

# Data and knowledge management of the BIOTA AFRICA network ([www.biota-africa.org](http://www.biota-africa.org))



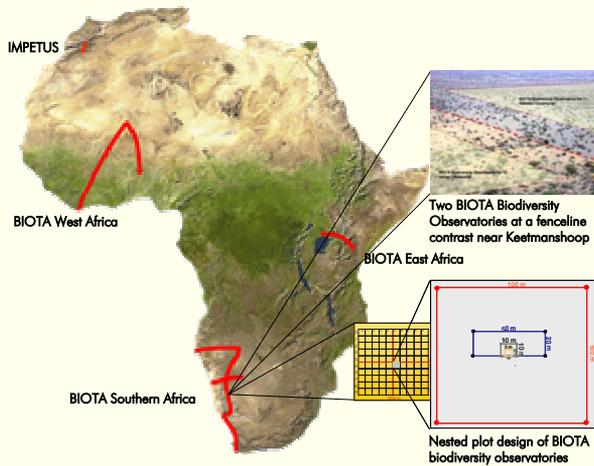
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BIOTA AFRICA aims at providing robust scientific information about the current status, recent change and future development of biodiversity in hot spot areas of the African continent. To reach this objective, it is necessary to generate adequate assessments and monitoring data and to generate access to such data for user communities. Therefore, a vast array of data has to be managed and made available under the aspects of user interests, dissemination of scientific results and long-term availability. Knowledge management supports the process of collecting, refining and supplying knowledge in BIOTA AFRICA.

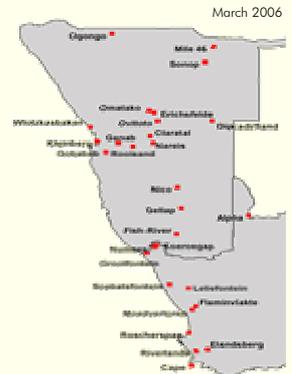
## Objectives of data and knowledge management: Applicability of data for a wide array of scientific users An active, long-term data stock

### BIOTA AFRICA research areas



### Data and data access tools

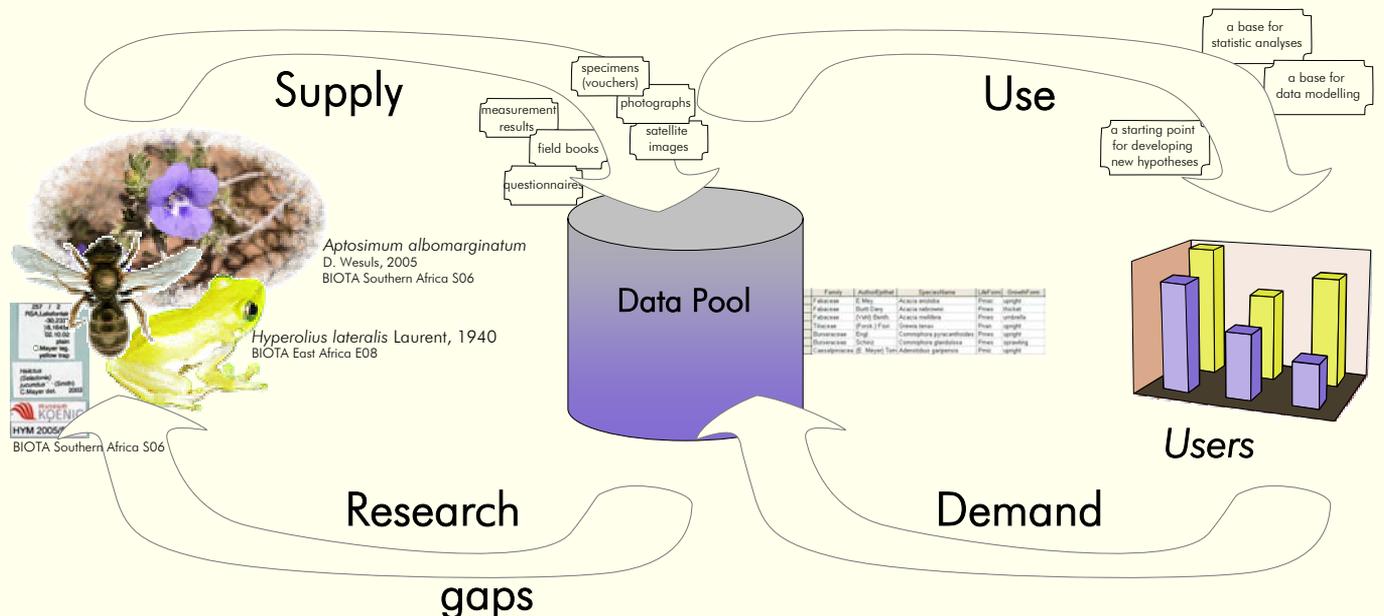
Since the start of the BIOTA AFRICA project four years ago, a wide array of digital data has been gathered by the 45 subprojects. Due to the different subjects and key questions within the various disciplines, this data is of relatively heterogeneous structure. For establishing a BIOTA AFRICA data archive, the data files in their different formats have been collected and archived in a central data pool at the IT centre at the University of Hamburg. BIOTA AFRICA project participants and third parties are provided with data based on a Data Sharing Protocol. A subset of monitoring data is stored in the BIOTABase database system. African zoological voucher specimens from several BIOTA AFRICA subprojects are collected and digitised with the BIOTDAT database, available online via the BioCase and GBIF portals. Also the tools of the Diversity Workbench and Navikay provide data gathered within the context of BIOTA AFRICA. Such data pools in the long run are best located at Natural History Collections as so-called Memory Institutions. According to the Data Sharing Protocol, identical databases are installed at the African partner organisations.



BIOTA AFRICA is a cooperative, interdisciplinary and integrative research project with contributions from and in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia, South Africa, and Germany. BIOTA is the acronym for Biodiversity Monitoring Transect Analysis in Africa. The participants operate in structurally comparable, standardised monitoring sites, the so-called **Biodiversity Observatories**. BIOTA AFRICA consists of 45 subprojects grouped into three regional networks BIOTA East, West and Southern Africa, and co-operates with 59 universities and research institutes. The project IMPETUS works in Morocco with identical methods. All research projects have been developed and implemented in close cooperation between German and African institutions. This partnership ensures not only the development but also the use of adequate and effective tools against further biodiversity erosion. It is the overall goal of all projects to harmonize a maximum maintenance of biodiversity in Africa and with its ecosystem functions with an efficient and sustainable use of biological resources for sustainable development.

The present distribution of Biodiversity Observatories of the BIOTA AFRICA project within Southern Africa.

- Links
- BIOTA AFRICA <http://www.biota-africa.org>
  - IMPETUS <http://www.impetus.uni-koeln.de>
  - BIODAT <http://www.biodat.de>
  - Diversity Workbench <http://www.diversitycampus.net>
  - Navikay <http://www.navikay.net>
  - VisualPlants <http://www.visualplants.de>
  - GBIF <http://www.gbif.org>
  - GBIF-D <http://www.gbif.de>



The IT Management of BIOTA AFRICA is an overarching service for the three regional groups of BIOTA AFRICA. The project BIOTA Southern Africa is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) under promotion number 01 LC 0024A,



BIOTA West Africa under promotion numbers FZ 01 LC 0017a, FZ 01 LC 00408 to 00412, and BIOTA East Africa under 01LC0025A, 01LC0310, 01LC0401 to 01LC0405, 01LC0407, 01LC0413, 01LC0501.

