



Inception Webinars: Q & A Sessions

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Guest Users

- *Is there any scope of using the system as a guest user?*
 - If you are not part of a 6NR team, it is still possible to visit certain projects as a guest user, as long the project is public. Of course, you can always use the public data catalogue as a registered or non-registered user. In order to access projects you must be registered as a user for the UN Biodiversity Lab, which does not require any particular credentials beyond an email address. Simply navigate to the “My Projects” tab and you can explore public projects there. You can still generate maps and download data as a user, even if you do not have access to a particular national project.
- *Can a guest user upload or download data from the lab?*
 - As long as you are logged in to a user account, you can download data which has an open access license. However, uploading data requires a space to upload into, which in

this case is the national projects. If you are not part of a 6NR team you will not be able to upload data onto the UN Biodiversity Lab. If you are an academic or government focal point who would like to submit data for public display and/or analysis on the UN Biodiversity Lab, please complete a [data submission form here](#).

- *Is it mandatory to be a focal point for developing a map, or is it a possibility for anyone?*
 - The focal point of your 6NR has been automatically designated as the administrator of your project; but within this project, she or he will not be the only member. The administrator will invite other relevant members involved in the 6NR preparation and for whom it is important to have access to this project. There is not only the focal point but all the people that the project administrator will consider relevant.

- What is the mechanism to get the access and password to the UN Biodiversity Lab to load data and to interact with the spatial data presented there?
 - Anyone can use the public data catalog, either as a registered or non-registered user. To access public projects, you must be registered as a user of the UN Biodiversity Lab, which does not require any particular credentials beyond an email address. Simply go to the "My Projects" tab and you can explore public projects there. To access the country projects, there are two ways: the first is that you click on "Join" the title of the project, in which case an email will be sent to the administrator of the project. The second way is that administrators can use the "Invite members" function within the toolbox and invite members directly by email.

Spatial Resolution

- *Do you have data at three meter resolution for all the countries?*
 - This particular dataset is managed by Planet Labs, a commercial company which controls a system of 179 dove satellites that collect satellite images on a daily basis at three meter resolution. Planet Labs charges for access, so their imagery is currently not available on the UN Biodiversity Lab. However, our team is negotiating with Planet Labs about future collaboration, especially in regards to key biodiversity areas. The satellite imagery provided in the UN Biodiversity Lab is from Here.com, which uses a range of satellite data including DigitalGlobe, another provider of high resolution satellite imagery.

- *What is the resolution and level of focus that you can create for a country: national, provincial or community level?*
 - The Lab has been designed to store, aggregate and analyze data at all scales mentioned, however because many of the available datasets in the Lab are global, they are most suitable for national-level analyses. Of course, you can upload additional data either at

the provincial or community level and the Lab will then be able to move between these scales.

- *What is the resolution of the data you're providing, especially for Bangladesh ?*
 - Currently, there are over 80 datasets in the Lab which have variable resolutions, most of which are most suitable for national level analyses. We would suggest navigating to your national project and looking at the different datasets and determining if they are meeting your spatial data needs. If not, please contact your focal point or our support email at support@unbiodiversitylab.org so we can analyze whether we can acquire high resolution and/or thematic data for your project.

Data on the Platform

- *The data available on UN Biodiversity lab is collected from countries' available data and national information, or collected from others with resources? And is the data available on the Biodiversity Labs sufficient for each country?*
 - The data available is from a combination of sources, mostly global data sets that countries have already contributed to, for example, the World Database on Protected Areas. That global dataset is managed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and includes all of the official protected area boundaries for every country in the world. Thus, the dataset is composed of a nationally driven process that feeds into a global data set which is updated monthly. Some of the other data sets are academic analyses that have been conducted by some of the leading universities around the world. We have not yet started collecting detailed national data from different ministries and from different collaborators in each country, but we hope that the Biodiversity Lab offers the chance to collect national level data with our focal points so we can bring global and national datasets together within one common workspace to create actionable maps.
- *Are these country data available in the UN Biodiversity Lab cleared and approved by the countries and by the country's governments?*
 - At the moment, the datasets that we are incorporating into the UN Biodiversity Lab undergo a UN-based peer-reviewed process which includes our data integrity assessment framework. They are global datasets that are our interpretation of the best available data, offered to all the countries that are reporting to the CBD. We currently do not have any government focal points in our peer-review process, so unfortunately we are not providing official national data through the data catalogue. The hope is that the process of using the UN Biodiversity Lab will accelerate the process of sharing and publishing national-level data, with the permission of countries and their governments, to then be analyzed and transformed with global datasets.

