



## **GEO BON Global Conference**

# **MONITORING BIODIVERSITY FOR ACTION**

A whole of society approach for urgent and transformative change

# **Abstract Booklet**

## 200035 - The Neotropical Biodiversity Monitoring Networks: a database of initiatives

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Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) are an important tool to assess progress towards international conservation goals. The first challenge in operationalizing EBVs is assessing biodiversity data sources. Efforts to map and classify existing data sources are being undertaken worldwide, and have found that the distribution of in-situ biodiversity monitoring schemes is biased towards temperate developed countries, with fewer initiatives in the tropical megadiverse countries. However, numerous technicians and researchers collect biodiversity data in local or regional initiatives in the neotropical region. If organized, such data could be aggregated and used in EBVs. The Neotropical Biodiversity Monitoring Networks Initiative is a database of metadata, such as site locations, monitored taxa and variables, of initiatives where biodiversity variables are measured in situ, over time, in multiple sites, following standardized protocols, in any ecosystem in the neotropics. This information will be published as layers in a web map and a data paper in a peer-reviewed journal. So far, we have received information about 60 networks, most of national and subnational extent, which monitor 3365 sites in 22 countries, including terrestrial, continental waters and marine environments. These networks collect biodiversity data which may contribute to all six EBV classes, but mainly to the 'species distribution' EBV. This initiative is intended to provide a catalog of monitoring data sources in the neotropical region, and thus stimulate new uses of these collections of data, such as informing EBVs, increase collaboration between institutions and networks and integration between data sources.

### Presentation type

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### Session

Linking Biodiversity Monitoring Networks to Assess Biodiversity Change Across Scales