

Unlocking Biodiversity Data from Environmental Impact Assessments: The South African and Indian Pilot Project

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MUSCAT, OMAN. SEPTEMBER 2015

DESCRIPTION

The 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Biodiversity Data Collection Project'

- 2009 – 2011
- Funders:
 - GBIF
 - Norwegian Embassy
 - SANBI (in-kind)



PROJECT PARTNERS



WHY?

**In South Africa:
More than 5000
IA per year**

**Less than 10%
of the biodiversity
data captured**

WHY?



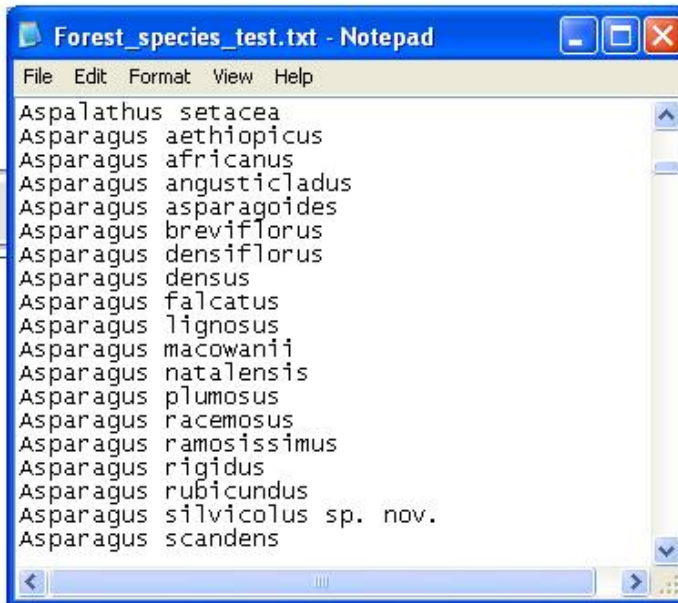
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Species Red Data status: classify your list

Upload a species list and receive a listing with the threatened (Red Data) status of each species.

Get help on acceptable [file format](#).

Upload your species list:



[Browse...](#)

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[Terms of use](#)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Develop an EIA Biodiversity Data Collection Facility

For the EIA community

- Publish (and access) EIA biodiversity data
- Access accurate baseline data
- Access community of practice

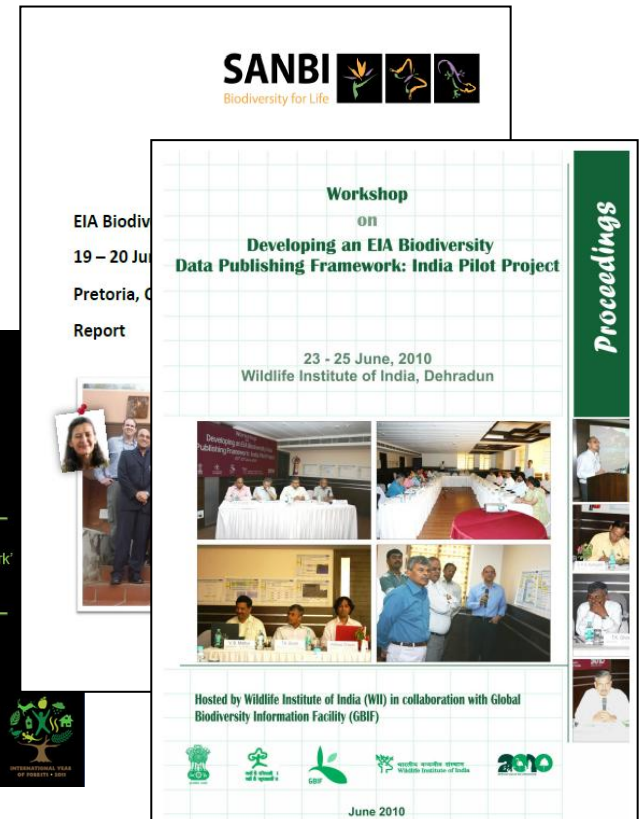
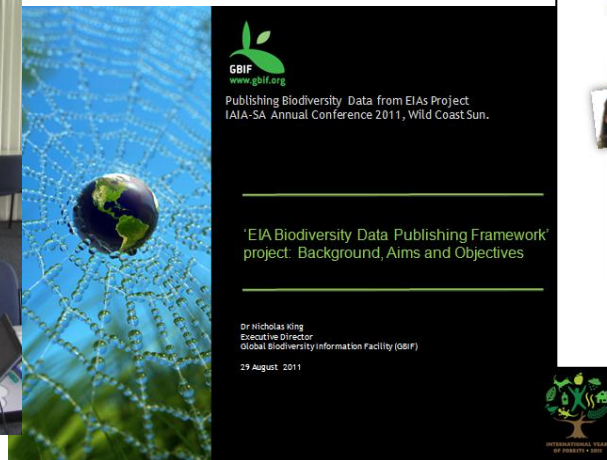
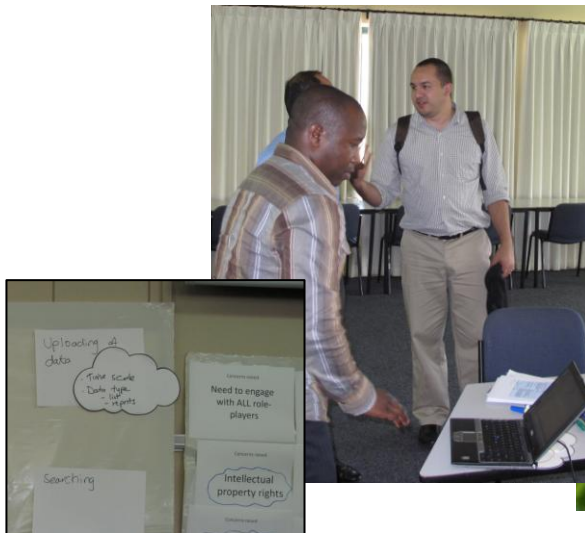
For regulators, scientists, conservation organisations