- *Can we use the biodiversity lab to track the migratory species to migrate through area beyond national jurisdiction?*
 - Currently, we don't have data specifically about migratory species, however if you need this data for your reports please feel free to liaise with Scott, our spatial data specialist, who can see if the data you require is available for your needs. If you have access to data on migratory species, please email us at support@unbiodiversitylab.org or [submit a data submission form](#) on the website as we are always looking for interesting data for addition to the UN Biodiversity Lab.

- *Thailand, including other tropical countries, are at risk from natural disasters including floods and tropical storms, how can spatial data be used in order to monitor biodiversity loss associated with natural disasters?*
 - We currently do have some data available on natural hazards available on the Lab. In upcoming webinars, we will be teaching participants how to apply spatial data to monitoring the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We will be producing guidance on how to use spatial data to report on biodiversity loss and the relation to natural disasters in the future.

- *All of the data is based on theme, and on thematic areas, are they equal in all areas or do you have some data in some countries and they are absent in other countries?*
 - All of the layers that currently in the UN Biodiversity Lab are global. The majority of the data layers are available for every country – there are some datasets that simply don't apply in some countries, for example, the coastal data sets or the mangrove data sets wouldn't apply in a landlocked country. Nevertheless, we have kept these in your project in case you would like to look at the global scale data within your project space. You can learn how to remove unnecessary views from your project from our [animated User Guide](#).

- *Are IUCN data for species distributions available on the platform yet?*
 - We are currently in the process of finalizing the data sharing agreement with IUCN to access and upload the red list polygons to the UN Biodiversity Lab. We hope to have this available within the next few weeks.

- *What is the relationship between temporal and spatial data that you have? One of the things we've tried to do with biodiversity indicators is to have a temporal aspect to them, some of that is actually about analysis of spatial data, for example on agri-environmental schemes or what area is subject to eutrophication, acidification against critical loads. What is the extent to which the lab allows that sort of temporal analysis?*
 - This is dependent on the availability of the temporal data in regards to the dataset. If time is an attribute in the data, we do our best to display it either as individual views or by using time sliders on a single view. We do currently have data regarding human impact, the Human Footprint, that have been measured between the 1990s to 2010s,

available as separate views. We are always looking to expand upon our available datasets. One area we would like the platform to move toward is real-time monitoring and scenario planning capabilities in order to assess actions in a given area. If you have access to this type data we would love to hear from you. Please contact our spatial ecologist Scott or contact us at info@unbiodiversitylab.org.

- *Is it possible to use data other than those on the platform, if one realizes the data do not reflect the reality on the ground?*
 - All datasets we work with have been validated by a scientific process, but there may be different data found in the field. If a country is working with specific data on an ecosystem, it is possible to use this dataset in your national project on the UNBL. You can learn how to upload spatial data either in our upcoming webinar or on our [animated User Guide](#) on the website. You can add and delete datasets on the national project that are not needed.
- *For global data layers, can you clip or extract data that is country-specific (in ArcGIS for example)?*
 - It is currently not possible to clip data precisely by country borders, however this function will be available soon. For now, you can spatially select your country during the download process, which will take into account all the elements of the data touching the borders of the country. If you want to make a clip, you can easily download the data and then within your GIS program (type QGis, ArcGis, etc.), clip the data according to the borders of the country. If you require assistance with this please contact Scott or our support team at support@unbiodiversitylab.org.
- *Is the update of data only on the geometry or also on the attributes?*
 - This is entirely dependant on the dataset, some are updated geometrically, some attributes are updated regularly. The provider determines the frequency and content of the update.
- *Can we add unseen data fields in the database?*
 - Yes, if you want to publish your data yourself, you can create your own attributes yourself. Data that has already been added to national projects can not be changed; they will have to be completed in your GIS program. It will be best to re-clip them to your area of interest and then re-publish.

