

# Plant collections – a global research infrastructure

Mari Källersjö



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 <b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b>

# What is biodiversity?

*"Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."*

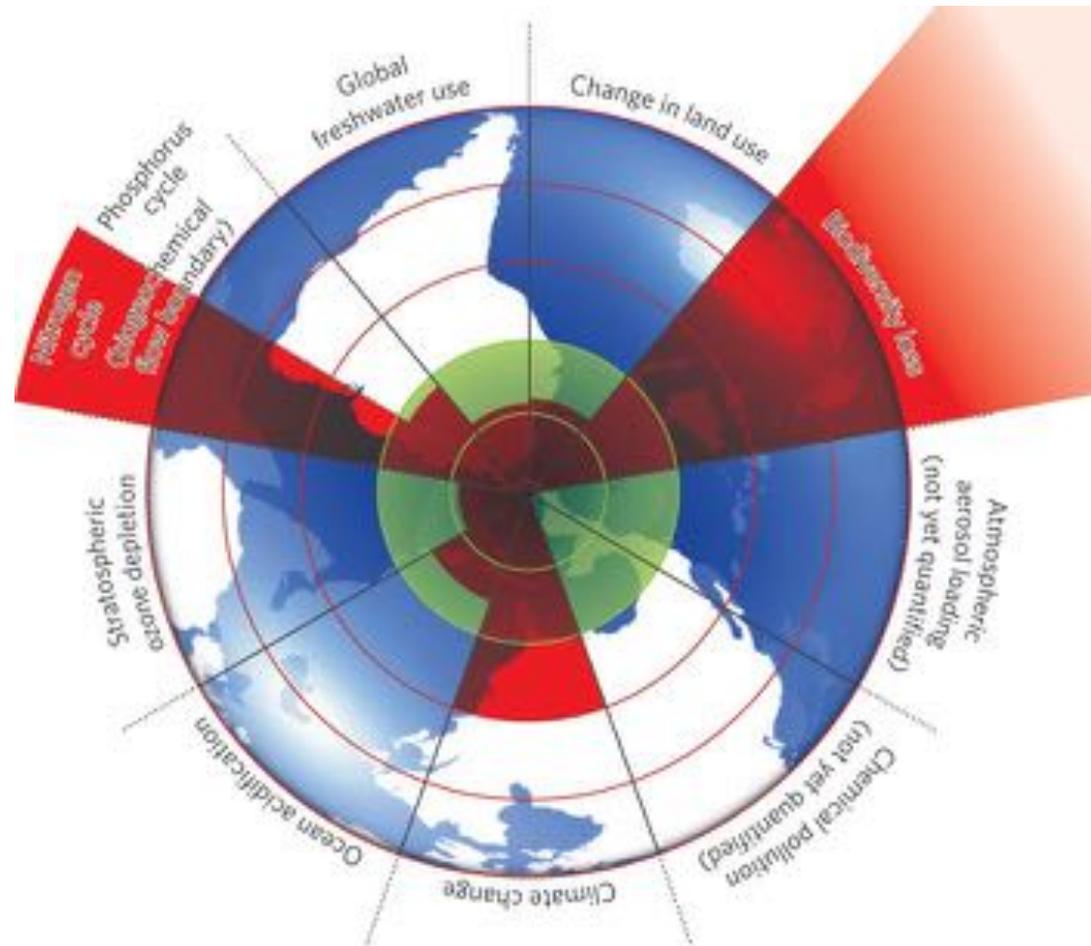


# Biodiversity loss is a major societal challenge

## A safe operating space for humanity

Identifying and quantifying planetary boundaries that must not be transgressed could help prevent human activities from causing unacceptable environmental change

Rockström *et al.* (2009) *Nature*



# We need to monitor and understand biodiversity



collecting



research



field work

# Biological collections

Constitute our most important source of knowledge about Earth's biological diversity

>3 billion specimens



# How are collections used?

- Species identification
- Vouchers
- Experiments -- breeding
- Integrated conservation
- DNA-studies, non-model organisms
- Studies of specific organisms or groups –anatomy, biogeography, ecology
- Environmental toxins, pathogens

# Why a global perspective?

Species have no national boundaries. Few countries have the opportunity to take responsibility for the exploration and conservation of their own biodiversity. We must jointly build a better knowledge of the unique flora and fauna in the world's rich areas.



**BGCI**

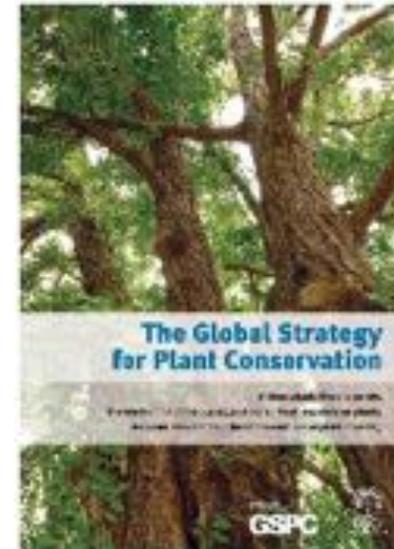
*Plants for the Planet*

1987



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

1992



GSPC, 2002

# What is a research infrastructure

European Strategi Forum for Research Infrastructures

Access to shared research infrastructure is a prerequisite for the highest quality of research. Tools for research are often so sophisticated or costly that national or international interaction is necessary.