- Access EIA data
- Relevant, up-to-date information: conservation planning, red-listing, etc.
- Cumulative impacts

WORK DONE: CONSULTATION

Consulted widely on the value of primary biodiversity data within the EIA community and regulatory bodies

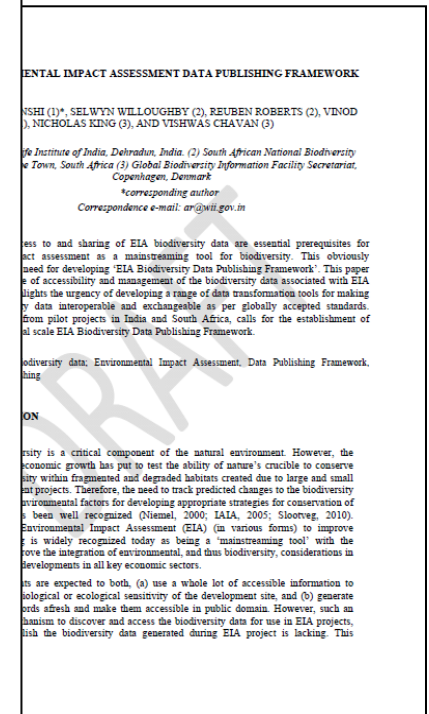
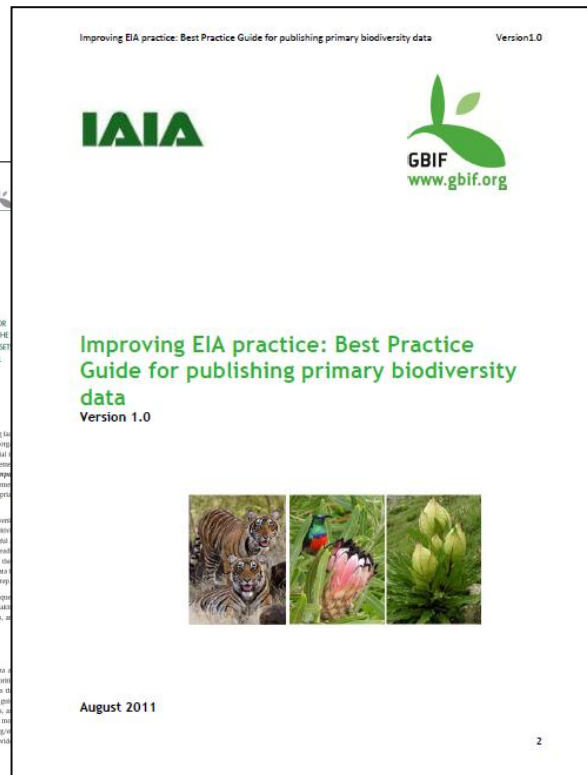
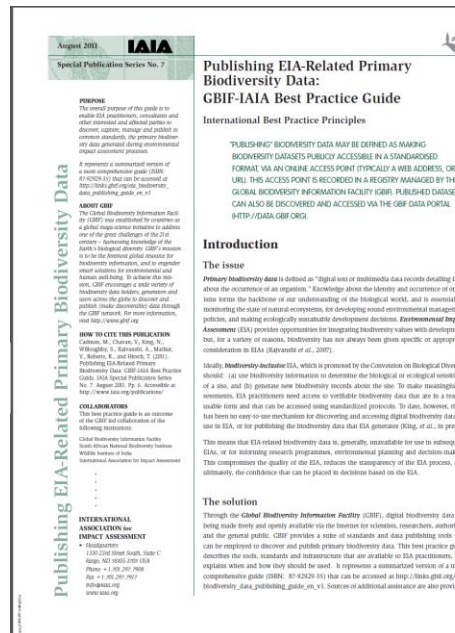
- Stakeholder workshops
- Meetings with designated authorities
- Conference presentations



