D2.1 State of the art of the various stakeholders

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Diffusion List

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Summary

This report explains the way the information on stakeholders was collected and presents the analysis of results. Therefore, it presents the first different strands regarding ongoing data collection. It also underlines some awkward/problematic processes which could lead to wrong analysis.

Publishable Summary

Netbiome WP2 is due to establish a first list of various stakeholders in the field of tropical and subtropical biodiversity in order to mobilise, throughout the duration of the project, the relevant knowledge and resources connected to biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs. This stakeholders list is to reflect the four branches of the quadruple helix: research, government, business and civil society.

This first analysis is based on a first round of data collection. It is to be reproduced later on, during the project implementation, since data collection is an ongoing process. The analysis is based on a 3-month data collection, from November 2013 to January 2014.

This first analysis shows the capacity of the local Netbiome partnership to mobilise actors. As it is an ongoing process, this analysis also gives a quick view of what the Netbiome partnership has to improve in the process. It is to note that in the first round of data collection there is some incompleteness regarding some type of organisations, expertise and geographic representation. The analysis gives some indications on the stakeholders to get in touch with in order to mobilise them. Furthermore, the number of entries is too low to be considered as a relevant reflection of the ORs and OCTs stakeholders involved in biodiversity management in support of sustainable development.

Nevertheless, the four strands of the quadruple helix are represented.

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WP2 is focused on extending and strengthening the community in the field of tropical and subtropical biodiversity in order to mobilise, throughout the duration of the project and after, the relevant knowledge and resources connected to biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs.

The main objectives are to:
- Identify key actors (experts and organisations) to be mobilised to better address challenges on tropical and subtropical biodiversity in ORs and OCTs;
- Set up the Advisory Board and the Stakeholder Panel.

In order to do so, WP2 is divided into two main tasks:
- Task 2.1 aims to identify key actors (experts and organisations) to be mobilised to better address challenges on tropical and subtropical biodiversity in ORs and OCTs.
- Task 2.2 aims to set up the Advisory Board and the Stakeholders Panel, from the data collected in Task 2.1.

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Part I – Designing the questionnaire

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1.1 Identification of necessary information

The first step was to identify which relevant information is needed to characterize well stakeholders. Furthermore, expected stakeholders should reflect the four strands of the quadruple helix: research, government, business and civil society. Meanwhile, this information has to underline their expertise and competences in the field of tropical and subtropical biodiversity management in support to sustainable development in ORs and OCTs.

Taking into account the diversity of stakeholders, the questionnaire to collect information on stakeholders has to be easy to fill in. Stakeholders belonging to each type of the four strands of the quadruple helix should easily find its way to fill in the questionnaire. Therefore, adding too many details in the field of expertise or competences in the questionnaire could be demotivating. It has to be balanced: neither too general, nor too specific.

The second step during the implementation of Netbiome CSA involved the mobilisation of stakeholders identified under Task 2.1 on different issues. In order to avoid consulting them several times and asking them new questions from time to time, and to keep them mobilized throughout the project implementation, it was agreed to include questions in the questionnaire also on the following topics:

- identification of the four main challenges on biodiversity;
- indication of relevant projects they were involved in;
- indication of best practices they would like to share or they know about;
- identification of case studies of ecosystems services valuation.

The third step was to extend the network of stakeholders. Netbiome CSA partners were invited to identify relevant organisations they knew to be contacted within this task. While filling in the questionnaire, stakeholders were also invited to give information on organisations that could be interesting to get in touch with for filling in the questionnaire.

1.2. Developing a user-friendly tool

Once the needed information was identified, the design of the tools could start. As mentioned before, the questionnaire was meant to be easy to fill in.

Most of NetBiome CSA partners are partners of the former NETBIOME ERA-NET project. One of the first actions of this project was to develop a database on research on tropical and subtropical biodiversity in ORs and OCTs. Canaries Islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique were involved in this task. Some lessons were learned from this experience: stakeholders received too many questionnaires to fill in; consulted stakeholders should not need to look for information to fill in the questionnaire; the questionnaire should not take too much time to fill in; and the questionnaire should not contain too many details to fill in or too many open questions.

The choices for this questionnaire were as follows:

- Category of organisation: Research centre/University, Private/SME, NGO, Public administration.
- Field of expertise: Terrestrial, water, other general fields.

NetBiome CSA stakeholders should be representative. They should reflect the different territories and countries, which are part of the ORs and the OCTs. These geographical areas cover four different languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch. Taking into account that the aim was to have a questionnaire that can be filled in as easily as possible, it was designed in three different languages: English, French and Spanish.