<http://roadmap2018.esfri.eu/>

©Natural History Museum London – CC BY



# DISCO

Distributed System of Scientific Collections



*Vision & Mission  
for Swedish Taxonomic Facilities*



**115** National Facilities  
**21** Countries



- **Largest ever formal agreement** between natural science collection facilities
- **A system of distributed facilities**
- **Centralised shared governance** model

## a new business model: **ONE EUROPEAN COLLECTION**

- **One European Collection** of scientific assets
- **Common Collections development** strategy
- **Economies of scope and scale**
- **Monitoring impact** of collections (documenting ROI)
- **Specialisation strategies** (e.g. in alignment with national priorities, e.g. Smart Specialisation Strategies)
- **Joint Research Agendas**

[Log in](#)

## EXPLORING AND DOCUMENTING DIVERSITY IN NATURE

**We ARE** a taxonomic research network formed by institutions of reference in Europe. **We HOLD** 30% of the world's described biodiversity as specimens, collections and their data. **We CONNECT** over 5000 researchers in European Natural History Museums, Natural Sciences Museums, Botanic Gardens and other research institutions. **We CONTRIBUTE** to Europe's knowledge-base by enhancing the synergies of our Member's collections and research capabilities.

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Taxonomy](#)[Taxonomic Facilities](#)[Members](#)[Media](#)[Community](#)[Contact](#)

### Collections

<http://www.cetaf.org/members-specimens>

### Publications

Get direct access to our European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT), and find articles that our Members have published elsewhere. Not a scientist? Take a look here too if you would like general information on taxonomy.



### Research

Explore the different research domains of CETAF's Members and find out what our member institutions are doing.



### Highlights

**CEBioS** CEBioS: new name, new website, same mission  
+]

### News

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** The House of European History is seeking experienced



# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY

## GBIF

established in 2001, OECD  
(Organization for Economic  
Cooperation and Development)

megascience-project

53 countries and 43  
international organisations

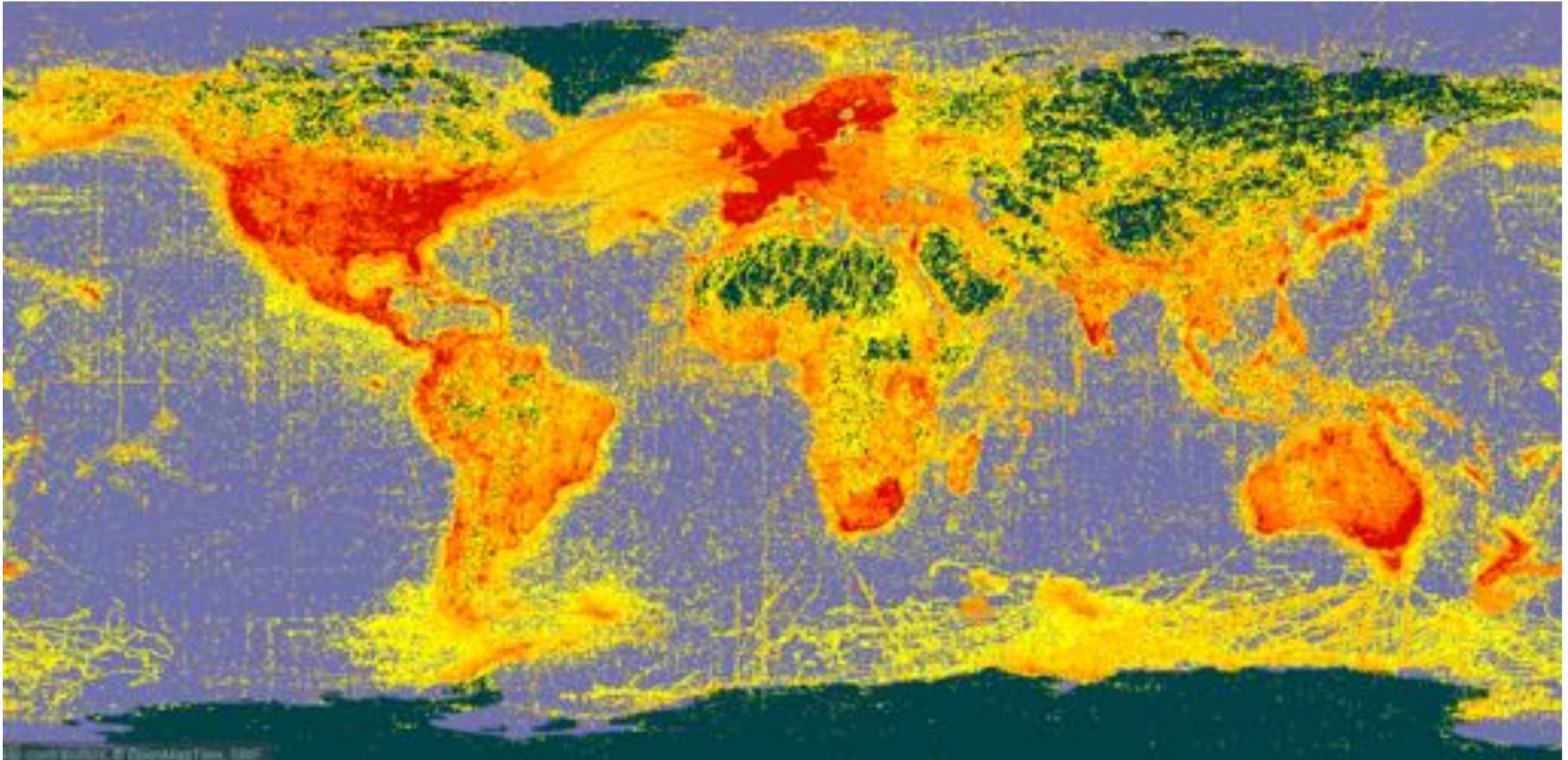
*”To facilitate free and open  
access to biodiversity data  
worldwide, via the Internet, to  
underpin scientific research,  
conservation and sustainable  
development.”*