WORK DONE: BEST PRACTICES

Provided motivation and guidance on publishing primary biodiversity data from EIAs

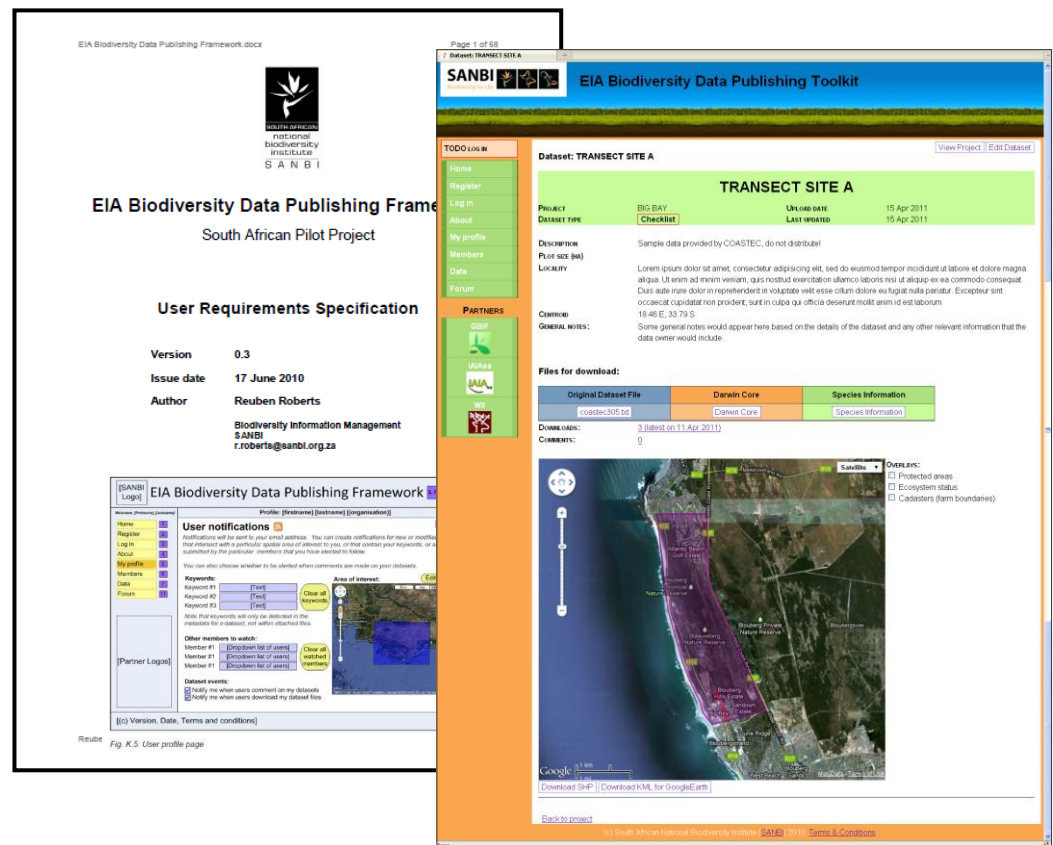
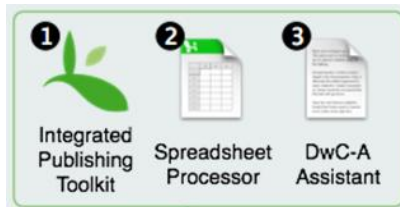
- Best practice guide
- Academic publications



