007 (5th Council Meeting)	Dario Luque
Uruguay	2005 (4th Council Meeting)	Ana Aber
United States	2005 (4th Council Meeting)	Gladys Cotter (Chairperson, April 2005)
NGO	Elected	
GBIF	2007 (5th Council Meeting)	Juan Bello
TNC	2007 (5th Council Meeting)	Maarten Kappelle

4.3 TNs Sustainability

In November 2009, the Chair requested all TNs to provide a list of fundraising ideas for the Coordinator and Fundraising Consultant to utilize when preparing IABIN proposals. Many of these are still in development, but initial feedback has been provided for ETN, PTN and I3N.

4.4 Partnership and Communications

During this period partnerships with several institutions were strengthened that help support development of the different Thematic Networks. In addition, a strong collaboration has been forged with the American Association of Geographers (AAG), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and USGS to advance technical programs and fundraising activities for the development of the network.

Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) WHMSI is building country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife. It improves hemispheric communication on conservation issues of common interest, provides training in priority areas, strengthens the exchange of information needed for informed decision-making, and provides a forum to address emerging issues such as new threats to migratory species, or the connections between wildlife disease and human diseases. WHMSI was awarded a 2nd tranche of the FEMCIDI grant of US\$97,500 and funded 3 proposals:

Proposals Funded					
Capacity Building for the Cooperation in Conservation: Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)					
No	Institution	Country	Title of the Proposal	WHMSI Funding	Couterpart Funding
1	Proposal prepared and presented by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)	Costa Rica	Capacity strengthening in the Western Hemisphere for adaptation of coastal habitats for marine turtles and shorebirds to the impacts of climate change	\$26,000	\$85,696
2	Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)	Jamaica	Increasing capacity for Caribbean wetlands conservation: a training workshop for monitoring, education and conservation	\$26,000	\$26,000
3	Programa para la Conservacion de los Murcielagos de Mexico (PCMM) -Bioconciencia-	Mexico	Endangered and Migratory bats in Latin America, a Common Strategy for their conservation through capacity-building: The Latin American Network for Bat Conservation, (RELCOM).	\$26,390	\$34,800

For example in the Endangered and Migratory bats in Latin America, a Common Strategy for their conservation through capacity-building: The Latin American Network for Bat Conservation, (RELCOM) project, 25 experts attended the first meeting of the Latin American Network for Bat Conservation that took place in La Tirimbina Reserve in Costa Rica. The meeting designed a capacity-building program to provide each of the 11 Latin American country teams with tools and methodologies to establish Research, Conservation, and Environmental Education Plans highlighted by 15 years of successful work on bat conservation in Mexico. Each country then adapts the program according to their specific needs. Additionally, the participants drafted and approved the Declaration of Costa Rica that lays the ground work for a Latin American Strategy for Bat Conservation. The strategy aims for the conservation of ecologically and economically important species of bats, including those species that are conservation priorities such as endangered, migratory, and endemic bat species.

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/WHMSI/English/Workshops/CostaRica2009/costarica.htm>

IABIN and Payments for Ecological Services

Through the use of a database, the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) has been analyzing trends in transactions that have occurred in the region. Additionally, the DSD has been analyzing the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES (payments for ecological services) schemes which could become an important value added product for decision making in biodiversity protection. <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentalServ.htm> Discussions are underway to have IABIN house and expand the PES database.

Work was completed on the Andes-Amazon Amazon Protected Areas Network (RANPA) and the database was adopted by OCTA (Amazon Cooperation Treaty). <http://ranpa.net/>

ReefFix: An ICZM Coral Reef Restoration, Watershed Management and Capacity Building Demonstration Project for the Caribbean

ReefFix is a subproject within the Protected Areas Thematic Network (PATN) and follows on two initiatives:

- The development of the Caribbean Protected Areas Database Initiative – CPADI
- MPA Global Database and workshop where details can be found at: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/Events/english/08.03.10.htm>
- <http://www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component1/ReefFix/ReefFix.htm>
- Workshops on marine system valuation have been completed in 5 countries with 3 more to be completed in 2010.

