Annotated Workshop Programme

15 & 16 September 2015

City Seasons Hotel, Muscat, Oman
http://cityseasonsmuscat.com

Day 1: *15 September 2015*

Session I: Opening & Context

Time	Session Title	Speaker /Facilitator
9h00 – 9h30	Welcome and opening remarks	Ali Bin Amer AL- Kuiymi - Advisor of HE the Minister for Nature Conservation, Thuraya Said (MECA), Diane Klaimi (UNEP-ROWA), Jane Glavan (AGEDI), Tim Hirsch (GBIF)
9h30 – 10h00	Photo session & Tea/Coffee	
10h00 – 10h10	Purpose of the workshop – objectives for day 1	Selwyn Willoughby
10h10 – 10h15	Workshop logistics	Selwyn Willoughby
	A brief overview of the purpose of the workshop and intended outcomes. The aim is to ensure that all participants have a common understanding of the workshop. Simon and Thuraya will also make some house-keeping announcements.	
10h15 – 10h45	GBIF's initiative to publish primary biodiversity data from EIA's: Background, Aims and Objectives, Status to-date	Tim Hirsch / Siro Masinde
10h45 – 11h05	The South African and Indian pilot project (Description, Objectives, Outcome, Lessons learned)	Reuben Roberts
11h05 – 11h25	Proteus: putting biodiversity data in the hands of corporate decision makers	Matt Jones
11h25 – 11h45	The use of biodiversity data for policy development and decision making in the GCC & West Asia	Diane Klaimi
11h45 – 12h00	Discussion	
	The intention of this session is to provide the context for the project, drawing on past project experience in SA & India, providing insight into the private sector's approach of including biodiversity data in the EIA process and obtaining input on how biodiversity data is used in policy development and decision-making in the region. Overall, the outcome should be shared understanding of the purpose of the project, the interventions it seeks and the desired outcomes.	

12h00 – 12h30	*Prayer Time*	
12h30 – 13h30	*Lunch*	
Session II: Context (cont.) & Assessment		
13h30 – 13h50	Overview of AGEDI & the Eye on Earth Summit	Jane Glavan
13h50 – 14h10	A case study of research and data on the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale	Suaad Al-Harthi
14h10 – 14h30	Overview of EIA process in region: regulatory perspective	Husameddin Al Hag Ali
14h30 – 14h50	Overview of EIA process in region: practiners perspective	Simon Wilson
14h50 – 16h45	Publishing biodiversity data from EIA's: • Benefits and opportunities • Obstacles / challenges (IP and security; policy and legislative; resources and capacity; data quality; data sources) • Intervention (what can we do to address the obstacles & challenges)	Facilitated session – Selwyn Willoughby & Reuben Roberts
	This session is a continuation of the previous session (context), with presentations by Jane & Suaad. The Eye on Earth summit aims to the volume of scientific data available, in accordance with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Suaad will provide an overview of the current state of the marine biodiversity data in Oman. *The overview of the EIA process from both the regulatory and practitioner's perspectives will provide insight into how biodiversity data is generated & applied into the process. The intention is to understand the point in the process where data publishing can occur, the benefits to all users, understanding the audience as well as the conditions (constraints & opportunities) for publishing.*	
	Prayer Time (Tea/Coffee) – We will have a break at 15h30 during the session.	
Session III: General discussion		
16h45 – 17h00	Summary and way forward: *key recommendations for project going forward in a sustainable manner, including responsible agents; have we*	Facilitated session – Selwyn Willoughby & Reuben Roberts

	met the objectives for day 1?	
17h00 – 17h15	Closing remarks for the day	Tim Hirsch / Siro Masinde
	Dinner	

Day 2: *16 September 2015*

Session I: Recap of Day 1 / Understanding the biodiversity data context

After reviewing the outcomes of the high-level discussions of Day 1, this session will focus on the specifics of biodiversity data and how they appear in EIA applications. A panel of experts will assess the potential for extracting and publishing the biodiversity data of an example EIA application, and highlight any changes that could improve this process.

Time	Session Title	Speaker /Facilitator
9h00 – 9h05	Day 2 - Programme overview	Selwyn Willoughby
9h05 – 9h15	Recap of discussions & outcomes of day 1 and any further comments / questions. Objectives for day 2.	Selwyn Willoughby
9h15 – 9h35	What is biodiversity data: specimen, species, spatial data – examples.	Reuben Roberts & David Shorthouse
	When considering publication and reuse, it is important to be aware of the various types of biodiversity data. This talk will provide definitions and examples of the fundamental categories and terminology used when publishing biodiversity data (for example, 'primary biodiversity data', 'checklist data'), and how they relate to general scientific concepts of species and specimens.	
9h35 – 10h05	An example EIA application to explore how biodiversity data is included and reported on in the report. (What changes, if any, must be made to improve the collection – identifying the points of intervention.)	Simon Wilson / Anil Kumar / David Shorthouse
	Working with an actual EIA application, a panel of experts will highlight the biodiversity data that it contains. They will identify any challenges in the process to extract this data and prepare it for publication as a stand-alone dataset. Finally, the panel will discuss possible changes in the way the biodiversity data is gathered and processed that would make it easier to publish the	

	data.	
10h05 – 10h30	*Tea/Coffee*	

Session II: How to value biodiversity data in the EIA process
This session starts with a closer look at the potential that baseline environmental data has for EIAs in the Gulf region. This includes the potential benefits of the reuse of the type of biodiversity data that was identified in the final presentation of the previous session. This is followed by detail on the technical infrastructure and standards that are available to be used for publishing biodiversity data, and GBIF's Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT).