The analysis of the data collected through the questionnaire was also meant to be easy, enabling an easy, automatic analysis or data extraction for further analysis. The collected information will later feed a database.

Using Google docs appeared to be a good choice. First, this allowed sending a link to the identified stakeholders, via email. Second, it allowed avoiding the loss of data while compiling documents. Third, it could be accessible to all NetBiome CSA partners, so they could extract the needed data to implement their own tasks.

The design of the questionnaire started in August 2013 and ended in October 2013.

Part 2 – Collecting and analysing the data

2.1. Collecting the data

A three-step approach has been implemented to inform potential stakeholders and invite them to fill in the online questionnaire. The approach was also based on geographical location.

The first step was informing local stakeholders: each partner was asked to organise an information meeting to introduce NetBiome CSA to local organisations involved in biodiversity management. A meeting took place and research organisations, public administration, natural areas managers, NGO and SME were invited. This meeting is part of the mobilisation and participatory process claimed by the project.

The second step took place in parallel with the first step and included reaching local stakeholders: each partner made a list of already known actors at local level. This step prevented missing the relevant actors and ensured that the four strands of the quadruple helix were represented. Based on a common e-mail introducing the project and the purpose of the questionnaire, each partner sent the link containing the online questionnaire. As the online questionnaire was available in three different languages, the drafting of the common e-mail followed the same process.

As a third step, partners were involved in reaching regional, national and international stakeholders: partners were invited to identify relevant stakeholders they knew at regional, national and international level. The lists were shared in order to avoid double reference to the same organisation. The English version of the common e-mail was sent to these relevant organisations, by one local partner per geographical area. Finally, the leader of Task 2.1 sent the online questionnaire to organisations identified through online desktop research.

The information meeting and the writing of the common e-mail started in September 2013 and ended in October 2013. Then, data collection started in November 2013.

2.2 Analyzing the data

The analysis deals with data collected from November 2013 to January 2014. This analysis will have to be updated later on throughout the implementation of the project.

2.1 Per language

As mentioned above, online questionnaires in three languages were available.
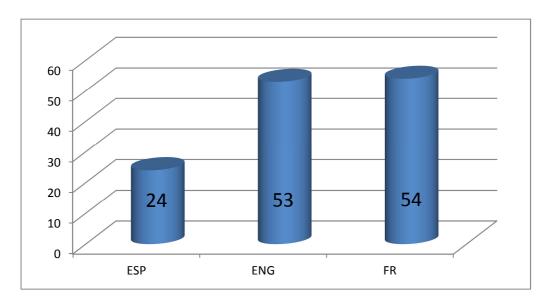

Figure 1: Data per online questionnaire language

Among those who filled in the online questionnaire in English, one is a Spanish speaker, while four are French speakers. Among the English entries, 66% are Portuguese speaking organisations. Although the total number of English entries is equal to the French one, one should remember that French countries are well represented in the NetBiome CSA partnership (Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique, New Caledonia and ANR). Furthermore, as the participatory process will only be in English, the question is whether the French actors will be able to contribute to the debate.

2.2 Per location

The NetBiome CSA partnership is spread throughout the whole planet. It covers the three oceans: the Pacific, Indian and the Atlantic, including (different from the Atlantic Ocean) the Caribbean Sea. Some partners also belong to continental Europe. Furthermore, as the aim is to identify expertise in the field of biodiversity management in ORs and OCTs, some stakeholders may come from other countries. The data collected has been organised as follows:

- main locations representing the ORs and OCTs geographical situation;
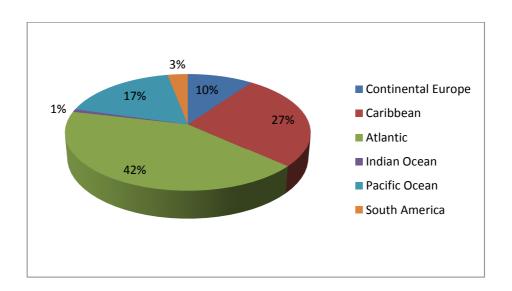- continental Europe;
- other continents.

Figure 2: Data per geographic location

Results are coherent with the previous ones on language. The Atlantic Ocean where the Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores are located is well represented. Based on the data analysis on language, they represented around 45% of the data.