The REEFfix study continues these initiatives by conducting 3 valuation methodologies applied to 7 case study sites:

IABIN ReefFix: An ICZM Coral Reef Restoration, Watershed Management and Capacity Building Demonstration Project for the Caribbean	
Country	Marine Park
Jamaica	Montego Bay Marine Park Trust
Bahamas	Moriah Harbour Cay National Park in Exuma situated between Little & Great Exuma.
DR	National Park of the East.
Haiti	Carocol Mangrove park or Arcadins Coast and Islands
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Tobago Cays Marine Park
Grenada	Southeast Grenada
Dominica	Soufriere Scotts Head Marine Reserve (SSMR)
St Lucia	Soufriere Marine Management Area
Barbados	Folkstone Marine Reserve

For this exercise, Dionne Newell, IABIN Focal Point for Jamaica and member of the IABIN Executive Committee is keeping the Caribbean Focal Points in the IABIN Council informed.

4.6 Fund Raising

JRS Biodiversity Foundation: The proposal “Enhancing Knowledge for Establishing Ecosystem Conservation Priorities in the Neotropics by Integrating Biodiversity and Geospatial Data” was

approved in December 2007 for US\$200K. The first installment of \$120,000 was received in February 2008. In late 2008, INBio was identified as the Principal Investigator for this project. In June of 2009 JRS gave the final go ahead to the current version of the project and planning activities are under way. These include the following:

- Update of the list of plants (including synonyms).
- Contact the Field Museum of Chicago to coordinate the digitization of plants information..
- Prepare gazetteers to assist with georeferencing records in the project.

World Bank. Two proposals for Internal Competition under the World Bank's Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD, www.worldbank.org/tfessd), were approved. These proposals are:

- *Developing Guidelines for Management of Environmental Information in World Bank and IADB projects (US\$40K).* This grant was completed in June 2009 when the final product was delivered by Humboldt. They made two presentations at the Bank in May 2009.
- *Integrating Ecosystem and Species Data into Disease Forecasting Models (200K).* This project with funds from the World Bank's Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) ended in December, 2009.
 - National training in Nicaragua took place in Leon for early September, 2009.
 - International training in coordination with OPS was carried out in October, 2009 in Panama City.
 - A new proposal for \$600,000 was sent to TFESSD in December 2009 to expand this project to throughout Central America. If approved, this project will begin in July, 2010.

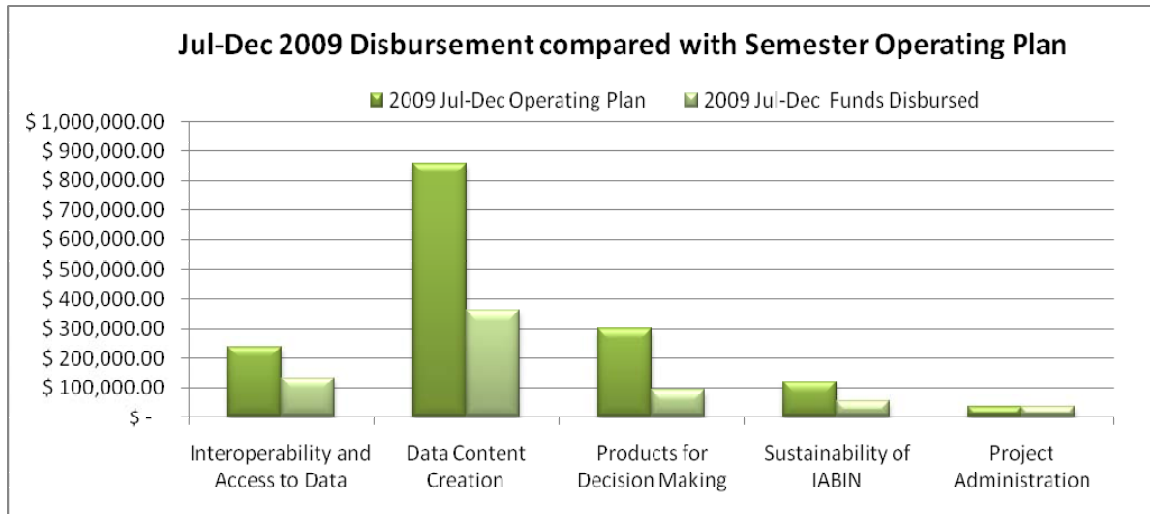
Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

In October, a representative of I3N made a presentation at, and the I3N National Lead participated in, the inception meeting for the GEF/UNEP project "Mitigating Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean" in Kingstown, Jamaica. The I3N has been selected to lead efforts for information collection and sharing related to the project and use of the I3N database in this service has been approved. Further information can be requested to Christine Fournier, I3N coordinator (cfournie@usgs.gov).

5. COMPONENT 5: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

5.1 IABIN Financing

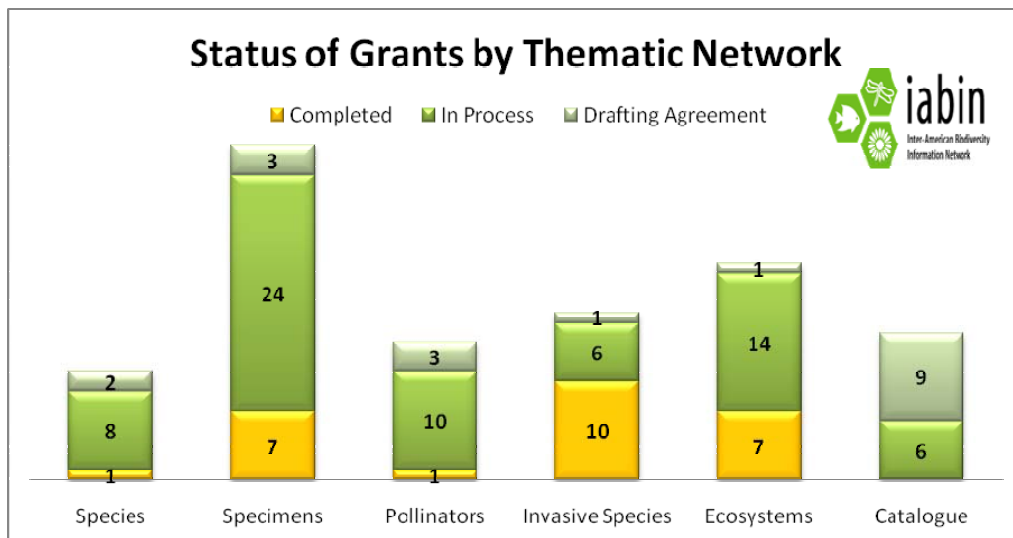
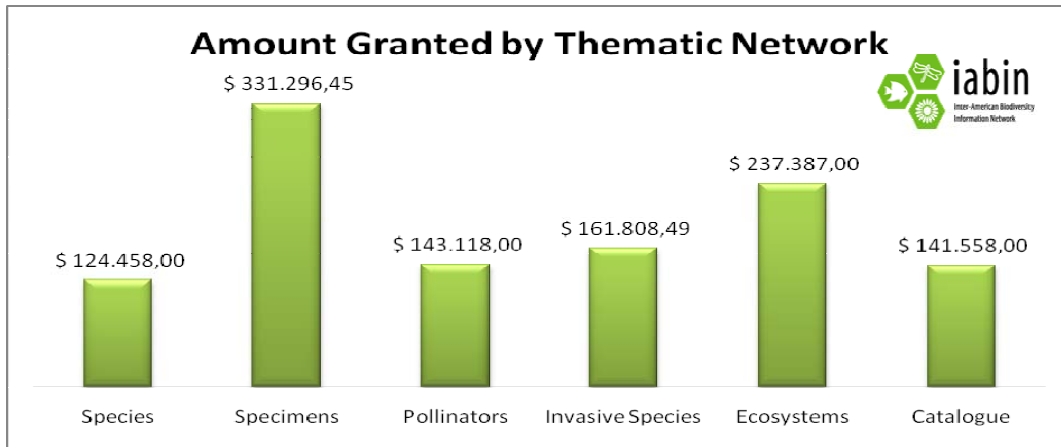
From Project inception to December 2009, the project has disbursed \$3,947,856.31 or 66% of the total Budget. In the 2009 AOP, IABIN projected disbursements of up to \$1,556,240 for the period of July through December of 2009. Actual disbursement of funds was \$683,731.35 which represents 44% of the aforementioned targets, and shows that the level of disbursements has increased through the life of the project, especially in 2009.



