

# VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE ESSENTIAL BIODIVERSITY VARIABLES (EBVs)

**Dates:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
**Time:** 13:30- 15:30 GMT each day

## Course Overview

The Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) represent a minimum set of measurements needed to summarize major dimensions of biodiversity and biodiversity change. EBVs offer a framework for assembling diverse information about biodiversity, with great benefits accruing from linking them to other information realms including policy and natural resource management. The concept of EBVs is relatively new and requires national and regional consensus and capacity building. In this course, we aim to build human capacity about the EBVs for West Africa in support of biodiversity data mobilization.

## Course Objectives

Day 1: Introduce participants to the concept of EBVs.  
Day 2: Introduce participants to measuring of the EBVs.  
Day 3: Discuss the complexities and failings of the EBVs.

**Language:** English

**Intended Audience:** Students, Scientists, Researchers, Data Providers, Policy-makers, Resource Managers etc.

**Online Platform:** Meeting via Zoom (<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/93252357861>), Meeting ID: 932 5235 7861, and Passcode is 836701.

## About Resource Person

Dr. A. Townsend Peterson is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas (KU). He has been extensively involved in the development of distributed biodiversity databases, including the early development of *The Species Analyst*, as part of the North American Biodiversity Information Network. He is also involved in direct development of the *Biodiversity Informatics Training Curriculum* (BITC), a program of in-person training at sites across Africa for students from Africa. The BITC project has a YouTube channel that has had 209,000 views and 1.6 million minutes of viewership. Prof. Peterson has over 550 peer-reviewed papers published. For more information about Prof. Peterson and his group, follow the link <https://biodiversity.ku.edu/ornithology/people/townsend-peterson>.

**Workshop Host:** Ghana Biodiversity Information Facility (GhaBIF) / Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas.

## Reading References

1. Jetz et al., (2019). Essential biodiversity variables for mapping and monitoring species populations. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 3:539–551.
2. Kissling et al., (2017). Building essential biodiversity variables (EBVs) of species distribution and abundance at a global scale. *Biological Reviews*, 9:600-625.
3. Pereira et al., (2013). Essential biodiversity variables. *Science*, 339:277–278.
4. Peterson, A. T., and Soberon, J., (2018). Essential biodiversity variables are not global. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 27: 1277-1288.

## Further Information

1. Alex Asase, University of Ghana. Email: [alexasase@gmail.com](mailto:alexasase@gmail.com) / [aasasase@ug.edu.gh](mailto:aasasase@ug.edu.gh)
2. Benedictus Freeman, University of Kansas. Email: [benedictusfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:benedictusfreeman@gmail.com)

## Funders