Managing your National Project

- *How do I invite extra national experts and other colleagues from the country to this lab?*
 - Currently, only project administrators are able to add or remove members to their national projects, and administrators are also in charge of managing the member privileges and level of access within the project. We are currently in the process of nominating project administrators for each country and we will be providing specific

training for administrators in upcoming webinars. All technical webinars will be available on the [NBSAP Forum Youtube page](#). In addition, we have an animated User Guide now available on the UN Biodiversity Lab webpage [here](#), with a special section dedicated to 6NR National Projects, including adding and editing member privileges. For additional help identifying an administrator or adding new members to the project, please contact us at support@unbiodiversitylab.org

- *Who becomes an administrator, someone from the ministry or from the UNDP?*
 - So far we have nominated UNDP country office focal points for the 6NR as administrators of the national project. However, if you would like someone from the ministry or government to take on the administrator role, please consult with this person and let your 6NR focal point know, or email us directly at support@unbiodiversitylab.org. We encourage you to have one person responsible for the project instead of several people for efficiency and responsibility reasons.
- *Is the administrator one person or more than one and who should be the administrator and have the password?*
 - For the moment we recommend having a single administrator for national projects. While it is possible to have two or more, it is more ideal for the management of the project to only have one person who manages member roles and privileges within the project. Note that the administrator role is not necessarily an onerous task that needs to be a GIS technical specialist - uploading data can be done by any member of the project. So far, the administrator role for each national project has been assigned to the 6NR focal point of the country. If you would like to change the administrator of your project, please contact us at support@unbiodiversitylab.org or contact your UNDP or UNEP focal point.
- *How many members can be added to a project?*
 - There is no limitation to the number of members in a project, however we encourage teams to identify only one administrator for efficiency purposes. The administrator determines the privilege of each user and can edit the accounts of members and publishers within the project.
- *Can you confirm that the email address to access the site by the 6NR team leaders?*
 - Default administrators which have been identified by our technical team will need to log in with the email they use to communicate with their 6NR focal point. This will always be the email used to log-in to your account. If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please contact us at support@unbiodiversitylab.org.
- *Who is making the request to join a project, the administrator or the person requesting and getting to join the project?*
 - There are two ways of joining a project, the first being a person can click “Join” on the project title, at which point an email will be sent to the administrator of the project. The

second way is that administrators can use the “Invite Members” function within the toolbox, and directly invite members via email.

- *Have the verification emails been sent to the CBD focal points or UNDP focal points?*
 - UNDP focal points, however this can be changed as soon as an administrator within your 6NR team has been identified for the role.
- *Is it possible to get in touch with the different focal points of each country?*
 - As we do not have permission to publish the focal points of each country, currently we cannot share their contact information. If you would like to get into contact with a particular focal point, please email Scott or our support@unbiodiversitylab.org email and we can act as an intermediary for your questions. In the meantime, it is possible to use the NBSAP Forum to ask such questions and get answers from partners.
- *Do small island states have the access to the same maps as large states?*
 - Yes, small island states are also affected by the maps. The only difference is that all datasets are not necessarily relevant for all countries. For instance, for a state without a marine boundary, all datasets related to marine resources will not be displayed for these states. For small states, global data may not cover the states, but it would only concern a few datasets. We invite you on a case-by-case basis to view the data available in each country.
- In Honduras, a GIS specialist has been hired for the 6NR project. Is it possible that this specialist can have privileges only to download the data of the UNBL, but that the loading of the data is through the administrator?
 - Yes. You can always use the public data catalogue as a registered or non-registered user. In order to access the public projects, you must be registered as a user for the UN Biodiversity Lab. Simply navigate to the “My Projects” tab and you can explore public projects there. You can still generate maps and download data as a user, even if you do not have access to a particular national project. However, only users that are part of a project will be able to upload data to the platform.