The breakdown of disbursements by component show that the greatest difference between planned and actual disbursements is in Components 2 and 3 given the time required to negotiate, approve and sign the Sub-Project Agreements under said components; the performance of the other components is as follows:

- (i) *Component 1:* Disbursements totaled 56% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2009. The coordinating institutions are implementing most of their activities on schedule as programmed in their respective operating plans; Most of them, specially the SSTN and ETN have already completed most of their programmed activities under component one except in the case of the Protected Areas Thematic Network where UNEP/WCMC was selected as the new Coordinating Institution. The CI Transfer was expected signed in the second semester of 2009 and the first disbursement was made on 2009.
- (ii) *Component 2:* Disbursements in this component increased significantly compared to previous semesters and totaled 42% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2009. During this period the GS/OAS continued negotiated the terms and conditions of GS/OAS administrative and legal procedures with the recipients of the last grants awarded through IABIN. This process has taken several months for many institutions since some of grantees don't have a legal personality or don't have the necessary accounting system. In addition, these institutions also have to send the Sub-Project Agreements for the review and approval of their own Legal Department causing delays in the signature of the Agreements and in the disbursement of the first payment. As set in the grant agreements, most of the institutions require approximately 40% of the grant amount to be disbursed upon signature while the remaining balance is paid upon submission of satisfactory performance on their deliverables. Approximately seventy two data content grants Agreements have been signed and are completed or in progress. In addition almost 30 projects have been completed and 27 Agreements are currently under negotiation with the corresponding institutions. Therefore the GS/OAS expects to continue disbursing the largest portion of the data content grants funds in the first semesters of 2010. The graphs below shows the total amount awarded to institutions through data content

grants under the different TNs (includes committed and disbursed funds) as well as the status of all grants.



- (iii) *Component 3:* Disbursements totaled 31% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2009. After signing the 3rd Amendment to the GEF Trust Fund Agreement required in order to include a new procurement category and agreeing on the Sub Grant Agreement model with the World Bank, the GS/OAS finally signed the first four sub-projects for the development of value added tools for decision making. Component 3 projects are underway and the first tool will soon be sent to the IABIN Council for their review and comment. The GS/OAS expects to continue disbursing a large amount of funds in the first semester of 2010.
- (iv) *Component 4:* Disbursements totaled 49% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2009 corresponding in great part to the preparation of the VI IABIN Council Meeting held in the second semester of 2009 and the hiring of the consultant in the role of IABIN Coordinator.

- (v) *Component 5*: Disbursements totaled 99% of the planned amount for the second semester of 2009.

Execution level for the period July through December 2009:

COMPONENTS	SEMESTER			
	Planned	Actual	Unspent balance for semester	Variance: Actual vs Planned
	Jul-Dec09	Jul-Dec09	(US\$)	%
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	\$239.450,00	\$133.329,49	\$106.120,51	55,68%
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	\$859.600,00	\$362.280,97	\$497.319,03	42,15%
Total 03 -- Products for Decision Making	\$300.000,00	\$93.015,19	\$206.984,81	31,01%
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	\$120.169,62	\$58.107,39	\$62.062,23	48,35%
Total 05 -- Project Administration	\$37.020,71	\$36.998,31	\$22,40	99,94%
Grand Total	\$1.556.240,33	\$683.731,35	\$872.508,98	43,93%

The Table below shows that from the project inception through December 2009, IABIN has disbursed 66% of the total funds. During the period of January through June 2010, IABIN is expected to disburse \$1,048,772, which represents 17.5% of the total funds of the project.

