Universität Hamburg
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BIOTA

Data management of BIOTA AFRICA,
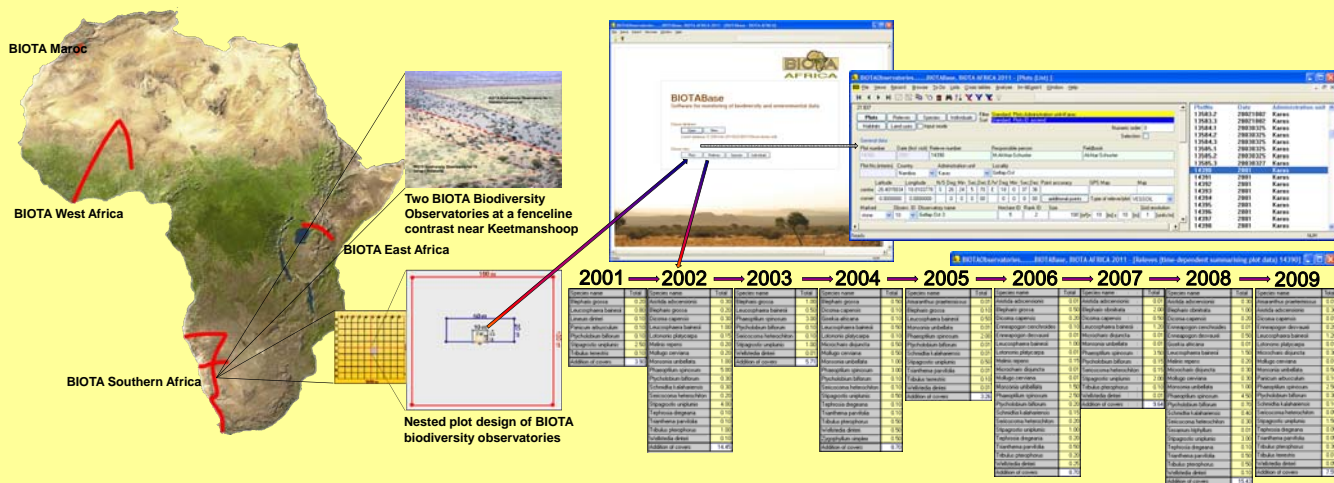## now useful for RSSC Southern Africa

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BIOTA AFRICA (BIOdiversity Monitoring Transect Analysis in AFRICA) is a biodiversity monitoring network spanning Africa aiming to detect changes of biodiversity at a continental scale. Between 2001 and 2009, BIOTA AFRICA has established 71 standardised biodiversity monitoring sites (so called Biodiversity Observatories) in eight African countries: South Africa, Namibia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Uganda, and Morocco (http://www.biota-africa.org).

The Regional Science Service Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Land Management in southern Africa (RSSC Southern Africa) started in 2010 and is a joint initiative of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Germany, responding to the challenges of global change and adapted land management, focussing at the topics climate, water, forestry, agriculture and biodiversity (http://www.rssc-southernafrica.net).

BIOTA Maroc

BIOTA West Africa

BIOTA East Africa

BIOTA Southern Africa

Two BIOTA Biodiversity Observatories at a fenceline contrast near Keetmanshoop

Nested plot design of BIOTA biodiversity observatories

2001 → 2002 → 2003 → 2004 → 2005 → 2006 → 2007 → 2008 → 2009

Data and data access tools

Since the start of BIOTA AFRICA, a wide array of digital data has been gathered by over 50 subprojects, work-packages, core topics of BIOTA and associated projects. 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 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. Online photographic guides help to identify plants from the African ecosystems. On the internet a user can look for available data. There is more than one way to search and find data: A first look for an observatory and then what data are available or a first look for a topic and then at which observatories data are available. Within RSSC, similar IT tools are used to map the existing and future project activities and to archive all data, present data in a contextualised format and enhance accessibility to information via internet. Also the web-facilitation of communication between all network partners is organised by the IT team.

http://www.biota-africa.org

http://www.rssc-southernafrica.net

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