

Biodiversity databases and database management systems for the World's Ocean: experience and outputs from five International projects

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The presentation highlights the experience to unite international efforts of scientists from 10 countries (Ukraine, Russia, UK, Panama, Kenya, USA, Italy, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and the Netherlands) funded by the Darwin Initiative (UK), INTAS (Brussels), and ONR (USA) in order to develop oceanographic databases for the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the Atlantic Ocean and its enclosed seas (the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea). The databases incorporate data on taxonomy, biogeography, and environmental characteristics of pelagic communities and are linked to a database management system. Apart from the database and database management system developed, the following problems encountered will be discussed:

- methods of data analysis on biodiversity;
- data dissemination;
- international co-ordination;
- regional legislation and data exchange;
- stability and prospective of funding for long-term international projects.