

**Memorandum of Cooperation
Between
The Ocean Biogeographic Information System
And
The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network**

This Memorandum of Cooperation is entered into by and between the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (hereinafter “OBIS”) and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (hereinafter “IABIN”),

Recalling that OBIS goals are:

“The goal of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System is to be the primary, authoritative source of data on the distribution of marine species of the world and to provide these data with online quality control (e.g., taxonomy), mapping and analysis tools, including correlating distributions to environmental parameters”.

Recalling Initiative 31 of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December 1996, which called on the governments of the Hemisphere to take actions “to establish an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), primarily through the Internet, that will promote compatible means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and education on biodiversity conservation, and that builds upon such initiatives as the Clearing-House Mechanism provided for in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Man and the Biosphere Network (MABNET Americas) and the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS), an initiative of nine IUCN programs and partner organizations”;

Recalling decisions No. 5 and 6 of the Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) held in Washington in October 1999 (CIDI/CIDS/doc.9/99) were IABIN was encouraged to: i) develop a long-term program reflecting the national, regional, and sub-regional priorities of the participants, complementing and consistent with other on-going initiatives, and ii) give priority to the development of the technological tools necessary to facilitate information exchange among the participants, respectively.

Recalling Article 1 Paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedures of IABIN which mandates it to participate in developing strategies for biodiversity information management in collaboration with other global and regional initiatives to fulfill its mandate to protect, enhance, and utilize biodiversity information most effectively.

Recognizing the need to cooperate in order to promote coordination and collaboration towards the goal of enhancing global access to biodiversity information in the Americas;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter “MOC”) is to establish a framework for collaboration between IABIN and OBIS to further common goals. These goals include facilitating the development and implementation of technologies and best practices necessary in order to share data, knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management within the Americas. The activities undertaken through this MOC will promote the exchange of scientific and technical data and augment scientific and technical information capabilities of the Parties to this MOC and their constituents.

Article 2
Responsibilities of the IABIN

The IABIN will:

- 2.1 Collaborate with OBIS to enable the sharing of data through open-access standards between Pan America sources and OBIS, and vice-versa;
- 2.2 Promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information;
- 2.3 Collaborate, as appropriate, with OBIS in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools;
- 2.4 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by OBIS to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to IABIN and OBIS;
- 2.5 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange;
- 2.6 Share with OBIS, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 2.7 Promote awareness of OBIS by making information about OBIS activities, technical approaches, and information resources available through the IABIN Council communication channels;
- 2.8 Facilitate the effective participation of OBIS in IABIN activities by inviting OBIS to become a Partner who may participate in the IABIN Council Meetings;
- 2.9 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of an OBIS designate in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 3
Responsibilities of the OBIS

The OBIS will:

- 3.1 Collaborate with IABIN to promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information relevant to biodiversity conservation within the Americas;
- 3.2 Collaborate, as appropriate, with the IABIN Council in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools within Pan America;
- 3.3 Collaborate with IABIN in the promotion of the integration of biodiversity and geospatial data in the development of value-added decision making tools within the Americas;
- 3.4 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the IABIN to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to the IABIN;
- 3.5 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange within the Americas;
- 3.6 Share with the IABIN Council, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 3.7 Facilitate the effective participation of IABIN in OBIS activities by inviting the IABIN Council to become a Partner of OBIS, and who may participate in OBIS meetings as appropriate.
- 3.8 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of an IABIN designate in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 4
Execution

- 4.1. The execution of this Memorandum will be effected through annexure relating to specific activities agreed upon by the Parties under this MOC.
- 4.2. Such annexure will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

Article 5
Disclaimer

- 5.1 Information transmitted by one Party to the other Party under this MOC shall be as accurate as possible, but the transmitting Party does not warrant the

suitability or authenticity of the information transmitted for any particular use or application by the receiving Party or by any third party.

Article 6
Planning and Review of Activities

- 6.1 The Parties to this MOC shall designate representatives who, at times mutually agreed upon by the Parties, shall review the activities being carried out under this MOC.

Article 7
Settlement of Disputes

- 7.1 Any dispute between OBIS and IABIN arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation. If the Parties to this MOC are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article 8
Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

- 8.1 The present Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Chair of OBIS International Committee and the Chair of the IABIN Council.
- 8.2 Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of OBIS and IABIN.
- 8.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six-month written notice.
- 8.4 The termination of this MOC shall not affect the validity or duration of the projects under this MOC that are initiated prior to such notification.

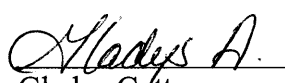
**THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS MEMORANDUM OF
COOPERATION, EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE.**

Ocean Biogeographic
Information System

Inter-American Biodiversity
Information Network


Dr. Mark J. Costello
Chair OBIS International Committee

1st Nov. 2005
Date


Gladys Cotter
IABIN Council Chair

18 Nov 05
Date