Occurrence records  
1 302 735 625

Datasets  
44 440

Publishing institutions  
1 399

Peer-reviewed papers using data  
3 632

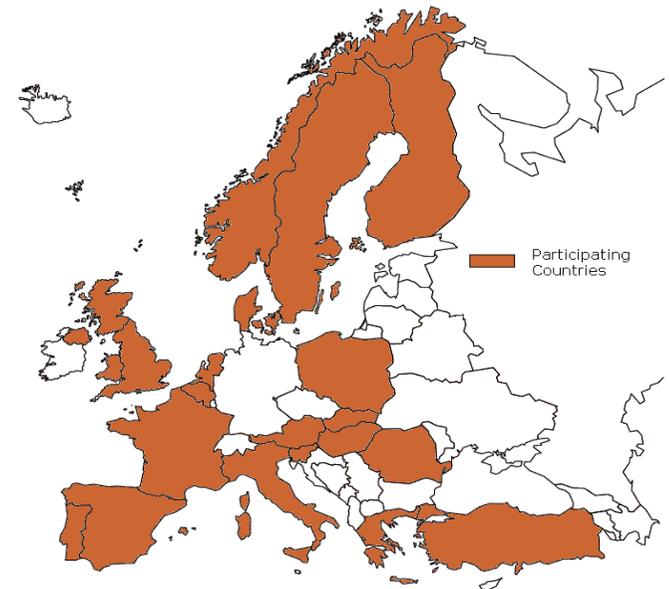


# LifeWatch

## E-Science and Observatory Infrastructure for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Science

EU-project 7th Framework Programme

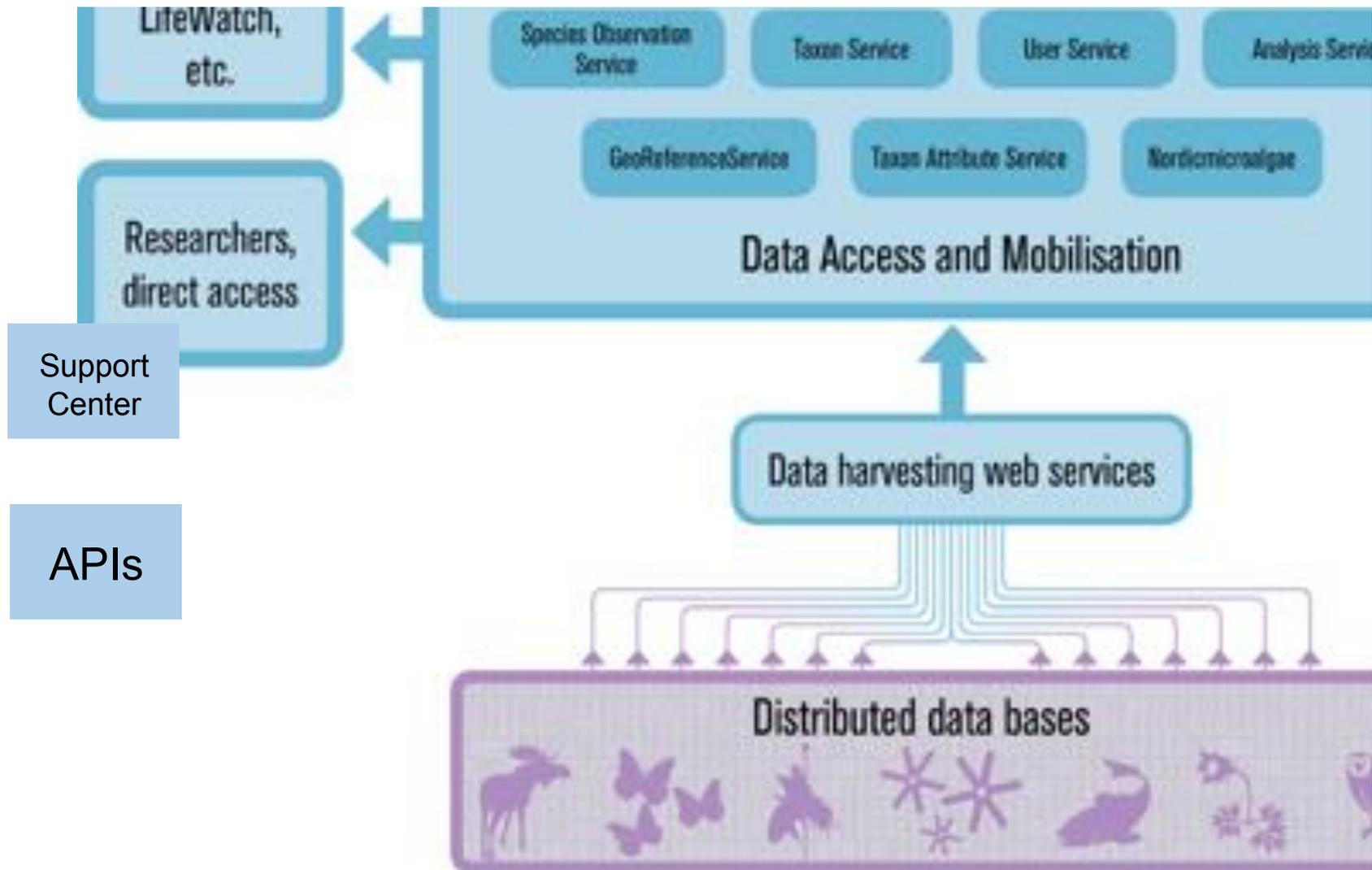
European Research Infrastructure  
Consortium (ERIC) 2017



# Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure

burg.

ation: The workshop 'P



**Figure 1.** Overview of the Swedish Lifewatch (SLW) structural organisation. SLW is an e vesting observation data from 15 different distributed databases, harmonising, quality che gher with an array of environmental and climate data and a services, forming a number

Data • Species observations (databases)

Save settings Download metadata

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data provider	Number of observations	Number of public observations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Species Observations System (Arportalen) (Swedish Species Information Centre (Artdatabanken)) <a href="#">?</a>	65,722,514	65,316,743
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Observation database of Redlisted species (Swedish Species Information Centre (Artdatabanken)) <a href="#">?</a>	725,929	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MVM (Environmental data MVM, SLU) <a href="#">?</a>	1,194,484	1,194,484
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The National Register of Survey test-fishing (NORS) (Department of Aquatic Resources, SLU) <a href="#">?</a>	2,693,173	2,693,173
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Database for electrofishing in streams (SERS) (Department of Aquatic Resources, SLU) <a href="#">?</a>	407,425	407,425
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wireless Remote Animal Monitoring (WRAM) (Umeå Center for Wireless Remote Animal Monitoring (UC-WRAM), SLU) <a href="#">?</a>	7,906	7,906
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shark SMHI (SMHI) <a href="#">?</a>	620,834	620,834
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The database for coastal fish (KUL) (Department of Aquatic Resources, Institute of Coastal Research, SLU) <a href="#">?</a>	231,079	231,079
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bird ringing centre in Sweden via GBIF (Swedish Museum of Natural History) <a href="#">?</a>	4,821,039	4,814,212
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Porpoises (NRM) via GBIF (Swedish Museum of Natural History) <a href="#">?</a>	2,191	2,191
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entomological Collections (NHRS) from GBIF (Swedish Museum of Natural History) <a href="#">?</a>	35,528	35,525
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swedish Malaise Trap Project (SMTP) from GBIF (Foundation Station Linné) <a href="#">?</a>	95,992	95,992
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swedish Virtual Herbarium (Umeå University) <a href="#">?</a>	2,316,183	2,309,060
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tree Gateway (Swedish Species Information Centre (Artdatabanken)) <a href="#">?</a>	583,774	583,774
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clam Gateway (Swedish Species Information Centre (Artdatabanken)) <a href="#">?</a>	13,246	13,246
	Sum	<b>79,471,297</b>	78,325,644

My selections

- Data
  - Data Providers (15 selected) [?](#)
- Filter
  - Occurrence [?](#)
- Settings
  - Summary statistics [?](#)
  - Grid statistics [?](#)
  - Time series [?](#)
  - Coordinate system [?](#)
  - Table columns [?](#)
  - File format [?](#)

Reset

At least one data provider must be selected

App 80 million measurements & observations from Sweden (excl. sequence and image data)



SLU news

# Swedish LifeWatch support

PUBLISHED: 18 OCTOBER 2018

Welcome to the Swedish LifeWatch service network. We offer user support to scinetists and investigators with the goal to promote new and inter-disciplinary research on biological diversity, ecosystems, and conservation of nature.

Our experts can help with:

- Aquisition, delivery and formating of relevant datasets
- Processing and refinement of datasets from biological sensors, inventory- or monitoring programs
- Expertise and consultancy in publishing biodiversity data
- Analytical support and help with relevant analytical tools
- Development of new or linking to exsiting data services with our infrastructure
- Education in biodiversity informatics

Please contact us under the address: [debor.arl@slu.se](mailto:debor.arl@slu.se)



CONTACT



PRINT



LISTEN



SHARE

# Swedish LifeWatch becomes Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure

LAST CHANGED: 05 FEBRUARY 2019

Swedish LifeWatch and Biodiversity Atlas Sweden are the key e-infrastructures facilitating biodiversity and ecosystems research in the emerging landscape of biodiversity information systems in Sweden.

Swedish LifeWatch and Biodiversity Atlas Sweden will merge into the joint Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure, a single e-infrastructure in close collaboration with the Living Atlases community.

During 2019-2020 both partners will closely collaborate to create the joint infrastructure SBDI – continuing to make biodiversity data accessible, providing powerful analysis and visualization tools, and so offering opportunities for innovative, interdisciplinary research on biodiversity and ecosystems. Given continuous funding by the Swedish Research Council, the merger will conclude with the formal establishment of the SBDI consortium in 2021.





Occurrence Records: 81 231 007    Institutions: 18    Datasets: 44    Species: 65 774



**Swedish Collections and Observations**  
Browse our historical herbarium collections and observation data.



**Explore by Location**  
Browse records by geographic region or taxon.



**Mapping and Analysis**  
Perform spatial and statistical analysis using the Spatial Portal or search records by species occurrence.



**Reproducible Research**  
Use Metadata for Open Science to ensure data is easy to use and share.



**News**  
Browse news and blog posts from the Swedish community, and keep up to date with our on-going projects with our news.



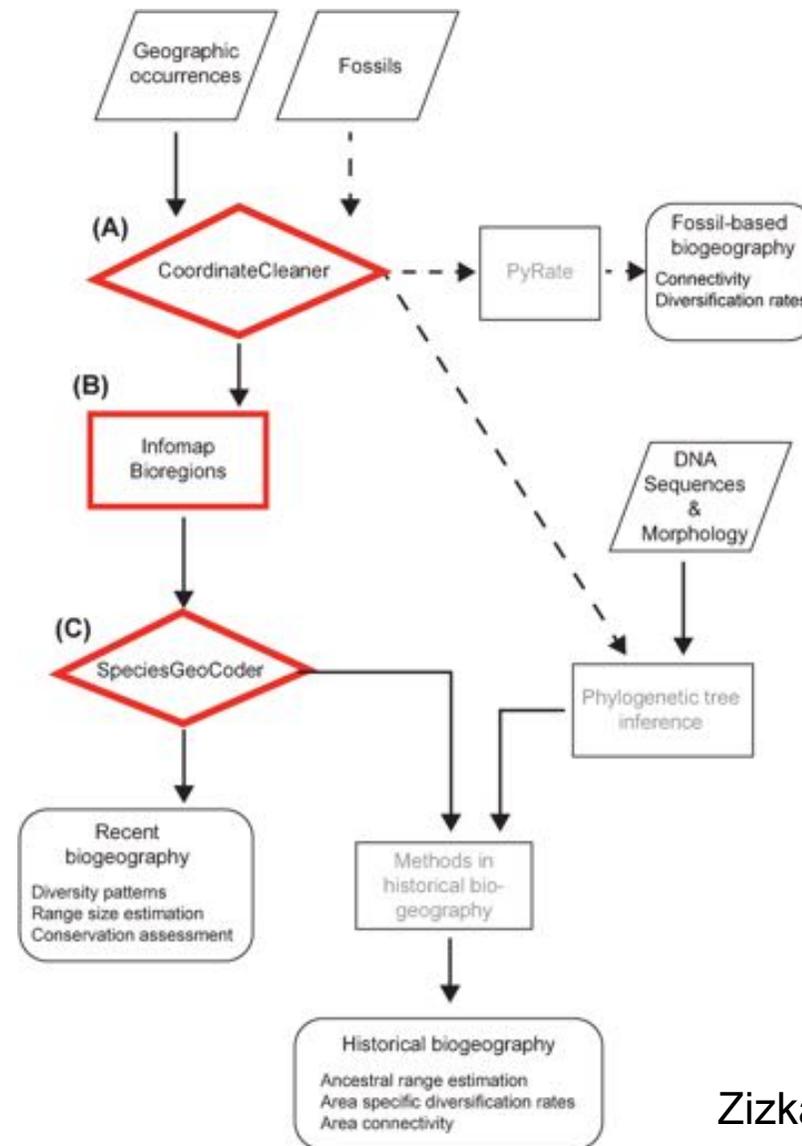
**Calendar**  
Events for the Swedish community, national and international meetings and conferences.