Total Funds disbursed by Components

COMPONENTS	PAD: Life of Project	CUMULATIVE		
		Actual	Level of Implementation	Forecast: Next Semester
	Nov04-Dec09	Nov04-Dec09	%	Jan-Jun10
Total 01 -- Interoperability and Access to Data	\$ 1.725.000,00	\$1.431.919,18	83%	\$ 220.810,23
Total 02 -- Data Content Creation	\$ 2.460.000,00	\$1.290.231,05	52%	\$ 521.234,08
Total 03 -- Products for Decision Making	\$ 500.000,00	\$96.260,19	19%	\$ 156.727,75
Total 04 -- Sustainability of IABIN	\$ 915.000,00	\$735.759,00	80%	\$ 86.000,00
Total 05 -- Project Administration	\$ 400.000,00	\$393.686,89	98%	\$ 64.000,00
Grand Total	\$ 6.000.000,00	\$3.947.856,31	66%	\$ 1.048.772,06

5.2 IABIN Co-Financing

The IABIN partner organizations, Coordinating Institutions and grantees funded under the IABIN Content Development Program for Data Creation submitted their co-financing information for the period July through December 2010; the Table below shows that IABIN financing from GEF and co-financing amounted to a total of \$1,290,679.90 for this period.

IABIN Financing

Period: July- December 2009

	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5
Global Environmental Facility (GEF)	\$133,329.49	\$362,280.97	\$93,015.19	\$58,107.39	\$36,998.31

Co-Financing

Core Co-Financing

Coordinating Institutions

Catalogue -- U.S. Geological Survey/National Biological Information Infrastructure	\$82,400.00	\$20,760.00	\$15,000.00	\$84,015.00	
SSTN -- Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad	\$25,000.00				
ETN - NatureServe	\$7,000.00				
I3N -- U.S. Geological Survey	\$93,550.00	\$201,150.00		\$22,888.00	
PTN -- CoEvolution Institute	\$17,623.18				
PATN -- UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	\$81,542.00	\$18,407.00		\$18,927.00	

Data Content Grants

Administracion de Parques Nacionales - Especies de Hongos, Algas y Liqueues		\$5,411.00			
Administracion de Parques Nacionales - Especimenes de Valor Especial (NEA)		\$3,075.00			
Administracion de Parques Nacionales - Especimenes Laguna Blanca		\$4,904.00			
Administracion de Parques Nacionales - Especimenes Vertebrados		\$5,888.00			
Asociacion GUYRA Paraguay - Digitalizacion de Especies Polinizadoras		\$17,900.00			
Centro Nacional Patagonico- ETN Golfos de San Jose y San Matias		\$49,550.00			
CONICET - Innova -T		\$6,004.00			
Corporacion Ornitologica del Ecuador - Digitalizacion de Aves y Vertebrados		\$16,501.00			
Fundacion OGA - Ecosistemas de Aguas Continentales en Argentina		\$1,668.00			
Fundacion para el Desarrollo Agrario- Universidad La Molina		\$3,378.00			
Fundacion para la Conservacion y Educacion Biologica (BIOCE)		\$4,000.00			
Herbario U. de Panama VASCULARES		\$20,900.00			
Museo Entomologico de Leon		\$9,000.00			
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropologia - Especies de Anfibios		\$9,885.00			
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropologia - Especimenes de Anfibios Reptiles		\$55,155.00			
PROMAR PACIFICO LTDA - Ecosistemas de Fiordos Marinos en el Sur de Chile		\$5,000.00			
PRONATURA MEXICO A.C. - Especimenes de Aves Marinas y Acuaticas		\$4,912.00			
PRONATURA MEXICO AC		\$9,412.00			
The Nature Conservancy- Pine Oak Phase I		\$10,000.00			
Universidad de Chile - ETN		\$3,759.00			
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala - ONCA - Digitalizacion de Abejas Nativas		\$22,650.00			
Universidad de Santiago de Chile-USACH		\$1,866.00			
Universidade de Sao Paulo		\$15,000.00			