Regarding the different geographical area, Macaronesia is prominent. One quarter represents the Caribbean area. Several countries from the Pacific Ocean filled in the questionnaire. However, the Indian Ocean stakeholders are missing. Some actors from the French Guyana represent the South American continent.

2.2 Per topic of expertise

Three main types of expertise were identified: marine, terrestrial and general. While filling in the questionnaire, stakeholders added a new one, "freshwaters". Below the distribution among these four main fields of activities can be observed.
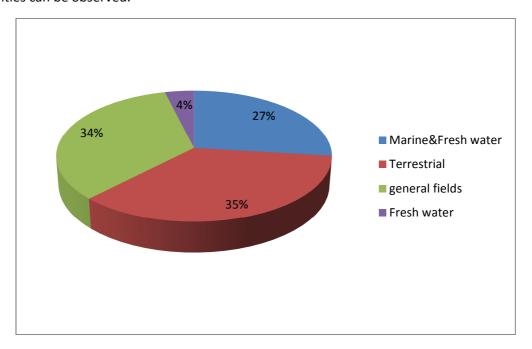

Figure 3: Data per main field of expertise

The representation of the three main fields is quite well balanced. Nevertheless, these fields are quite broad. Looking at the specialisation in the Excel chart, it shows the wide range of topics behind these main figures. However, despite the fact that most of the ORs and OCTs mobilised are islands, the marine&aquaculture representation is lower than the terrestrial and general ones.
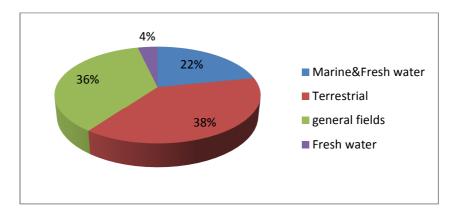
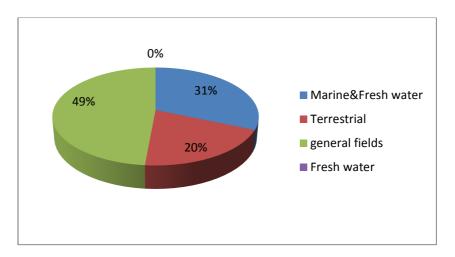**Figure 4: Main fields of expertise in region of the Atlantic Ocean**

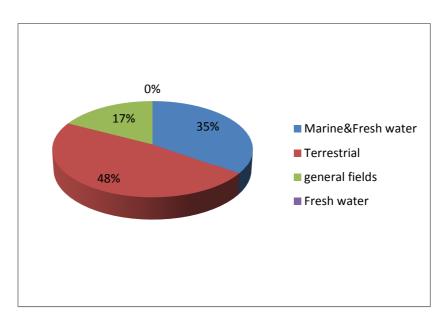**Figure 5: Main fields of expertise in the Caribbean**

Figure 6: Main fields of expertise in the region of the Pacific Ocean

Figure 4 to Figure 6 give a quick view of the repartition of expertise per geographical area, based on the data collected. Attention should be paid to the fact that these graphs represent only the fields of expertise of the organisations and experts who filled in the online questionnaire. They are not representative for the ongoing situation in those areas. They can only be used to design the Stakeholders Panel.

2.1 Per type of organisations

The type of organisations should represent the four strands of the quadruple helix: research, government, business and civil society.
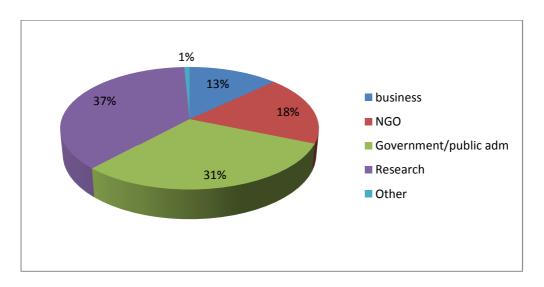

Figure 7: Data per type of organization

A first automatic extraction of the data gives the above apple pie graph. The good representation of research and public administration can be observed. There is a lack of organisations, however, of business type organisations and NGOs. "Other" represents organisations that do not fit into any of the four categories. However, a deeper interpretation of the data shows some subcategories: technologies transfer institutes, joint research units which gather university research teams with ones from research centres. Meanwhile, the description of some organisations' activities linked to some research on internet shows that natural areas managers may either belong to NGOs or public administration, depending on the country. Therefore, the NGO category does not only represent civil society. Furthermore, there are cases when the same organisation is identified under three different categories, for example the joint research unit falls either under university, research centre or public administration. In addition, some organisations are identified as businesses, but they do not make profit. Therefore, they do not belong to the business category.