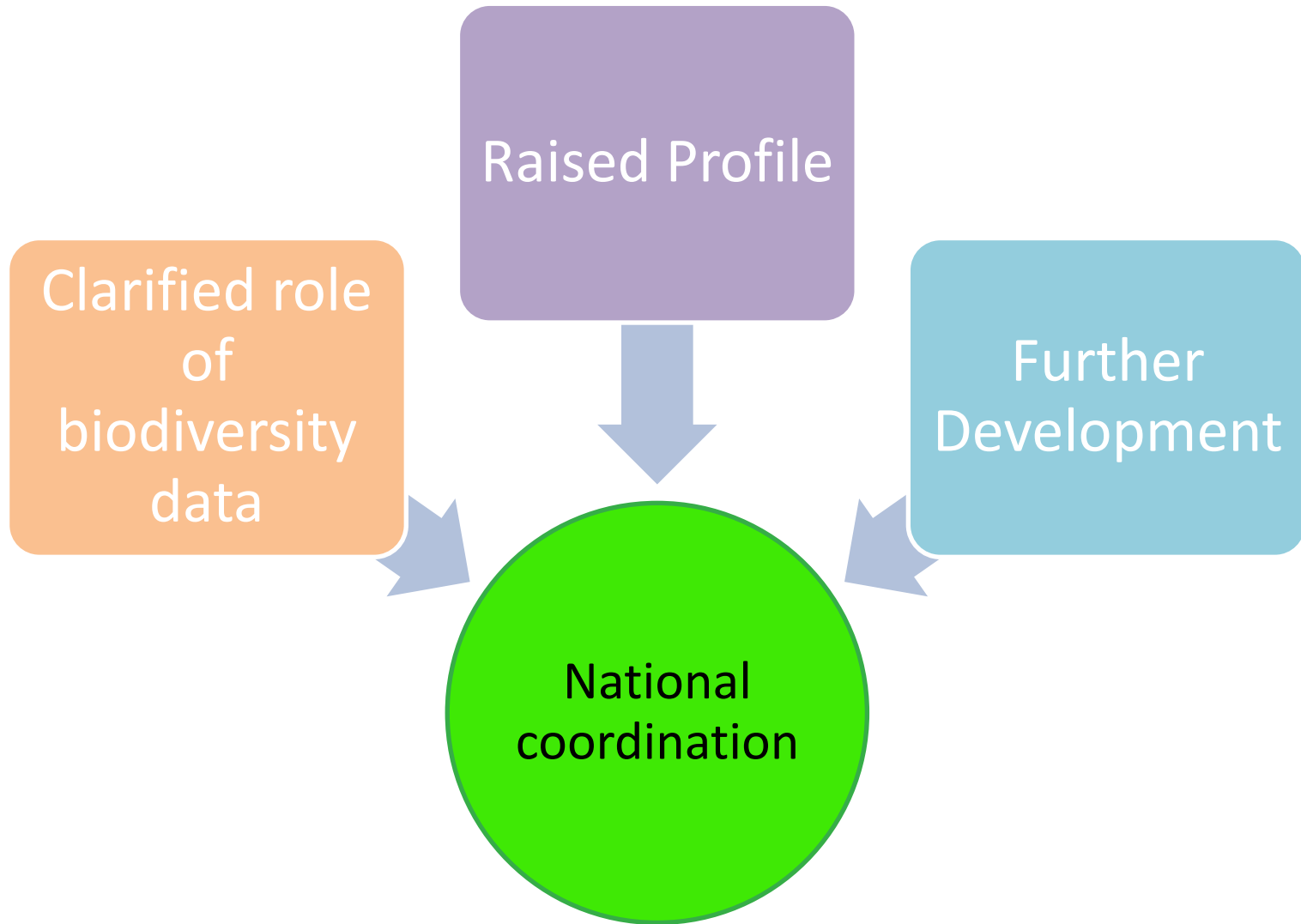
WORK DONE: WEB PORTAL

Web portal designed, developed and implemented in SA and India

- Open source
- Customisable
- Standards compliant



OUTCOMES



LESSONS LEARNT

Sustainability

Ongoing investment

Institutional readiness

Technical landscape



LESSONS LEARNT

Context

Institutional, legislative

EIA process

Role as data provider
vs. EIA opinion

Is publishing mandatory?



LESSONS LEARNT

Data

Intellectual property
- who owns the data?

Data ownership
vs. sharing

Sensitive data

Primary data
vs. reports



LESSONS LEARNT

Communication

Diverse stakeholders

Jargon

Training



An aerial photograph of a rugged mountain range, likely the Andes, with a coastal city and a large bay. The mountains are covered in green vegetation and have some snow-capped peaks. The city is located in a valley, and the bay is a deep blue color. The text "Thank you" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Thank you