Value Added Tools Sub-Projects

NatureServe			\$5,000.00		
INBio			\$40,000.00		
The Nature Conservancy			\$91,114.00		
City of Knowledge				\$11,485.72	
SG/OEA					\$110,000.00
Total Core Co-Financing	\$307,115.18	\$526,135.00	\$151,114.00	\$137,315.72	\$110,000.00

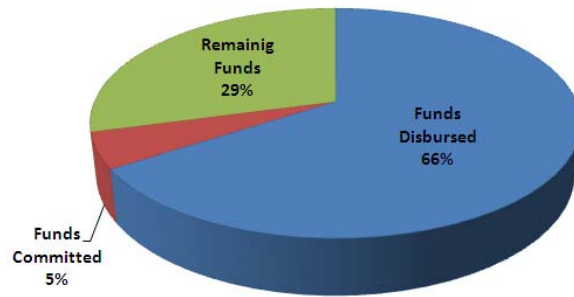
Non-Core Co-Financing

Corporacion Andina de Fomento				\$7,000.00	
World Bank*				\$52,000.00	
Total Non-Core Co-Financing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,000.00	\$0.00
Total Co-Financing	\$307,115.18	\$526,135.00	\$151,114.00	\$196,315.72	\$110,000.00
Total IABIN Financing	\$440,444.67	\$888,415.97	\$244,129.19	\$254,423.11	\$146,998.31