# Big data

A new field of research based on information from databases

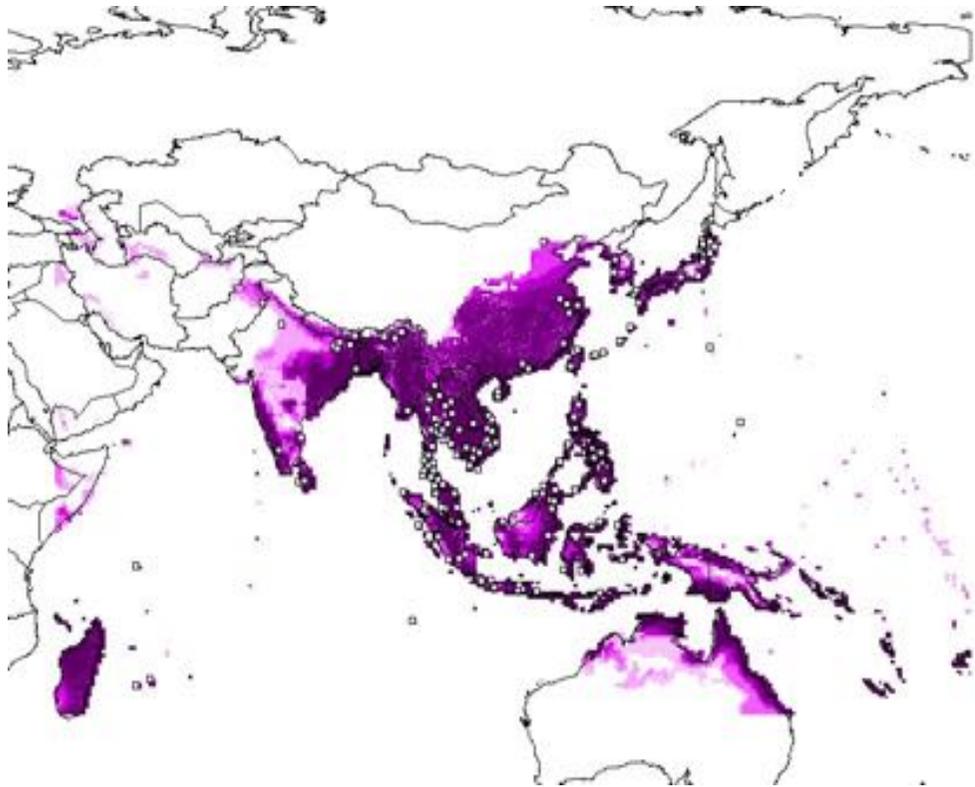
Global change on vegetation:  
environmental data,  
species occurrences,  
community plots and  
species traits

