



**Draft Agenda:
The North American Biodiversity Information Network
(NABIN) Portal Workshop**

21-22 February 2002

**Commission for Environmental Cooperation
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WORKSHOP PURPOSE

To present and review the NABIN Portal model and identify priority tasks for the future within an action plan. Also to assess how the portal can meet its goals, particularly to provide conservation planners and others with access to cross-institutional biodiversity information.

FACILITATOR: Doug Hyde, Canadian Wildlife Service

DAY 1

- 8:30 am:** Arrival of participants to the CEC.
- 8:45 am:** Plenary: **WELCOME TO THE NABIN WORKSHOP**
- 9:00 am:** **The State of North American Biodiversity and the role of bioinformatics.**
- Ramon Perez-Gil, President FAUNAM
- 9:20 am:** **The role of distributed databases in bioinformatics.**
- Meredith Lane, Vice President of Science, the Academy of Natural Sciences
- 9:50 am:** **The state and trends of biodiversity information initiatives.**
- Marcos Silva, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Clearing House Mechanism
- Peter Hall, Biodiversity Knowledge and Innovation Network (BKIN)
- Bobby Bauldock, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network and the National Biological Information Infrastructure
- Bruce Stein, NatureServe
- Frank Biasi, The Nature Conservancy
- Raul Jimenez, REMIB/Conabio
- 11:20 am:** **Presentation of the Vision for NABIN. It's history, mandate, and future.**
- Carlos Valdes, CEC Program Manager, NABIN-Conservation of Biodiversity Program
- 11:30 am:** **CEC's role in biodiversity conservation and current initiatives.**
- Jurgen Hoth, CEC Program Manager, Conservation of Biodiversity Program

- 11:40 am:** **Description of three study cases for the NABIN Portal.**
Grasslands- Ed Wiken, Director, Wildlife Habitat Canada
Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)- Danah Duke, Executive Coordinator,
The Miistakis Institute for the Rockies
Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)- Lance Morgan, Marine Conservation
Scientist, Marine Conservation Biology Institute
- 12:10 pm:** **NABIN's niche and role in relation to other tools.**
- Carlos Valdes, CEC Program Manager, NABIN-Conservation of
Biodiversity Program
- 12:20 pm:** **Working LUNCH at the CEC**
- Guy Baillargeon, ITIS North America
- 1:20 pm:** **First group session.** Participants are grouped together by theme (i.e. MPA
versus terrestrial experts).
TASK: In cooperation with your group members, list **five added values of the
NABIN portal** as you see them. This will put us all in touch with where the
NABIN Portal can better fit into the North American bioinformatics family.
- 2:30 pm:** Plenary discussion and summary of the primary values outlined by the groups.
- 3:00 pm:** **BREAK coffee, juice, snacks**
- 3:30 pm:** **Second group session.** Participants remain in the same groupings.
TASK: List the **concerns and challenges** you foresee for the portal
development over the next year. Consider maps, databases and tools that will
need to be integrated in order for conservation planners to benefit from a cross-
institutional portal.
- 4:30 pm:** Plenary discussion and summary of the concerns and challenges outlined.
Possible solutions for these problems are developed.
- 5:30 pm:** **Progress to date in the development of the architecture and graphic user
interface for the NABIN portal, what will be produced as a prototype, and
ideas on how to proceed.**
- Serge Kena-Cohen, Inteltec Geomatics Inc. & Guy Laflamme, 2B Interactive
- 6:00 pm:** Closing comments, summary of accomplishments. Schedule for Day 2.
- 6:30pm:** **GROUP DINNER at a local restaurant.**

DAY 2

- 9:00 am:** Summary of accomplishments of Day 1. Detailing of events for Day 2.

- 9:30 am** **Third group session.** Participants are divided into new working groups.
TASK: Outline and prioritize some **essential features** for the portal, and **how to best achieve them.**
- 12:00 pm:** **LUNCH in the private room of the Intercontinental Hotel.**
- 1:30 pm:** Presentation by the working groups of their summary of **essential features** for the portal, and **how to best achieve them**. Plenary discussion.
- 3:00 pm:** **BREAK coffee, juice, snacks**
- 3:30 pm:** **We extend our thanks to the participants for all of their contributions to the NABIN workshop.**
- Hans Herrmann, Head of the Conservation of Biodiversity Program, CEC
- 3:45 pm:** Participants have the opportunity to present some features of interest that have been developed within their own initiatives.
- 5:00 pm:** Summary of conclusions and recommendations of the group sessions including commitments to next steps.
An action plan is outlined for the near future, and looking years ahead based on prioritization of activities for the CEC, the parties, and partners.
- 6:00 pm:** Meeting adjourns

PURPOSE OF THE NABIN PORTAL

1. To support the implementation of the North American Biodiversity Strategy
2. To support and connect CEC programs
3. To provide conservation planners and others with access to biodiversity information

PRODUCTS OF THE NABIN WORKSHOP

1. We will have characterized the barriers to database integration, and outline the steps necessary to overcome them.
2. We will have developed partnerships.
3. We will have identified the key needs of conservation planners and outlined opportunities, challenges and solutions related to these needs.
4. We will have moved towards developing an inter-institutional framework for the sharing of databases/maps/other information related to biodiversity.
5. We will have received practical input to direct further developments of the Portal architecture and graphic user interface.
6. We will have outlined an action plan for the near and more distant future, based on the consensus reached on priority tasks.