

October 23, 2025

OBIS

**Globally Trusted Data for Ocean Conservation, Management
and Biodiversity Action**

EVT-PLenary-THU

Ball room (Room A + B1 + B2)

Dan Lear, OBIS Co-Chair
Marine Biological Association, Citadel
Hill, Plymouth, UK

Katherine Tattersall, OBIS Co-Chair
CSIRO, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Ward Appeltans & Laurent Chmiel
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
of UNESCO, Ocean Biodiversity Information System
(OBIS), Oostende, Belgium



OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community



OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community

**We provide
high-quality data
you can trust.**



OBIS is a programme component of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Programme (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

OBIS integrates open, FAIR, standardised, quality-controlled marine biodiversity data from multiple sources into a single platform.

OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community

OBIS
in numbers



165M
species
observations



201K
marine
species



26M
DNA
sequences



36
Nodes
worldwide



6K
scientists
involved



99
countries
engaged

“
It took us 13 years
to reach our first 35 million records.
In 2025, in less than one year,
we doubled that.
”

Ward Appeltans
OBIS Programme Manager

OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community

Our objectives



- 1 Expand and accelerate data flows
- 2 Innovate in data analytics, data visualization and data-derived products
- 3 Tackle marine biodiversity data and knowledge gaps
- 4 Strengthen marine life observation and data management capacity worldwide
- 5 Advance adoption of marine life observation technology

OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community

We are
a community



OBIS is composed of **29 regional and 7 thematic Nodes**, ensuring a balanced representation between the Global North and South.

OBIS follows the principles of **community-led governance**: the Nodes are coordinated through the OBIS Steering Group and the OBIS Nodes Coordination Group.

The OBIS Community is an **inclusive, open to all, collaborative system**.

OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community



OBIS
Nodes
(October 2025)

OBIS is a global open-access platform for marine life data and a global community

We are
an inclusive
platform for
regional voices



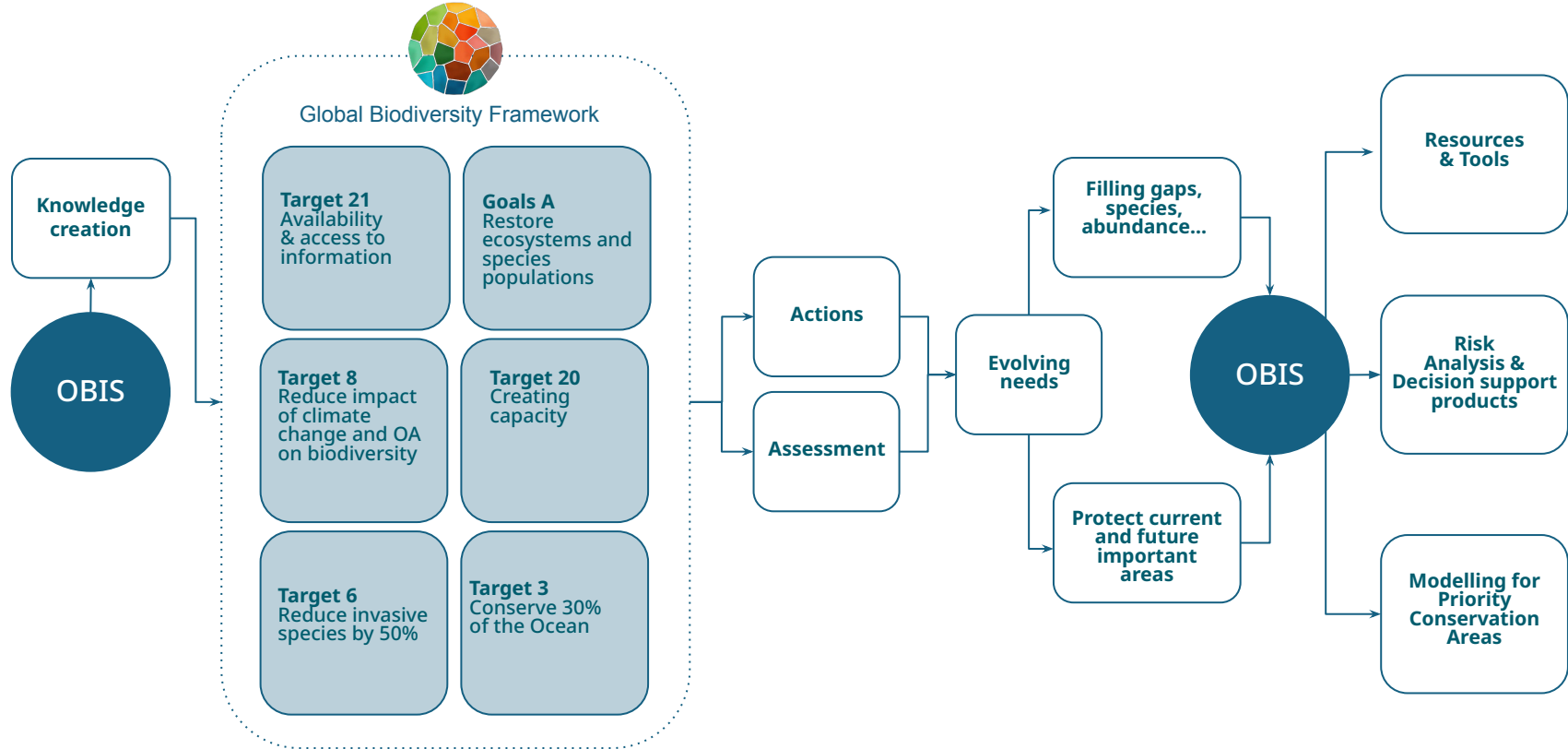
Regional Nodes drive and lead local data mobilisation and capacity development, **ensuring regional priorities are respected and represented at global level.**

