

Results from the OBIS stakeholder study

OBIS Steering Group meeting, 17 May 2022

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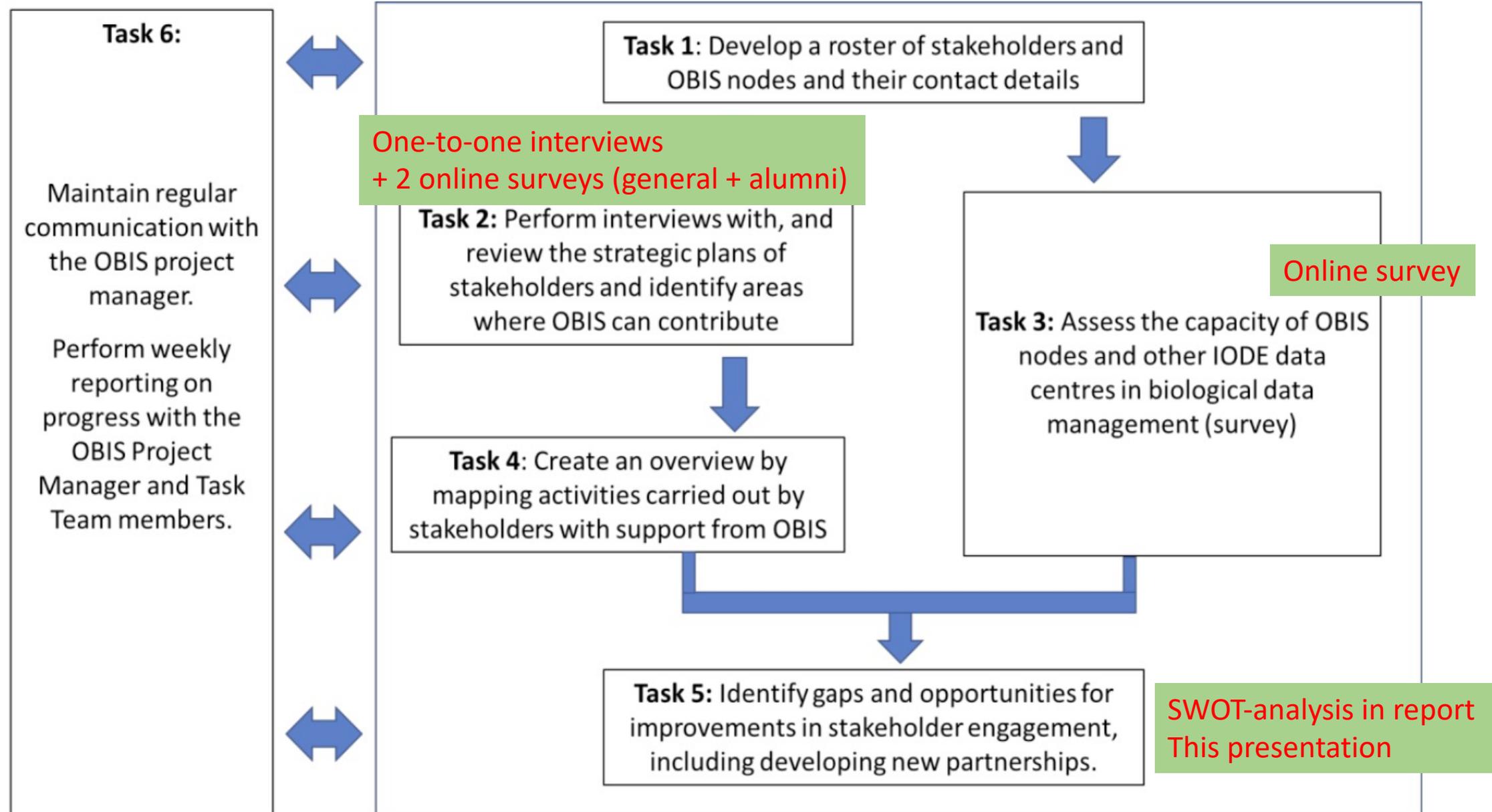


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Aims of the study

- Understand key stakeholder requirements from OBIS
- Understand OBIS nodes' capacity
- Identification of gaps and opportunities for improvement in stakeholder engagement

