

Memorandum of Understanding between MBON and SCAR/SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal

The **Marine Biodiversity Observation Network of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON MBON)**, hereinafter referred to as the “**MBON**”, and “**SCAR/SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal**”

here agree to cooperate to support the development of marine biodiversity observation systems. Hereafter MBON and “SCAR/SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal” shall be referred to as “the Signatories”.

MBON and SCAR/SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal recognize the need for globally coordinated and sustained ocean and biodiversity observing systems. Such systems are urgently needed to systematically assess the state of the ocean’s biodiversity including biological resources and ecosystems, and how these will change in the future. This knowledge will provide the basis to more effectively conserve and sustainably use marine life both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

A coordinated global ocean biodiversity observing system would provide the data, information and knowledge needed to inform the progress towards, for example, the global 2030 targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (including SDG 14), targets and indicators of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and activities related to UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

MBON is a community of practice. It facilitates networking amongst the marine biodiversity community to improve standards and best practices in the collection, management, and publication of marine biodiversity data.

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (([SCAR](#))) is a thematic organisation of the [International Science Council \(ISC\)](#), and was created in 1958. SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region (including the Southern Ocean), and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the [Antarctic Treaty System](#) and other organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system.

The Antarctic Biodiversity Portal ([biodiversity.aq](#)) is an international effort of SCAR. It finds its roots in the Census of Antarctic Marine Life and started in 2005. It seeks to increase our knowledge and understanding of Antarctic and Southern Ocean biodiversity. The SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal is the regional thematic node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System ([OBIS](#)), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)) and works closely together with the Southern Ocean Observation System ([SOOS](#)). It provides support to

publish Southern Ocean biodiversity data and to improve standards and best practices in the collection, management, and publication of marine biodiversity data. Through the cooperation with MBON we aim to strengthen the exchange of ideas and integration with global marine data initiatives such as the Global Ocean Observation System (GOOS), the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), and others.

The signatories have decided on the following:

The present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims at establishing an ongoing cooperation between MBON and SCAR/SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal to strengthen ocean biodiversity observing capacity, and to make use of the best available resources and expertise.

In the context of the present MOU, the Signatories will take, among others, the following actions:

Each Party is responsible for taking the necessary action to secure adequate financial and human resources to perform the projects or activities developed in collaboration.

The Signatories will collaborate respecting the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit and results sharing.

The present MoU can be modified at any time, under written agreement of the Signatories.

The present MoU does not generate any legal obligation under domestic or international law.

1. The present MoU shall come into effect on the date of its signature and will remain in force for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter, it will be renewable for further periods by mutual written consent of the Signatories.
2. The present MoU shall cease to have effect if one of the Signatories expresses this wish, notifying the other in written, and with a time span of 60 days before the cessation.

SIGNED

SIGNED

Date: 24-06-2021
Name: Deneb Karentz
Position: Vice President for Science - SCAR



Date: 24-06-2021
Name: Anton Van de Putte
Position: Executive Officer SCAR Antarctic Biodiversity Portal



Date: 25 June 2021
Name: Frank Muller-Karger
Position: co-chair MBON



Date: 25 June 2021
Name: Masahiro Nakaoka
Position: co-chair MBON



Date: 25 June 2021
Name: Isabel Sousa Pinto
Position: co-chair MBON