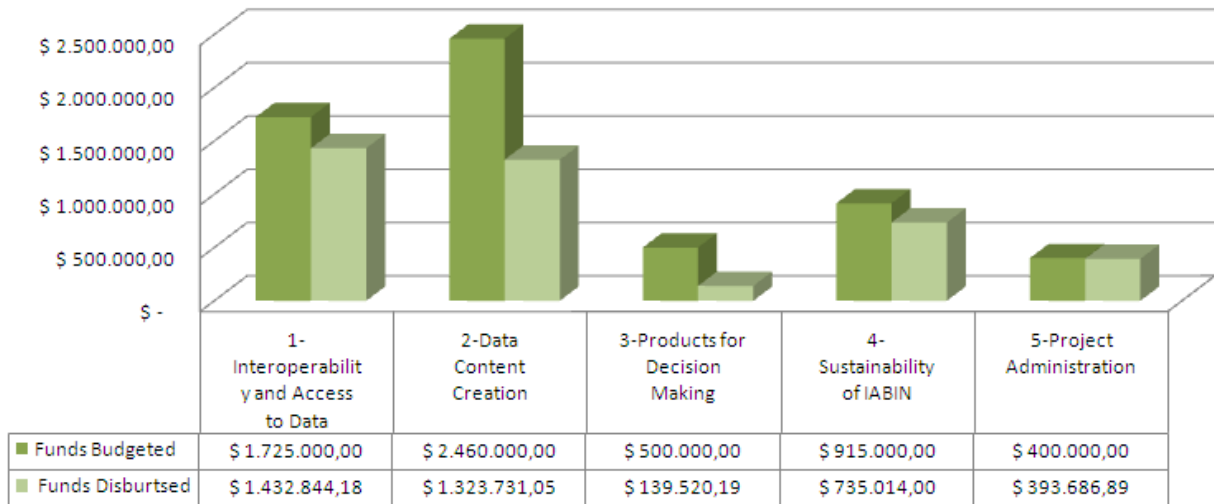
* Non-Core Co-Financing for ETN

5.3 Cumulative Financial Performance

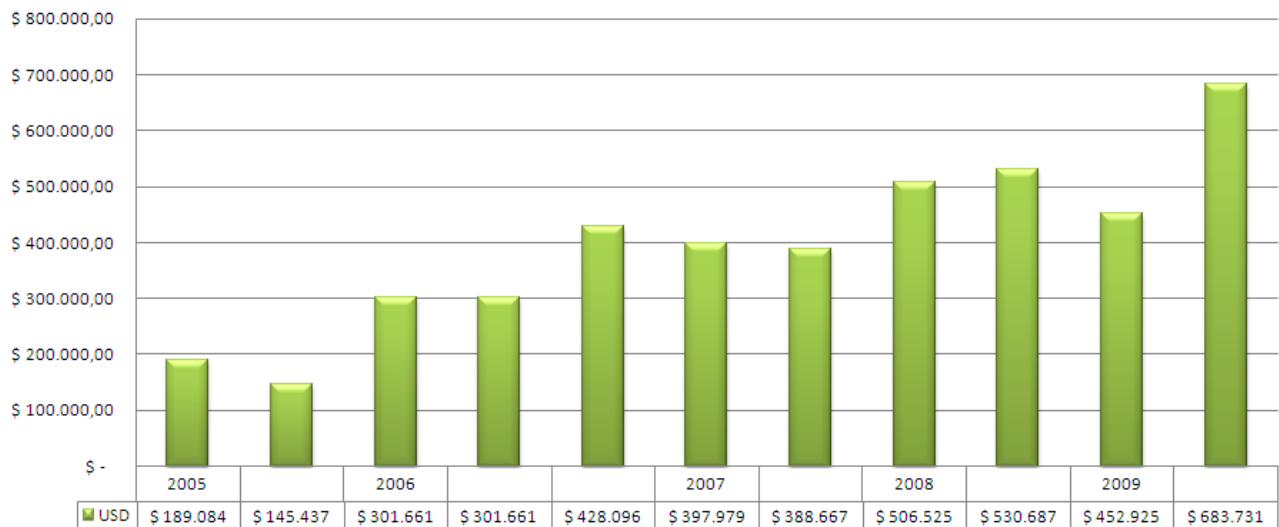
Graph 1: Distribution of total GEF funding from Project inception to December 2009



Graph 2: Funds Disbursed Vs. Total Budget from Project Inception to December 2009



Graph 3: Disbursements from Project inception to December 2009



Annex 1 - List of Acronyms

AOP = Annual Operating Plan

CABI = Intergovernmental Organization. Invasive Species is one of its three key scientific areas for international development that works toward reducing the spread and impact of invasive species throughout the world.

CI = Coordinating Institution

CONABIO = Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad.

ECS = Ecosystem Class Standard

ENBI = European Network for Biodiversity Information

ETN = Ecosystem Thematic Network

FP = Focal Point

FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization

GBIF = Global Biodiversity Information Facility

SBSTTA = Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

GISP = Global Invasive Species Programme

GISIN = Global Invasive Species Information Network

IAS = Invasive Alien Species

I3N = Invasive Information Network

IEC = IABIN Executive Committee

IUCN = The World Conservation Union

JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency

LAA/USP = Laboratório de Automação Agrícola da Escola Politécnica da University of São Paulo