Based on this, the apple pie graph below gives a deeper overview of the category typology.
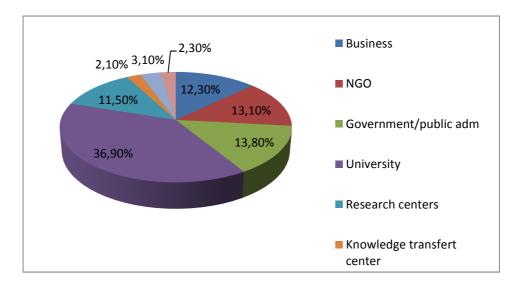
Figure 8: Data per category of organisations

Based on this graph, one may notice that research actors represent around 50% of the entries. This over-representation could lead to some unbalanced view in some consultations. Meanwhile, businesses, NGOs and public administration, as well as research centres are represented in an average equal percentage. On the other hand, natural areas managers and technologies transfer institutes are very few. This might undermine the reflection on knowledge transfer and uptake research result to business and other stakeholders.

Attention should be paid to the fact that each entry is linked to an actor, not an organisation. Therefore, the same organisation may appear several times.

However, in the participatory process, the apple pie graphs gives some insight on whom to invite to fill in the database in order to well balance the stakeholders involved in various consultations.

Part 3 – Conclusion and possible future steps

3.1 Conclusion

The three-month data collection led to 131 entries. It is not much comparable to the numerous stakeholders involved in biodiversity in the ORs and OCTs. However, as it was stated previously the data collection is an ongoing process. People receive many questionnaires to fill in and they do not always pay attention to all of them.

The analysis shows that all the different geographical areas (Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic) are well represented, except the Indian Ocean.

Meanwhile, the research actors are far more mobilised than NGOs and natural area managers. The business category (SMEs) is not represented at the lowest rate.

Even if most of the ORs and OCTs are islands, with the exception of the French Guyana, marine expertise has the lowest percentage. As it is a first and short round of data gathering, no conclusion can be made on this.

This first analysis gives a quick view on some missing points regarding some type of organisations, expertise and geographic representation. It gives some indication with whom we should get in touch in order to mobilise them. Furthermore, the number of entries is too low to be considered as a relevant reflection of the ORs and OCTs stakeholders involved in biodiversity management in support of sustainable development.

3.2 Possible future steps

The analysis of the data raises some issues. They should be addressed in order to optimize the future data mining process.

Depending on who filled in the questionnaire, a same organisation could be identified under several categories. This may lead to wrong results. Therefore, the question raised is how to avoid such mistakes in the future. At the beginning of the process, the idea of a pre-filled field was proposed. However, such process was not possible with google doc. Recruiting an expert on this topic would have been a solution, but here was no available budget for that. The question is whether this point could be addressed in the design of the future database.

The questionnaire was mainly designed to identify experts and organisations in order to set up the Stakeholders Panel. This was the main issue as the stakeholders play a key role in the participatory process. But, as the title of the WP2 suggests, its aim was also to expand the network. The analysis of those first three months of data collection shows that this important point was missed. Nevertheless, several territories from Pacific filled in the questionnaire, like Fidji islands and Samoa ones.

Indeed, the four strands of the quadruple based on which the participatory process will be implemented are represented. However, some key actors in biodiversity management are not well visible, i.e. natural areas

managers. Some are identified as NGOs, some as public administrations. The question is whether there should be created a new entry in the database, under the field "type of organisation" Meanwhile, depending whether the organisation is a public body or a private one, supporting funding schemes are different. Therefore, it might be important to have access to these data too.

Some informal organisations without legal status have not been identified. Some informal networks are quite active in the field of biodiversity. They gather high profile scientists, natural area managers, and so on. Then, they could contribute to create a strong community, and promote and exchange best practices, etc. But the question regarding a better way of addressing this issue remains.

The data collected will feed into the future database. NetBiome CSA is linked to the NETBIOME ERA-NET project. During this former project, a database was developed, focused on research activities. Therefore, there should be a linkage between these two databases.

Several databases already exist on different topics, at different scales (local, national, regional, …); Some are linked to GIS, some come from other projects (national, European, …). The lack of linkages and identification of these numerous existing and specific databases is time consuming. We keep on questioning stakeholders, whether it is possible to have access to them; whether it is possible to build linkage with them, taking into account the regulation on data privacy.