Follow changes in time  
and space



Zizka, 2018

# *Tiger mosquito*– native range.....



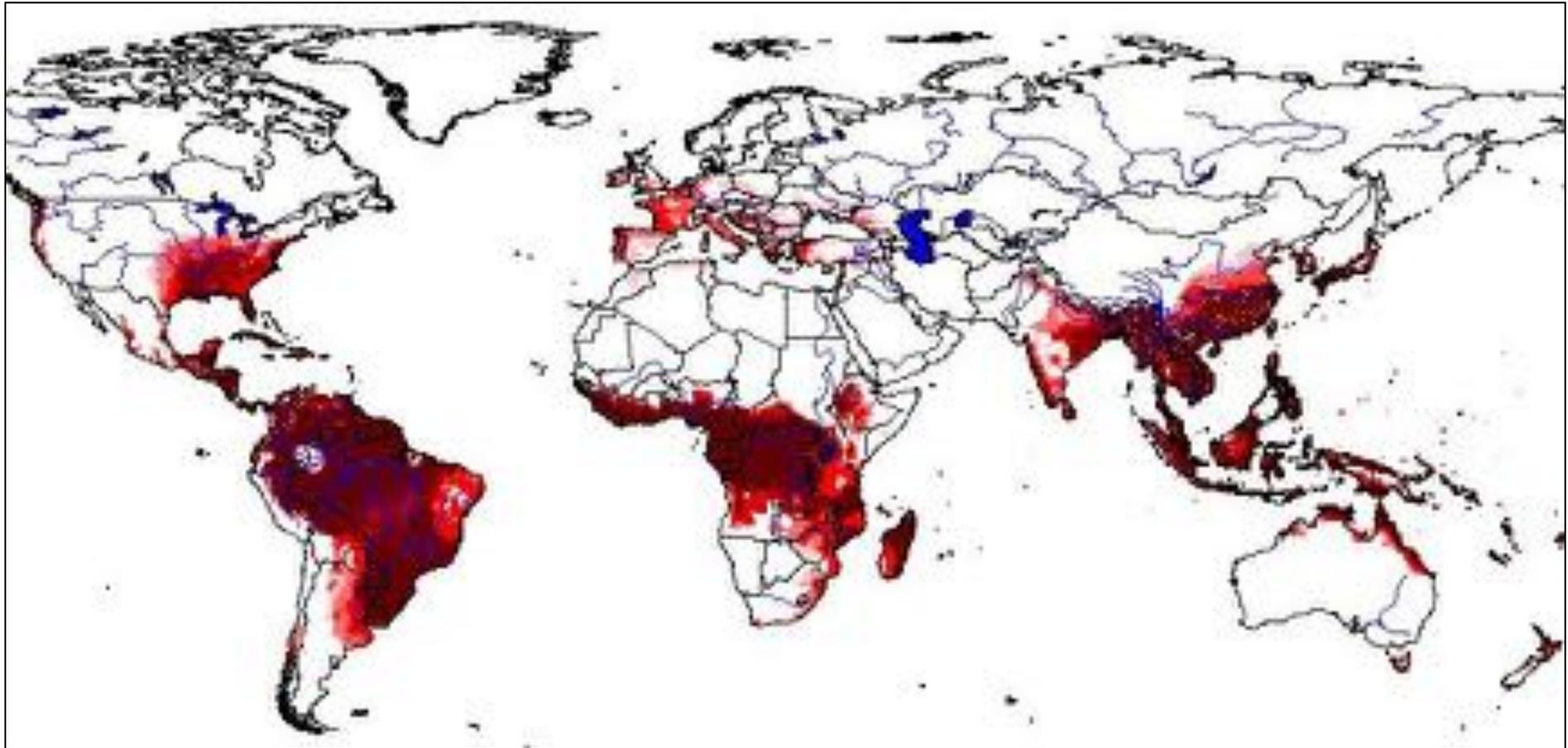
Modeled native range in Asia from specimens & observations



Vector for pathogens,  
yellow fever, dengue fever,  
Zika virus

Started spreading in the  
1960s

*Asian Tiger mosquito: world risk-map*  
(present climate niches)



# To publish or not to publish data

- The information is incomplete
- The information is suspected to have errors
- The specimen might be misidentified
- The documentation on how the material was obtained may not satisfy EU-regulations on Nagoya protocol.

## Always publish!!

“We scientists don’t know how to do that”

“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.

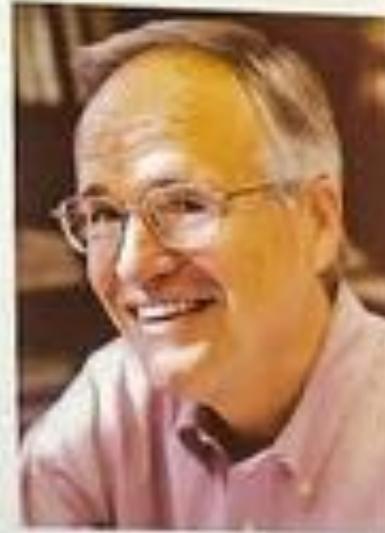
I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.

But I was wrong.  
The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy...

...and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation

- and we scientists don't know how to do that.”

*Gus Speth*



# Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Center

2016



**BOTANISKA**  
GÖTEBORGS BOTANISKA TRÄSKOLA

**CHALMERS**  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

**NORDENS**  
**ARK**

**SJÖFARTSMUSEET**  
**AKVARIET GÖTEBORG**

GÖTEBORGS  
**naturhistoriska**  
**museum**



  
**universeum**

  
UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



## UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

- ▶ HERBARIUM GB
- ▶ DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES
- ▶ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (BIOENV)
- ▶ DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES
- ▶ CENTRE FOR SEA AND SOCIETY
- ▶ THE LINNEAUS CENTRE FOR MARINE BIOLOGY (CEMEB)



RESEARCH

# ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

I.E. PEOPLE TAKE ACTION TO  
REDUCE BIODIVERSITY LOSS

OUTREACH

A large, red, ribbed, spherical object, possibly a lantern or a piece of art, is the central focus of the image. It has a textured, concentric-ribbed surface. The background is a vibrant blue sky filled with numerous white cherry blossoms on dark branches, creating a dense, floral pattern. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid on the lower half of the red sphere in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Thank  
you!**

**BOTANIS**  
GÖTEBORGS BOTANISKA T

 **VÄSTRA  
GÖTALANDSRE**



the swedish species information centre / The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative



## The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative



### The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative

Sweden's biodiversity is much richer than previously thought. More than two thousand new species have been discovered since the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative (STI) was established. And there are many more to be found!

In 2003 the Swedish Species Information Centre (SSIC) was commissioned by the Swedish Parliament to identify all species of multicellular plants, fungi and animals in the country and to make the information available to scientists, conservationists and the public.