NBII = National Biological Information Infrastructure

PAII = Portal de Acceso Integrado a Información de Especies y Especímenes

PATN = Protected Areas Thematic Network

PATWG = Protected Areas Technical Working Group

PAIGH = Pan American Institute of Geography and History

PIP = Project Implementation Plan

PP = Procurement Plan

PTN = Pollinators Thematic Network

REMIB = The World Biodiversity Information Network

SAIC = Science and Application Information Systems

SICAMAI = Sistema de Captura y Manejo de Información de Especies y Especímenes

STRI = Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

SSTN = Species and Specimens Thematic Network

TN = Thematic Network

TWG = Thematic Working Group

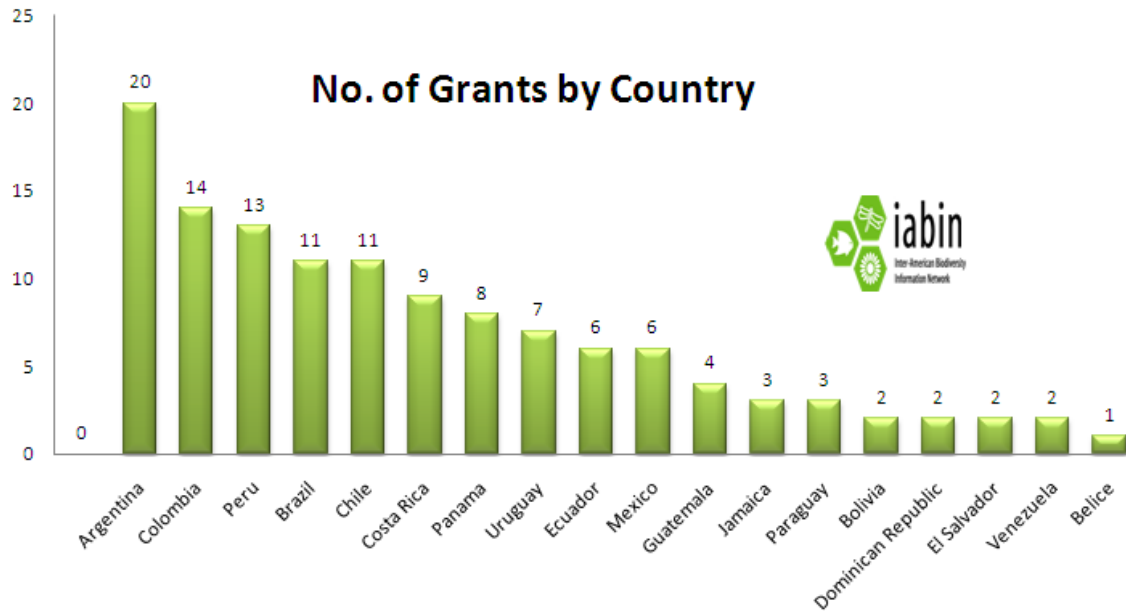
TNC = The Nature Conservancy

UDDI = Universal Description, Discovery and Integration

UNEP = United Nations Environment Program

Annex 2: Distribution of Data Content Creation Grants by Thematic Network and Country

Graph 1: Data Content Grants – Country Participation from Project Inception to December 2009



Country	No. of Grants	%
Argentina	20	16%
Colombia	14	11%
Peru	13	10%
Brazil	11	9%
Chile	11	9%
Costa Rica	9	7%
Panama	8	6%
Uruguay	7	6%
Ecuador	6	5%
Mexico	6	5%
Guatemala	4	3%
Jamaica	3	2%
Paraguay	3	2%
Bolivia	2	2%
Dominican Republic	2	2%
El Salvador	2	2%
Venezuela	2	2%
Belice	1	1%
Nicaragua	1	1%
TOTAL	125	100%

Country	Funding Granted	%
Argentina	\$ 193.153,00	15%
Belice	\$ 10.000,00	1%
Bolivia	\$ 9.200,00	1%
Brazil	\$ 112.864,26	9%
Chile	\$ 118.385,00	9%
Colombia	\$ 137.048,10	11%
Costa Rica	\$ 105.000,00	8%
Dominican Republic	\$ 19.700,00	2%
Ecuador	\$ 78.546,00	6%
El Salvador	\$ 19.500,00	2%
Guatemala	\$ 39.858,00	3%
Jamaica	\$ 29.911,13	2%
Mexico	\$ 54.948,00	4%
Nicaragua	\$ 9.200,00	1%
Panama	\$ 92.057,45	7%
Paraguay	\$ 24.936,00	2%
Peru	\$ 118.368,26	9%
Uruguay	\$ 68.140,00	5%
Venezuela	\$ 14.300,00	1%
TOTAL	\$ 1.255.115,20	100%