Uploading and Downloading Data

- *Is it possible to use my own country data?*
 - Absolutely. This is one of the key features of the UN Biodiversity Lab, enabling 6NR teams to mix global data with national data into a single, secure environment: the national project. Within the national project, teams can view and analyze all available global data and also upload national data into this secure, private workspace for collaboration within the team. Currently, only vector data can be directly uploaded into the Lab, however raster data from an online database can be streamed into your project by following [this guidance document](#). Analyses can be made using both national level and global data, to be made into maps for your 6NR or to be downloaded as raw data

into external software. As the cloud servers are based in Switzerland, project data will always be secure. The administrator of the project will determine how uploaded data is accessed and managed, and projects can be public or private, meaning that uploaded data can remain completely private, even within a project. The upcoming webinars will focus on uploading data and styling data within the national project and can be accessed on the [NBSAP Forum Youtube page](#). In addition, we have an animated User Guide now available on the UN Biodiversity Lab webpage [here](#), with a special section dedicated to 6NR National Projects, including uploading and styling data. For additional help, please contact us at support@unbiodiversitylab.org

- *If national data can be uploaded, can we assume that this data can be used by all globally?*
 - No, it will not be used globally, or by anybody else, unless you decide to make the data and your project publicly accessible. All data within the UN Biodiversity Lab is peer-reviewed by our team and our spatial data scientists, and must go through the data integrity assessment framework. If you would like to publish your data on our global sandbox, please follow [this link to submit a data submission](#) request. Data that is uploaded to the national projects is by default private, however can be made public (although still only available within your project) by the project administrator.
- *What are the data properties, such as projection, required for data upload?*
 - Data must be in WGS84 projection. We will teach you how to re-project data during the uploading data technical webinar, available on the NBSAP Forum Youtube page.
- *I am unclear as to what type of data to be uploaded?*
 - In terms of data format, we can only accept vector type data into the national projects at this moment. Accepted formats include: zipped ESRI Shapefile, GeoJSON, GPX, KML. The recommended format is GeoJSON. Uploading vector data will be fully covered in another webinar, and an instructional guide is also available on the [UN Biodiversity Lab User Guide](#). Raster data are far heavier than vector data, so currently the only way for the Lab to host and visualize this data efficiently in your project is by streaming a WMS request, which can be done by following these steps [here on this guide](#).
- *Is only vector data to be downloaded, what about the raster data?*
 - Only vector data that is not protected under a view-only license can be downloaded.
- *Some maps seem to require a little more expertise in GIS; can all existing data layers on the UNBL be used on other GIS software?*
 - It depends on what data you download on the geospatial software, as not all data is available for download. The data you will download are vector data, and can be downloaded in different formats (ESRI Shapefile, GeoPackage, Geojson etc). The Geojson format is the "reference" format of UNBL, but you can use another format if

you wish. You have the choice of the download format so that it is not a problem for the tool you are using.

6NR and NBSAP

- *At present, the status map that can be produced by the Aichi Biodiversity targets and indicators, is that covering all the countries or just some countries?*
 - A: Most of the data within the Lab are global, meaning they cover all 150 countries we are providing support to during the reporting process.

- *What is the link between the data tracking tool for the 6NR project and the spatial maps?*
 - A: We are working to revise the 6NR data tracking tool and to make a more explicit connection between the two. It is vital that we receive feedback on what kind of tools you may need to actually complete the 6NR process, and how we can best support with national and global data. If you have any feedback to share, please send it to your focal point or one of our mentioned support emails, such as support@unbiodiversitylab.org.

- *After the completion of the 6NR, will countries still have access to the workspaces as a dissemination tool for stakeholders?*
 - A: Absolutely. We will continue to keep these national projects open, as it is our hope that you'll use them not only for your 6NR process, but also to support your NBSAP implementation moving forward, particularly as we transition into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and future conservation planning and decision making. The administrator for your national project will remain the same or can be switched over to somebody more permanent and you'll be able to continue to access the space to conduct analyses.

- *Is there a direct link between the Lab and the reporting tool or are we required to download and then use the maps for the report?*
 - A: There is no direct link for now between the Lab and the reporting tool, however, you can create relevant maps that support your analysis, generate maps and integrate them directly into your report. We are currently discussing with CBD to modify reporting tools slightly to enable uploads of screenshots directly into the report rather than as annexes at the end, so they can be more impactful in your 6NR.

- *In what section of the report are the data requested?*
 - We did not necessarily provide guidance on which sections would require spatial data because it depends on each country. Sections 1 to 3 will be very useful, since it is an inventory of the implementation of the strategy; but for each of the NBSAP targets / objectives / actions, it depends on the country. Countries can not be asked to have the same number of maps or identical maps (Côte d'Ivoire, for instance, will not have the same interest in having maps as Indonesia or Kazakhstan). We have voluntarily left our recommendations vague, and it is up to the countries, according to the available data,

to decide. One advice we give is to prefer quality to quantity. We hope that countries will be able to present several maps, but it is better to focus on preparing fewer maps, but that are relevant and can support decision-making and support country analysis.

- *In Section IV (national contributions to ABTs), is it possible to use spatial data?*
 - Yes, if it is presented in a relevant way. It is also possible to see how national decision-making has helped to protect an ecosystem, and it can show how a country has helped to achieve Aichi targets. But we must have shown the impact of decision-making.

- *If a country has not yet started with NBSAP, how can we look at how biodiversity evolves in relation to the goals? How could these countries still value the use of UNBL and spatial data?*
 - Several countries may be in this situation (without a NBSAP prepared after 2010 and therefore related to the Aichi targets). In this case, it is best to use the 6RN as a solid foundation for future NBSAP editions. Although there are no exact targets on which to report, there may be data available on fragile ecosystems in the country, for example, that may be associated with spatial data. For instance, a marine ecosystem that would require protection: the national team can focus on the layers of data that can provide an explanation for this ecosystem and show the positive or negative progression of the state of the ecosystem, and based on this map, make recommendations for decision making. From this moment, it is also possible to set up a target, an indicator, and encrypt it.

- *Will the remaining time (around two months) be enough to master and create maps?*
 - Regarding the use of the UNBL, in order to create maps for the 6RN, it is more than enough, since in a few clicks, it is possible to display the data and generate the map that follows. To generate more complex maps, this may require a higher level of analysis, but geospatial analysis experts are available and ready to support countries to map in time.

- *Is there a progress in mapping the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 13 and 16?*
 - Currently, we are only focusing on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15. We do not have data explicitly relating to the advancement of ABT 13 and 16, however if you have access to data on these Aichi Biodiversity Targets, send us an email to support@unbiodiversitylab.org or send a submission form of data on the website. We are always looking for interesting data to add to the UN Biodiversity Lab.

- *How is the UN Biodiversity Lab connected with available platforms to publish primary biodiversity data such as GBIF (<https://www.gbif.org/>)? How do you process the information that these platforms already have?*
 - The UN Biodiversity Lab is not connected with GBIF or any other publishing platforms. However, if users that are associated with the 6NR teams would like to upload data from the GBIF or other geodatabases, they are welcome to download the spatial vector data onto their computer and then upload it to their projects for comparison.

- *Why is the unit of measure not specified in some layers?*

- Generally, the data layers are accompanied by a summary that explains which units of measure are being visualized in the map. On data layers where this is not the case, it means that the dataset is being incorporated and the summary will be added soon. We appreciate your feedback to the email support@unbiodiversitylab.org in order to locate these layers and make sure they are accompanied by all the information that is required.
- *Is there an example for South America that illustrates the application of the UN Biodiversity Lab?*
 - We do not have it currently. However, we can develop it easily. Please write us to the email support@unbiodiversitylab.org to know your specific needs and generate the corresponding map.

Tools and Functions

- *What is the online capacity to measure proportional area with overlays, is this tool available yet?*
 - At present the overlap tool is still in development. Our developers estimate that this tool, which will be able to be used on two or more vector layers, will be completed by the end of October. In the meantime, we are providing extra support for countries that may be needing assistance with overlaps so we encourage them to get in contact with their UNDP focal point or contact us directly at support@unbiodiversitylab.org.
- *It was mentioned that some datasets are downloadable and some are not because they have a view-only license, is there a way to tell which ones are downloadable and which ones are view-only? Also is it correct that maps can only be exported by people who are project members?*
 - Even if datasets are protected as view only, maps can still be generated of the data by taking a screenshot and exporting it as a PNG and/or PDF. We will share a full list of data that can be downloaded on the NBSAP Forum soon. Data can be downloaded by anyone that has a user account on the UN Biodiversity Lab, so they do not necessarily have to be associated with a national project. If the data you are interested in can not be downloaded, we encourage you to go to the data provider's site and contact the data provider directly for more information on this dataset.

General

- *Is specific software required for downloading or exporting maps? Does the capacity of our computers need to be large?*
 - If you wish to download data from a layer to analyze offline, you will require additional software to analyze it, such as QGIS. The download function can only be used with vector layers, some of which are protected under a view-only license. This means that the data custodians of that dataset only allow users to visualize data, but not to download the raw data. However, any data can be used to generate maps as a PNG or

PDF file – you can view our [animated User Guide](#) to see how to take a screenshot and generate a map for your 6NR. This does not require any additional software or computer capacity, and maps can be inputted directly into your report.

- *Is administration permission and password necessary to upload data to the Lab, or to view the available data, or is the data available for everyone? Do we need a password to access the data on the project?*
 - Anybody can view the publicly available data in the UN Biodiversity Lab and generate maps by taking a screenshot. In order to download source data, you need to be a registered user, which does not require any particular credentials other than an email address. All you need to do is log-in to an account by clicking the log-in icon located on the top toolbar. When you enter your email a one-time use password will be sent to you – as we take data security very seriously, we do not rely on user passwords that are vulnerable to hacking. Instead, unique passwords will be generated and sent to your email each time you login. Once you are logged in you will be able to download source data. To upload data, you need to be part of a 6NR national project.

- *Do we need an app or software to help us work with the data?*
 - The UN Biodiversity Lab works by itself and is not associated with any software of any kind. It is online, free, and you can visualize the data, interact with the data, download the data, the generate maps without any other software. If you have national data you would like to process and upload in the UN Biodiversity Lab, or if you would like to download global datasets for offline use, then you may need to process it using an external application, such as QGIS, which is a free, open-source geospatial processing software.

- *Is there a tutorial to use the UN Biodiversity Lab?*
 - Yes, there is a [User Guide](#) available on the UN Biodiversity Lab which is animated with GIFs, similar to the webinar format, which can guide users in using all of the platform functionalities. In addition, the spatial data specialist will also be producing technical guidance on how to conduct analyses specific to the 6NR and which will be released in the September.

- *Some of the maps you showed us show the stage rather than the progress, can you show the progress or change historically using the platform?*
 - If the data is temporal, you can view the time series by adjusting the settings, located beneath the view. This is explained in our animated User Guide. In addition, if you are uploading data which has a temporal aspect, select that attribute as your primary variable in order to view your data as a time series.

- *I am struck by the amount to which this is relevant beyond the 6NR process. I am wondering the extent to what you might be offering a helpdesk or a side event or something similar at the*

upcoming Conference of Parties in order to engage more with the national focal points or policymakers who, in some ways, are the key people to be making those decisions about how those spatial data can be used.

- We have several events planned for the upcoming COP14 to engage policymakers and stakeholders in the platform and using spatial data more generally. We will be offering a full-day workshop on spatial data during, and will have a help desk available from the 24-29 of November directly outside the plenary which will be staffed by UNDP and UN Environment to answer Parties' questions about their 6NR and the use of UN Biodiversity Lab. In addition we will have a booth at the Biodiversity Innovation Fair, which will also be held from the 24-29 of November. This will be a great opportunity to connect with our spatial ecologist, get your questions answered and work directly on the lab with one-on-one support. We are also developing a roster of spatial data analysts which will be available for additional support.

- *Can we have a copy of this presentation?*
 - Yes. We will be sharing the presentations on the [NBSAP Forum](#), which you may have used in the past, and we will also release the recording of this session on the [YouTube channel of the NBSAP Forum](#).

- *Is it absolutely necessary to have an internet connection for the tool to work, or is it possible for the platform to work without it?*
 - To run the UN Biodiversity Lab, you do need a connection, but not a broadband internet connection. The platform works with a basic internet connection and low bandwidth. The tool was created for the purpose of using it with a bad connection.