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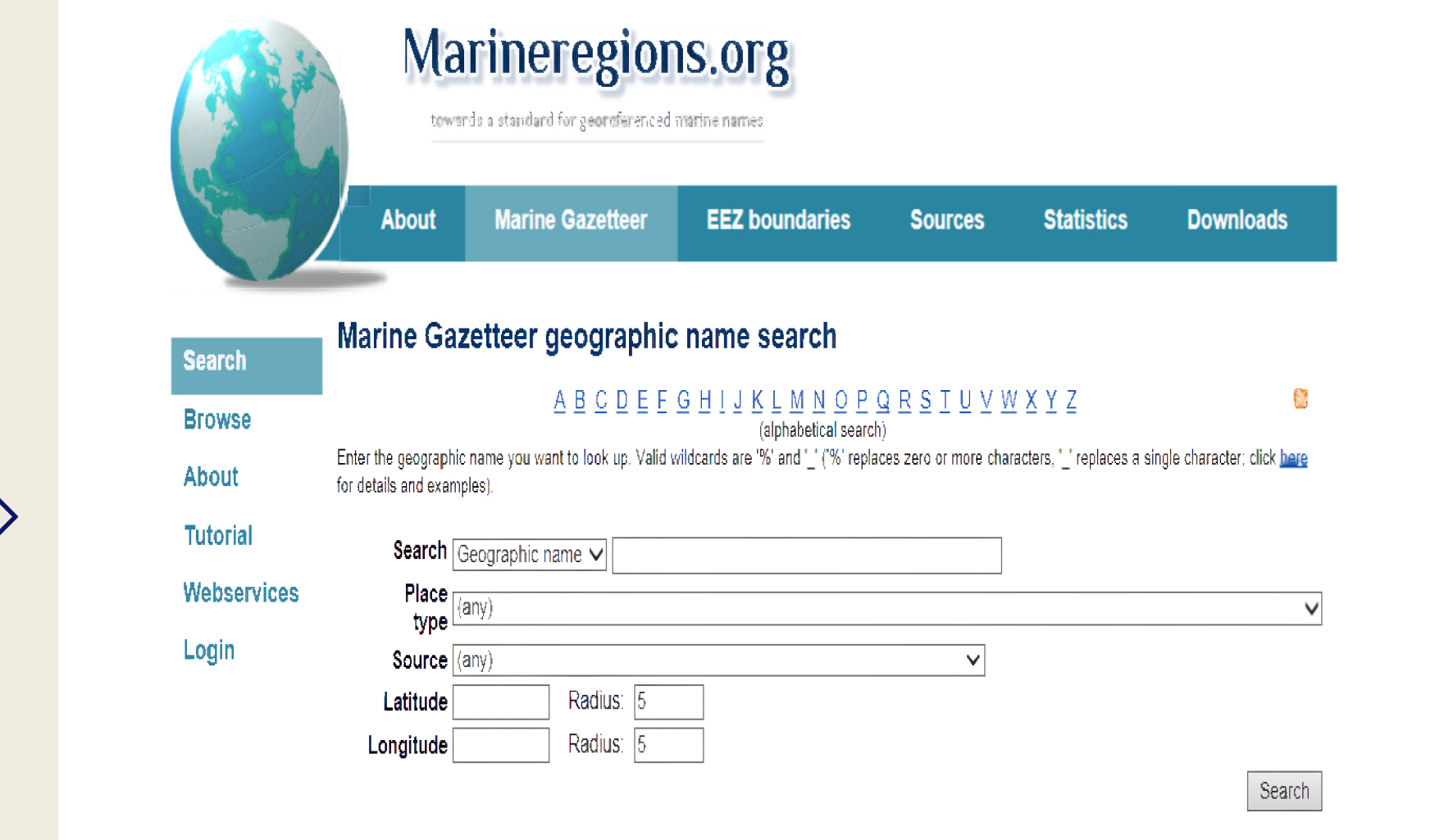
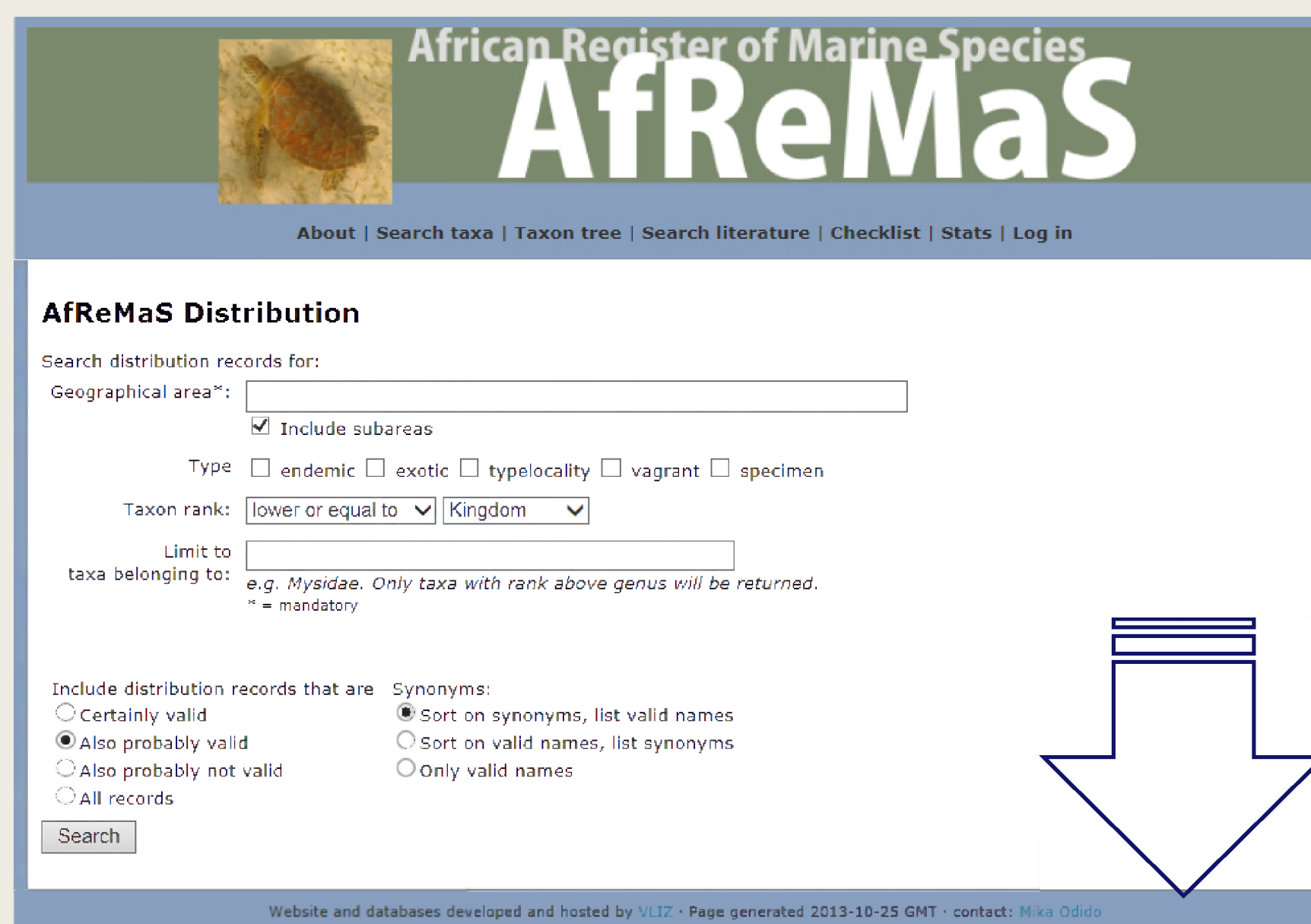
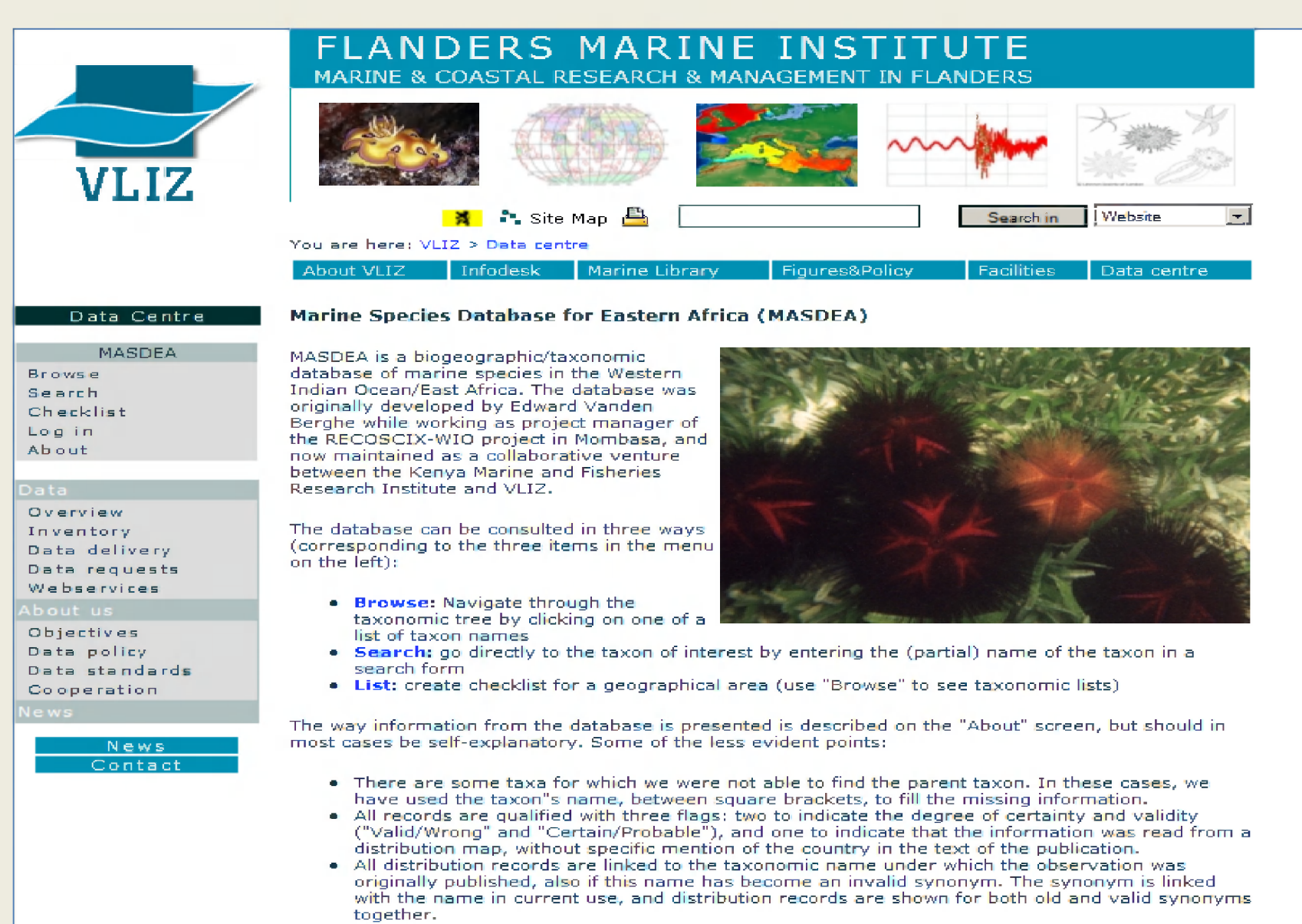
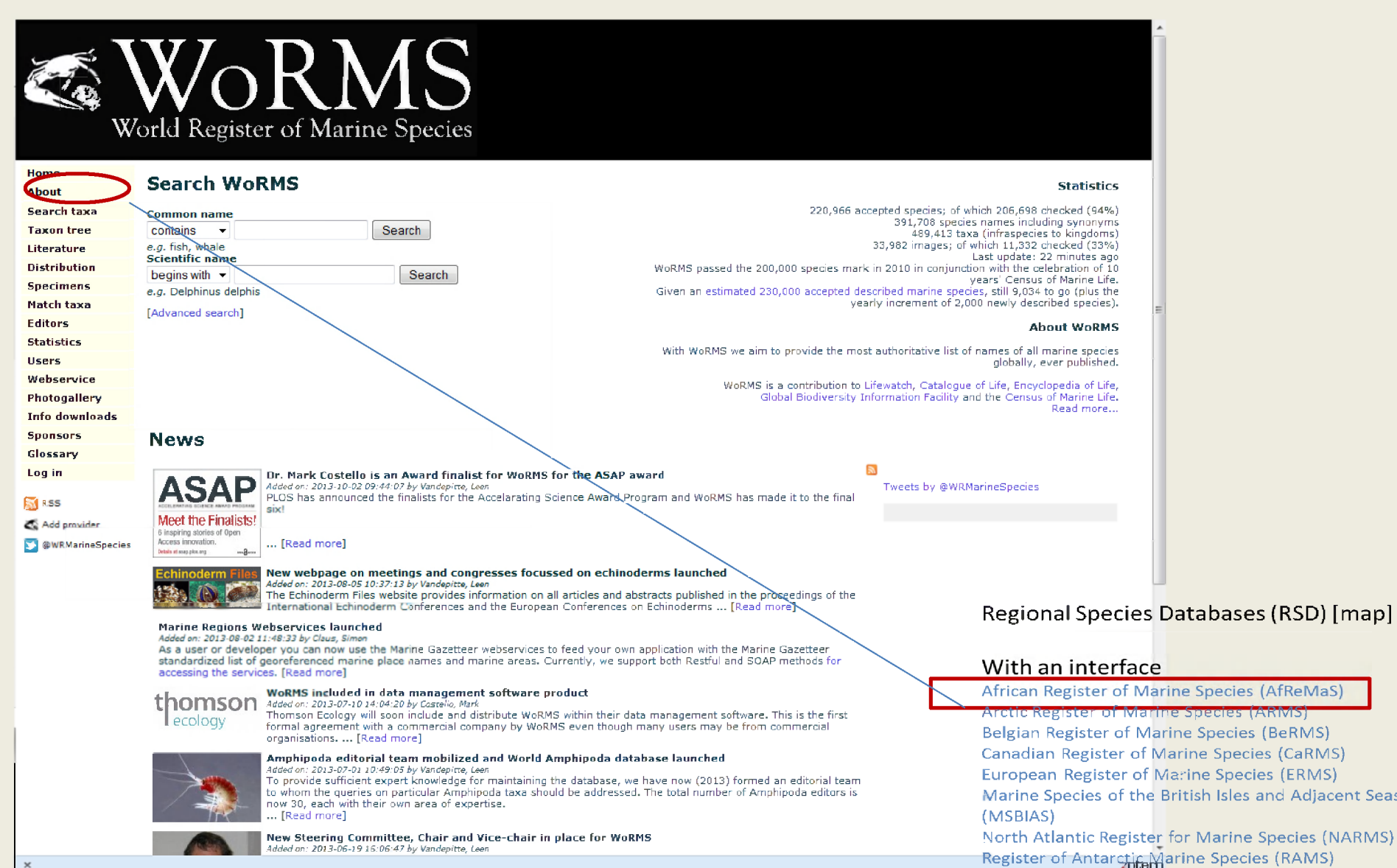
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Introduction-The African Register of Marine Species (AfReMaS) is recently launched taxonomic database of marine species found along the African coasts. The database was originally developed as the Marine Species Database for Eastern Africa (MASDEA). It was extended thereafter to include species from the entire African coast. Currently it has 24,016 accepted species. The African Register of Marine Species aims to compile and manage an authoritative list of species occurring along the African marine coasts. It is intended to be used as support for biodiversity