OBIS is built on **equitable participation and co-creation** of solutions.

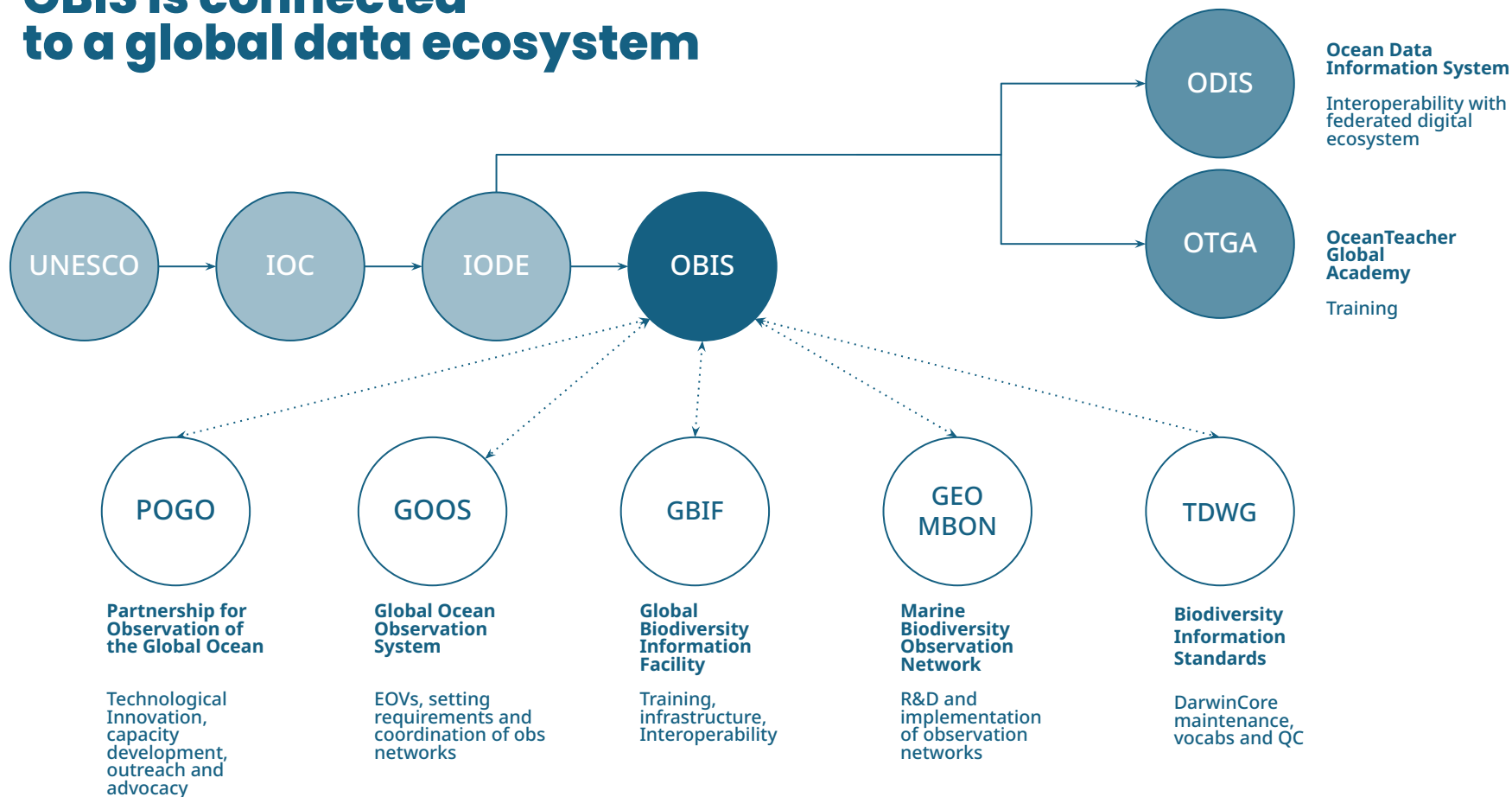
Through its platform, OBIS respects **data ownership** while providing **recognition and visibility** for all contributors through metadata and provenance.