10h30 – 11h00	Rethinking the Use of Environmental Baseline Data in EIAs in the GCC region.	Peter Vangsbo
	This presentation takes a fresh look at the value that environmental baseline data can offer to strengthen EIAs in the Gulf region. Opportunities for using (and reusing) primary biodiversity data are included in this context.	
11h00 – 11h30	Introduction to the IPT	David Shorthouse
11h30 – 11h45	*Questions and discussion*	
11h45 – 12h00	Briefing on the parallel sessions.	Selwyn Willoughby
12h00 – 12h30	*Prayer Time*	
12h30 – 13h30	*Lunch*	

Session III: Biodiversity data publishing (parallel session)
This practical session will provide workshop participants with the opportunity to prepare and publish their own data using the IPT. Facilitators will be available to assist with questions and any technical challenges. Participants will gain experience in the entire process of transforming raw data into a published Darwin Core-compatible resource.

13h30 – 14h15	IPT Theory: Publishing, sharing, and reusing primary biodiversity data • Data and metadata standards: Darwin Core (DwC), Ecological Metadata Language (EML), Darwin Core Archives (DwC-A), globally unique identifiers • Extensions to Darwin Core (multimedia, vernacular names)	David Shorthouse

	• Tools to read & reuse Darwin Core Archives • Data transformation tools and services	
	Standards facilitate the sharing and reuse of primary biodiversity data. It provides a framework for presenting data and metadata in a consistent way, and in a format that can be readily processed by software tools. In this presentation, common standards (such as the Darwin Core) and formats (such as Darwin Core Archives) are described, together with the tools and services that can be used to prepare and publish these datasets.	
14h15 – 14h30	Theory: The Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) • Required technologies • User management: roles, permissions • Translating (mapping) data to Darwin Core	David Shorthouse
	The Integrated Publishing Toolkit provides a single, easy-to-use software platform for publishing biodiversity data. In this presentation, David will describe how to install and configure this software, and how it can be used to prepare Darwin Core-compatible datasets.	
14h30 – 15h30	Demonstration: The Integrated Publishing Toolkit • Uploading, translating, publishing EIA data	David Shorthouse
	During this practical session participants will engage with David on how to ensure that the data is compatible for publishing online. The session will require participants to have a sample data set available for use. The participants will be exposed to the data publishing workflow and process. In the context of the workshop, data will only be published on a demo (private) version of the IPT, it will not be visible publicly. *Session outcome: Key recommendations for implementing the IPT.*	
Session IV: Policy and institutionalisation session (parallel session) *This practical session will provide workshop participants with the opportunity to further discuss the issues and approaches to embed the EIA data publishing initiative within institutions and organisations.*		
13h30 – 15h30	Identifying key policy interventions for publishing biodiversity data from EIAs. Sharing lessons from the Abu Dhabi experience - Overview of the process of implementing Electronic Data Document System	Tim Hirsch & Selwyn Willoughby

	- Approach of promoting the Permit Application report as a public document Recommended issues for consideration: • Intellectual property rights, ownership, data sharing, moral rights • Defining sensitive data • Data standards • Defining when publication happens in the EIA process • Who publishes the data? • Appropriate framing and contextualising of data to guide use • Technical infrastructure • Technical skills & capacity • Institutional mandates • Communication & liaison *Session outcome: Key policy recommendations for publishing biodiversity data from EIAs.*	
15h30 – 16h00	*Prayer Time (Tea/Coffee)*	
16h00 – 16h30	Report back from parallel sessions and consolidated discussion on technical and policy issues to consider in implementing an EIA biodiversity data publishing tool in the region.	Selwyn Willoughby
Session IV: Wrap-up *This final session will allow participants to summarise the workshop, identify next steps, and discuss their future plans for unlocking biodiversity data from EIAs in the GCC states.*		
16h30 – 16h50	*Summary of what has been covered, decisions that have been made, key recommendations, sustainability and future plans (responsible parties, next*	Facilitators: Selwyn Willoughby, Tim Hirsch

	steps & timeframes). Final questions or comments.	
16h50 – 17h10	Awarding certificate of attendance	Tim Hirsch
17h10 – 17h20	Thanks & Closing	Thuraya Said (MECA) & Tim Hirsch (GBIF)

Notes: