

TERMS OF REFERENCE**WORKSHOP: Essential Biodiversity Variables**

ESA Facility (www.esa.int/esaMI/ESRIN_SITE), Frascati, Italy, 27-29 February 2012

This workshop is hosted by the European Space Agency with part sponsorship from the Group on Earth Observations.

The workshop will explore the concept of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs), develop a conceptual framework for EBVs, define an initial list of EBVs, their inter-relationships, and the inputs they depend upon, as well as draft components of a peer-reviewed EBV paper.

The main objectives are to:

1. Agree upon what EBVs are, why they are important, and who they are for
2. Agree upon the major EBV categories and a conceptual framework for EBVs
3. Define the initial set of EBVs
4. Agree upon the general approach to further EBV development e.g. updating and maintaining the EBV list
5. Discuss, coordinate and draft the inputs to the EBV paper

The overall structure of the workshop is as follows:*Day 1*

Short presentations to provide the necessary background information; expectations and outputs of the meeting will be discussed, followed by discussions on the characteristics of an EBV

Day 2

Plenary discussion on categorization of and framework for EBVs followed by breakout groups to identify tentative EBVs

Day 3

Outlining the EBV paper and drafting components thereof; discuss the process for further EBV development; discussion on and schedule for the remainder of the task



Pre-meeting preparation and inputs

Pre-meeting work will be needed to ensure the limited meeting time will be used effectively. This work will include telecons and email discussions.

Meeting outputs (most of these are components of the paper)

- Description of what EBVs are, why they are important, and who they are for
- Conceptual framework for EBVs
- Initial EBV list and relationship diagram
- Description and justification of each EBV
- Expected use and users of each EBV
- High-level description of how each EBV can be measured or calculated
- Description, at a high-level, of the approach to updating and maintaining the EBV list
- Plan and schedule to completion and submission of the paper

The workshop is open to invited participants only. A number of key scientists and organisations with an interest and expertise in biodiversity observations are expected to attend. Some limited funding is available to support travel of delegates to attend the workshop, particularly those from developing countries.