



Enhancing marine biodiversity data collection and publishing

Workshop: Enhancing marine biodiversity data collection and publishing

Date: 10 - 14 November 2025

Location: Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal.

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The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network ([MBON](#)) and the [AIR Centre](#) will host a small, hands-on, interactive workshop focused on mobilising marine biological observation datasets to the Ocean Biodiversity Information System ([OBIS](#)). The objective is to help data holders understand the value of following good practices for standardising biological data, using widely accepted biodiversity standards like Darwin Core. This would include records of different biological attributes and ecosystem observations from different types of sampling methodologies. A complementary activity of the workshop will contemplate a field work day in which participants will receive training on the collection and processing of benthic photo-quadrat imagery and their analysis following MBON Pole to Pole monitoring protocols, aiming to enhance capacity for long-term monitoring of rocky intertidal communities.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a clear understanding of the process of mobilising biological data to OBIS and will have brought one of their datasets to a final maturity state that aligns with best practices for data sharing and biodiversity documentation. The workshop will also enhance awareness of improving the quality of marine biodiversity data and will increase the availability of marine biological data for scientific research, species conservation, and ecosystem-based management by promoting data publication through OBIS. Additionally, the workshop will foster collaborative research efforts among participants and contribute to the MBON

community of practice by increasing capacity in the implementation of coordinated and standardised biodiversity observing and publishing efforts.

Program/Schedule

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nQ0zm3O_ifljh7MD2Xn3BvqyMrAygfl2/edit?gid=279683385#gid=279683385

Prerequisite skills and expertise

Participants are expected to have familiarity with:

1. Working with taxonomic occurrence data
2. Using spreadsheet tools (e.g., Excel, LibreOffice, Google Sheets).
3. File handling & different file formats (Working with CSV, TXT, and Excel formats).
4. Basic Python or R programming
5. Study of sandy beach or rocky shore environments (not mandatory)
6. Basic data wrangling skills for marine biodiversity data management (e.g., data structuring)

Registration

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-fy9p06atXP0_O8IG83k2zZ4Zp6E_VlWEDy1N8lBVT-l3Sg/viewform

Registration includes the training, coffee breaks, lunches, a cocktail dinner and transfers. Flights, accommodation and remaining dinners are excluded.



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