Methodology

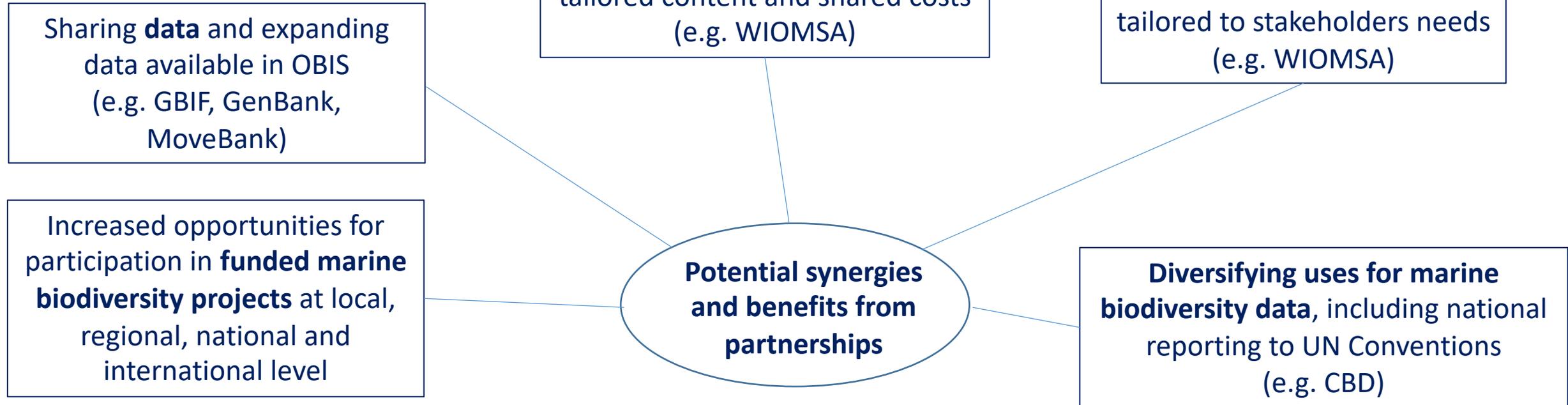


Concluding gaps & opportunities for improvements in stakeholder engagement

- Partnerships
- New training
- Promotion of OBIS to a wide variety of stakeholders
- Practical and technical suggestions
- Funding

Partnerships

Why?



How? By expanding networks and increasing visibility

- Seek and optimise networking opportunities within the Marine Life 2030 Ocean Decade Programme and other Ocean Decade Programmes
- Proactive involvement in the [Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum](#) (posting and participating in other organisations' activities)
- Requesting Ocean Decade endorsement for OBIS events and activities
- Presentations at selected events targeting audiences beyond science (e.g. NGOs, policy-makers, industry sectors, ...)

New training

Why?

To target specific stakeholder groups working on:

- Scientific research
- Nature conservation & habitat restoration, including MPAs
- Biodiversity status reports
- Reporting to UN Conventions and policy-making
- ... (according to new needs)

To ensure OBIS is widely known and used:

- In universities
- In research organisations
- In public bodies

To facilitate submission of data to OBIS:

- For new users
- For intermediate users
- Refresher session for expert users

To increase understanding of application of data standards, ENV-format, data quality control, vocabularies, metadata:

- For new users
- For intermediate users
- Refresher session for expert users

To address regional needs and specificities:

- Availability/ coverage of OBIS data for a specific region and sources of data
- Understanding what data/ data products are available and how they can be used
- Extraction and analysis of OBIS data
- Understanding what data could be shared with OBIS and how
- Discussion on specific needs of the region (opportunity to assess needs)

To support OBIS Nodes on how to deal with new data types

- Imagery, genetic data, ...

Training objectives and target groups

How? Through ...

- Further development of training sessions by OBIS in the OceanTeacher Global Academy; practical exercises
- Development of OBIS training modules that can be integrated into training courses organised by partners
- Assessment of needs for training content in the curriculum of marine biology students (universities)
- Development of video tutorials and material that can be published online and potentially included in MOOCs

Promotion of OBIS to a wide diversity of stakeholders

Why? To increase the use of OBIS and its contribution to the knowledge on and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity

How? By

- Building a Communication Strategy and Communication Plan
- Identifying opportunities for visibility through the Ocean Decade
- Strengthening networking opportunities by geographical OBIS Nodes

Conferences and exhibitions

- Science conferences
- COP side events
- Policy-makers events
- Industry sectorial events
- NGOs events
- ...

Journals and publications

- Peer-reviewed journals
- EcoMagazine
- Policy journals
- Sectorial journals (e.g. Engineering)

Professional associations of scientists, engineers, blue economy experts, ...

- Newsletters
- Events and trainings
- Listservs
- ...

OBIS Website

- New use cases
- Simplified guidance
- Video tutorials
- Other languages?

Social media

- LinkedIn groups

Promotion channels

Training sessions

- Organised by OBIS
- Organised with partners
- Organised by others

Technical connections

- Link with existing tools and Virtual Research Environments for increased visibility

Promotion by partners, and data providers and users sharing their experience

Practical and technical suggestions

Why? To facilitate use of OBIS by a wider diversity of users

How? By developing

Fit-for-purpose data products:

- For policy-makers
- For World Assessments
- ...

Possible data product formats:

- High-level summaries
- Time series
- ...

Mapper functionalities

- Increased interactivity
- Options to include base maps (e.g. bathymetry, EEZ, ...)

Guidance

- Simplified guidelines for submitting data
- Simplified guidelines for extracting data

Search filters

- Allowing users to search data using filters tailored to their needs (e.g. Essential Ocean Variables, sampling protocol, ...)

Connections with existing databases

- Help users better understand the differences and links between existing data repositories and platforms to identify the most relevant one(s) for them
- Enhance interoperability
- Facilitate submission of data to GBIF and OBIS in one workflow across all nodes
- Facilitate integration into OBIS of data from other platforms and data repositories

Possibilities to use OBIS data in modeling and forecasting work

Facilitated access and speed for all users, with particular attention to users without broadband Internet services

Potential useful tools and features

Funding

Why? To allow for further technical developments of OBIS to meet stakeholders' needs, increase its visibility, diversify its user base and ensure its sustainability

How? By considering new funding opportunities

