

# Pathways through the Global Biodiversity Informatics Landscape

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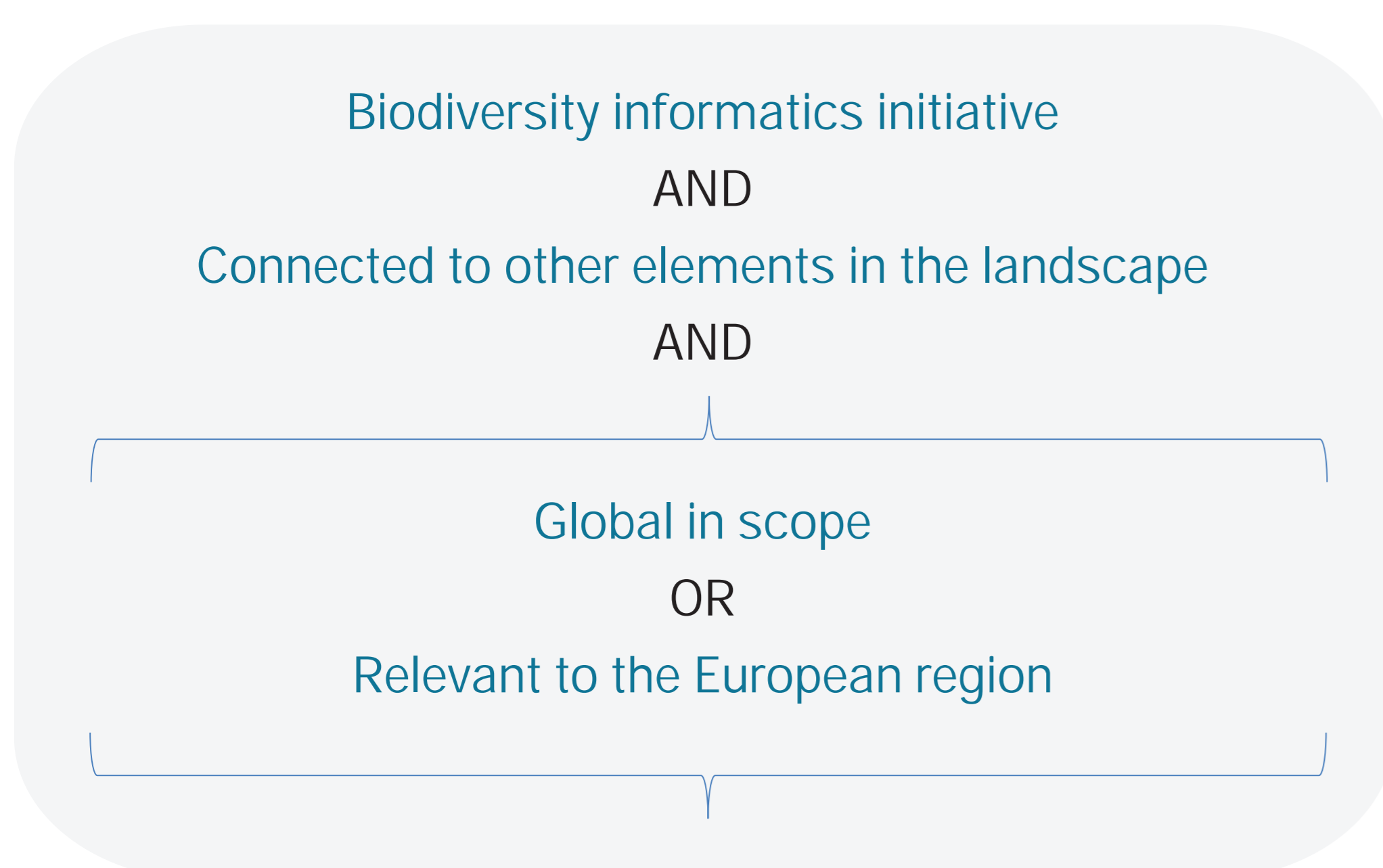
## Summary

This is a first attempt at mapping the key components and linkages within the global and European biodiversity informatics landscape (Figure 1). The map is intended to help identify existing connections components of the landscape, as well as missing connections and effort duplication. Recommendations on how to address weaknesses in the landscape, along with taking advantage of opportunities, will be drawn from this work, so that the key players can better work together and use the best of what already exists.

Figure 1 (right). The current global biodiversity informatics landscape, showing linkages between its components. Arrows indicate the direction of interactions (e.g., data flows) between components. Highly connected components are identified by greater font weight. Policy-level components are identified by a grey background.

## Methods

Landscape components were selected based on the following criteria:



The selected components, while not exhaustive, illustrate the numerous relationships between biodiversity informatics initiatives globally and within Europe.

## Pathways through the landscape

The landscape is complex and there are multiple pathways through which higher-level initiatives collate data from other initiatives, projects, datasets and databases. Figure 2 demonstrates one such pathway, beginning with sub-regional data collection that ultimately supports a global biodiversity indicator of progress towards global targets relating to the status of species and ecosystems.

MedOBIS (not shown in Figure 1), as the Mediterranean node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), collates and publishes data on marine species' occurrences, which are integrated into EurOBIS, the regional equivalent. These data, in turn, contribute to OBIS, the global repository. There are data flows between OBIS and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), which provides a global indicator via the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) on the "number of GBIF records over time," which is used to track progress against Aichi Target 19 of the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Figure 2. Inset of the global biodiversity informatics landscape, focusing on the pathways between MedOBIS, EurOBIS, OBIS, GBIF, and the BIP.

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