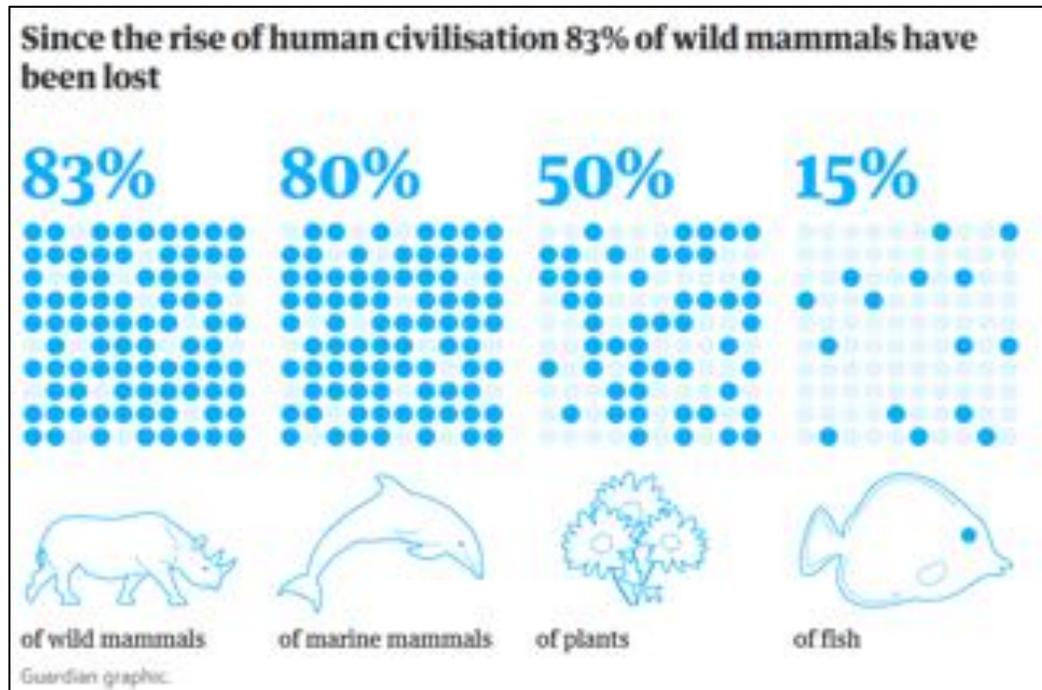
More than half of the Swedish species are more or less poorly known. Almost nothing is known about where they occur, how they live or about their roles in the ecosystems. Several thousands of species remain to be found, many of which are likely to be common.

To explore this poorly known biodiversity we need taxonomic experts, but also skilled amateur biologists and curious members of the public, who can contribute their knowledge about organisms and their distributions.

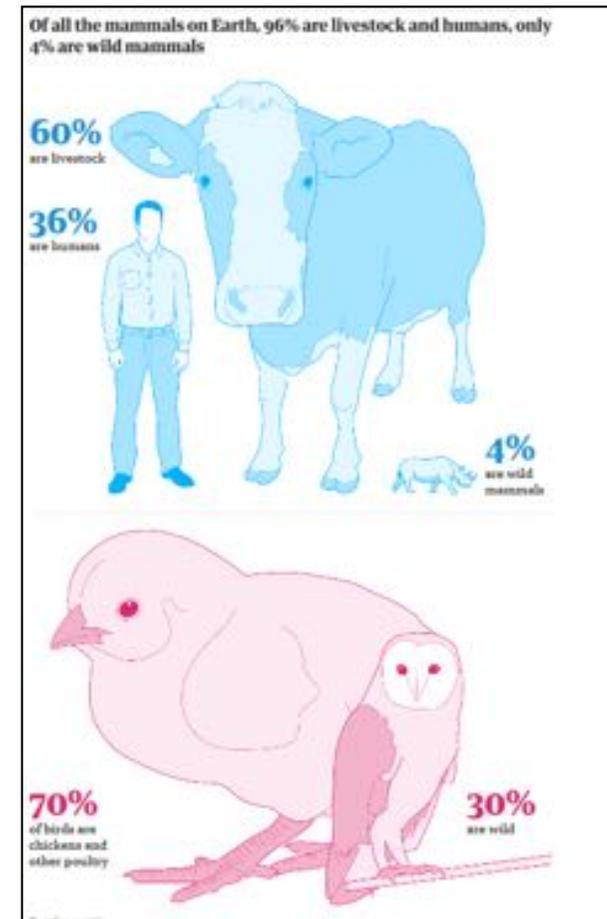
[Support to research](#)

[The Encyclopedia of the Swedish Flora and Fauna](#)

# A sixth mass extinction



WWF 2014



*The biomass distribution on Earth,*  
Yinon M. Bar-On, Rob Phillips,  
and Ron Milo, PNAS 2018