The OBIS data value chain:

Generating knowledge for decision-making



OBIS is connected to a global data ecosystem



OBIS x GOOS

Adding marine life to global Ocean observations



**A robust marine
biodiversity data
backbone**



Collaboration on the 12 Biological and Ecosystem **Essential Ocean Variables** (BioEco EOVs) monitoring status and change of marine biodiversity.

OBIS standardizes, quality-controls and integrates BioEco EOVs making biodiversity-related variables measurable and comparable worldwide.

OBIS and GOOS are recognized as the ocean component of a **Global Biodiversity Observing System** to support KMGBF monitoring.

OBIS x GBIF

Strengthening interoperability



A shared strategy for marine biodiversity data



Technical cooperation

Development of interoperability standards, data exchange protocols, shared tools for integration and visualisation, user access improvement.

Community & capacity

Joint training, documentation, and stronger engagement between GBIF and OBIS Nodes.

Renewed partnership (2025 – 2030), with an updated Joint Strategy for Marine Biodiversity Data including a rolling annual action plan.

OBIS focus on innovation & technology

Cutting-edge tools to amplify data impact

**Accelerating
marine biodiversity
observations**



Development

The OBIS Community contributes to development of advanced marine biodiversity observation tools and technologies, such as eDNA, bioinformatics, high definition predictive models, tagging & tracking of animals.

Implementation

OBIS is engaged to implement these cutting-edge tools in real-life projects worldwide, such as the eDNA Expeditions, the completed PacMAN project, MPA Europe, Marco-Bolo, BioEcoOcean and more.

The Ocean needs your data

Become a global contributor!

**Your data
belongs on
the global stage**



Within OBIS, data contributors

- > retain ownership
- > get more visibility
- > gain recognition
- > connect and contribute to global frameworks
- > belong to a community
- > create global impact

Boost your marine biodiversity data publishing capacity! Through its collaboration with OTGA, OBIS provide access to data-related training, courses and learning modules.

Partnering for a better Ocean

Questions and follow-up

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