

**NEA** NATIONAL  
ECOSYSTEM  
ASSESSMENT  
**INITIATIVE**



# HOUSEKEEPING



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# WORKSHOP: IDENTIFYING AND USING DATA

- NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE -



@Lili Popper on Unsplash

Supported by:

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

# Workshop Agenda

- Welcome
- Data management
- Identifying data sources, acquiring data, and curating data
- Using data effectively
- Dealing with confidence levels
- Q&A



@Bakir  
Custovic on  
Unsplash

# Data management



Dr Osgur McDermott Long

Senior Data Scientist, UNEP-WCMC

# Data governance

- Creating data lifecycle strategies, enforced across the organization
- Data management handbook/strategy

# Data management software

Data management software helps organizations leverage their data

- Data quality
- Data control
- Data security
- Risk management
- Workflow automation

# Data management best practices

## Build strong file naming and cataloging conventions

- User- and future-friendly—descriptive, standardized file names

## Considered metadata

- Descriptive information about the data you are using
- Information about the data's content, structure, and permissions so it is discoverable for future use
- FAIR



# Data management best practices

## Data storage

- Find a plan that works for the national ecosystem assessment for all data backups and preservation methods

## Organisational specific requirements

# Identifying data sources, acquiring data, and curating data

Heather Bingham

Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC

# Identifying the data you need

- Define what you need before you start gathering data
- Do you need spatial data? What format?
- What are the basic pieces of descriptive data you need? Are there other 'nice to haves'?

# Define your data standards

- What field headings do you need? What accepted values?
- Think about what will be most useful when you come to analyse your data

# Data validation

- Will you only use data from 'authoritative' sources? How will you define these? Will additional validation be required?
- Will you use data from other sources, and how will you validate it?

# Keep a record of your sources

- Document where all data came from, and when it was acquired
- How often will you request updates?
- Consider what other information you need to store. Do you need formal data sharing agreements?

# Approaching data providers

- Have clear guidance on the data you need, its format etc.
- Consider tone, frequency of reminders etc.
- How will you incentivise your contacts to provide data? Can you adapt your request if they are unresponsive?

# Publicly available data

- What criteria will you use?
- Make sure you adhere to terms of use



# Essential steps for curating data

- Use unique identifiers (and ask your data providers to use them!)
- Use versioning
- Stick to the consistent field headings and accepted values you defined at the start
- Use consistent coordinate system for spatial data

# Using your data effectively



Edward Lewis

Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC

# Using your data effectively

**You cannot be too organised:** naming, structure, backups

**Write what you're doing as you go:** problem solving/write-ups

**Talk to the data owners:** don't reinvent the wheel/permissions

**Cite the data:** referencing software

**Make your work re-tracable:** github etc are powerful tools

# Using your data effectively

**Use coarse and fine filters:** bedrock – soils – habitat types

**Gaps are OK:** Identify them for the future

**Pace yourself:** 70%:20%:10%

**Don't overcomplicate:** Keep things simple and have a plan

**Believe in yourself:** don't panic!

# Dealing with levels of confidence

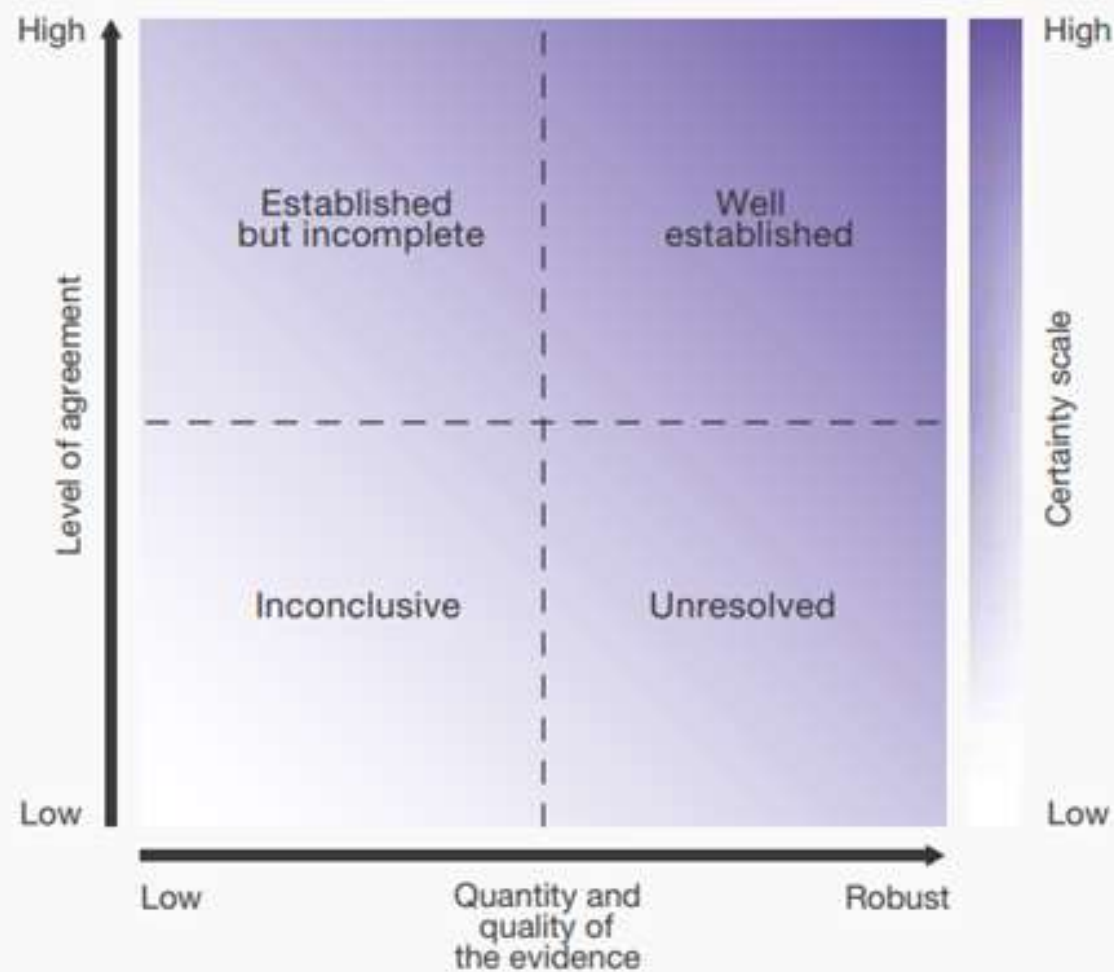


**Dr Claire Brown**

Principal Technical Specialist, UNEP-WCMC

**FIGURE SPM. A2**

**The four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence of confidence.** Confidence increases towards the top-right corner as suggested by the increasing strength of shading. Source: modified from Moss and Schneider (2000).<sup>24</sup>





# Q&A



# What's next?



Webinar:  
Using indicators  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December  
12:00 to 13:30 (GMT)





@Stefan Kostić on  
Unsplash

# Thank you!

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