Purpose of the Plan

This plan is the result of a second round of collaborative strategy development meetings held in March and May of 2005. The plan was developed with broad consultation and input from the agencies and organizations listed on the back page. It will help guide the next stage of PBIN's organizational development and has a 3-year time horizon from 2005 through 2008. More specifically, the plan:

1. *Amends PBIN's previous vision and mission statements;*
2. *Charts the priorities needed to take PBIN to full maturity; and*
3. *Clarifies expectations about organizational directions and governance.*

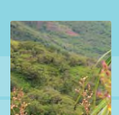
Recognizing that having a "strategy" is always more important than having a fancy strategic plan, and that the quest for the "perfect" can sometimes defeat what is perfectly "good," this document provides a general framework and touchstone rather than a specific operational blueprint. This means that it is a guide rather than a specific and detailed operational picture of the future.

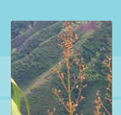
Mission

The mission of PBIN is to equip scientists, resource managers, policy makers, citizen groups, and the public with an ongoing information infrastructure through which high quality biodiversity information related to Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin can be acquired, analyzed, and distributed.

Vision

PBIN will be a sophisticated, intuitive, and comprehensive knowledge base for the biological resources associated with the Pacific Basin including tropical and subtropical islands and the surrounding marine environment. It will serve as a resource for enabling scientific progress, addressing issues related to biodiversity conservation, and educating people. On a daily basis it will provide tools that can be used to discover, access, and analyze data about the region's biological resources. Users entering the system will find image libraries, cross-referenced data sets, taxonomies, maps, GIS services and other tools and content materials that will allow them to perform general or specialized analyses.






Planning Participants & Partners

Non-Governmental & Educational Institutions

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum*

Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species

Island Invasive Species Committees
- Big Island Invasive Species Committee
- Kauai Invasive Species Committee
- Maui Invasive Species Committee
- Molokai Invasive Species Committee
- Oahu Invasive Species Committee

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii*

The University of Hawaii
- Center for Conservation Research and Training* *(Hawaii Biodiversity and Mapping Program)*
- Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
- Maui High Performance Computing Center

State/Federal Agencies

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Hawaii Department of Agriculture

National Park Service*

US Fish and Wildlife Service*

United States Department of Agriculture
- Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry*

United States Geological Survey
- National Geospatial Programs*
- Pacific Basin Information Node (NBII)*
- Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center*

* Steering Committee Member

Find PBIN on the Web: http://pbin.nbii.gov

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) [www.nbii.gov] is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. The NBII links diverse, high-quality biological databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by NBII partners and other contributors in government agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and private industry. NBII partners and collaborators also work on new standards, tools, and technologies that make it easier to find, integrate, and apply biological resources information. Resource managers, scientists, educators, and the general public use the NBII to answer a wide range of questions related to the management, use, or conservation of this nation's biological resources.

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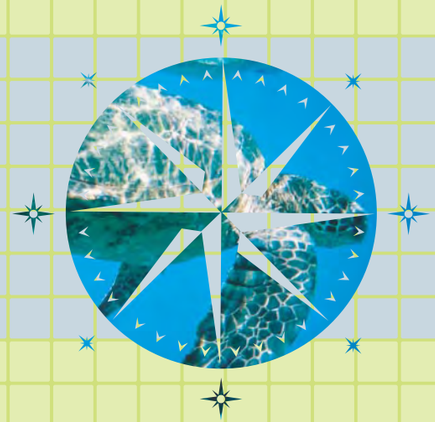
preserving biodiversity through information access

Pacific Basin Information Node



STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-2008

The Pacific Basin Information Node (PBIN) is a regional information system under the National Biological Information Infrastructure, providing access to data and computer applications that help address threats to Pacific Island biodiversity.







Priorities

Geographic
1. The eight main Hawaiian Islands
2. The Northwest Hawaiian Islands
3. U.S. Flag Territories
4. Partnerships within the regional south Pacific

Thematic
1. Invasive Species
2. Native Hawaiian Species
3. The Marine Environment

Users
1. Resource managers.
2. Scientists.
3. Policy makers in the public, private, and civic sectors.
4. General public and all others

During its first three years of existence, PBIN intentionally cultivated a broad diversity of users and general recognition in the "marketplace" of agencies and organizations that can contribute to or use biodiversity information. During the next three years, PBIN will invest its limited human and financial resources in projects, programs, initiatives, and activities that deepen its potential impacts, build content, and develop strategic applications that fully prove PBIN's utility.

Three Key Strategies

Strategy #1: Further Build PBIN General Content

PBIN will continue to seek to develop the broadest and most inclusive assemblage of high quality data sets, the hardware and software systems needed to support them, and the analytic tools needed to perform analyses. PBIN will strive for data that is consistent, dynamic, updatable, and, wherever possible, that also has meta-data. To the greatest extent possible, data will be simultaneously locational, genomic, and temporal.

Strategy #2: Complete a Proof of Concept

PBIN will build a concentrated base of data in support of one or more specific locales or problems and create a full proof of concept that demonstrates that the node can bring pertinent biological data sets together; apply specialized analytic, mining, or visualization tools; and contribute to practical on-the-ground solutions. The criteria that will be used to select one or more proof of concept projects will include:

Strategy #3: Refine PBIN Operations, Funding, and Services

PBIN will continue to streamline, strengthen, and appropriately expand its operations, funding, and administrative services. In the future, PBIN will seek to utilize USGS funds primarily to support core operations and content development as it increasingly relies on other support for projects and activities.

Key Metrics

Past metrics for the node were based upon those used to measure the establishment of a new organization or entity in the region. These approach helped PBIN attain its current relationship to the various biodiversity communities in the region. Now that the node is established a new set of measures is warranted. These measures will be divided into two categories: outputs and outcomes.

1. Outputs are direct products or services delivered by the node. They may or may not demonstrate a direct impact to biodiversity science, management or education. Rather they serve as measures of PBIN development.
   a. Amount of content: number of web resources (URLs), images, data sets, databases served on an annual basis.
   b. Usage of content and technical services: number of website users and collaborative projects.
   c. Quality of content: results of peer review process of content, data sets and tools.
   d. Number of active partners
   e. Amount of USGS and non-USGS funding
2. Outcomes are the events or conditions external to the program and of direct importance to the biodiversity community that are impacted by the PBIN products and technical services. Some broad examples are listed below. The steering team will work to further develop these measures in hopes of better guiding PBIN activities.
   a. Direct support to the dissemination and access goals of the partners;
   b. Reduction in resources/improved efficiency of partners in managing their data and information; and
   c. Improved application of data and information to support biodiversity conservation, science or education.

Rules of Governance

PBIN will continue to develop formal contractual agreements between the partners. While decision-making will be collaborative, final administrative authority rests with NBII/USGS. In the spirit of collaboration, difficult decisions will be made with the following principles in mind:

1. All signatories of the MOU will serve on the steering committee for PBIN.
2. The steering committee may form ad hoc working groups as needed to provide recommendations on specific issues.
3. The steering committee will address any and all decisions that are relevant to PBIN, i.e. key annual directions, what projects to recommend for funding, reasonable resource allocations etc.
4. The general operating principle is to make well-informed, highly inclusive, and consensual decisions in which everyone agrees. However, recognizing that consensus may not be achievable for every decision, the default decision-making mode will be a majority vote.