research for conservation and sustainable management of marine environment. A data mining process was conducted under The Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) project on three identified taxonomic groups (Molluscs, Porifera and Decapods) with information from books, publications, grey literature and other databases. Distribution records are filed under VLIMAR- a marine gazetteer. Authorised taxonomists confirmed the classification before the species lists were uploaded onto the database. Content from AfReMaS is shared with the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), OBIS and AfROBIS.

ODINAFRICA

The Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) brings together marine, institutions from twenty-five Member States of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO from Africa (Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo,Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia).

The goal of the phase III of ODINAFRICA was to improve management of coastal and marine resources and the environment in participating countries by: enhancing data flows into the national oceanographic data and information centre in the participating countries, strengthening the capacity of these centers to analyze and interpret the data so as to develop products required for integrated management of the coastal areas of Africa, and increase the delivery of services to end users.



AfReMaS Statistics

	all taxa [M, nF]	all species [M, nF]	acc. species [M, nF]	species [nM]	checked taxa [M, nF]
Biota	51,867	35,291	24,325	1,339	48,281 (93 %)
Kingdom Animalia	46,761	32,152	22,007	1,229	43,334 (93 %)
Phylum Acanthocephala	13	3	3	0	13 (100 %)
Phylum Annelida	2,777	1,829	1,210	0	2,707 (97 %)
Phylum Arthropoda	10,815	7,098	5,675	1,007	10,256 (95 %)
Phylum Brachiopoda	36	8	6	0	36 (100 %)
Phylum Bryozoa	406	182	135	0	366 (90 %)
Phylum Cephalorhyncha	20	6	6	0	20 (100 %)
Phylum Chaetognatha	56	34	19	0	56 (100 %)
Phylum Chordata	9,558	6,620	4,559	103	8,850 (93 %)
Phylum Cnidaria	2,386	1,571	1,253	0	1,769 (74 %)
Phylum Ctenophora	8	0	0	0	7 (88 %)
Phylum Dicymida	13	6	5	0	11 (85 %)
Phylum Echinodermata	2,624	1,639	1,079	1	2,619 (100 %)
Phylum Echiura	22	9	8	0	16 (73 %)
Phylum Gastrotricha	8	3	2	0	8 (100 %)
Phylum Gnathostomulida	15	5	5	0	15 (100 %)
Phylum Hemichordata	51	30	24	0	51 (100 %)
Phylum Mollusca	12,763	9,246	5,526	4	11,443 (90 %)
Phylum Myxozoa	5	1	1	0	3 (60 %)
Phylum Nematoda	73	30	29	0	42 (58 %)
Phylum Nemertea	32	10	8	0	29 (91 %)

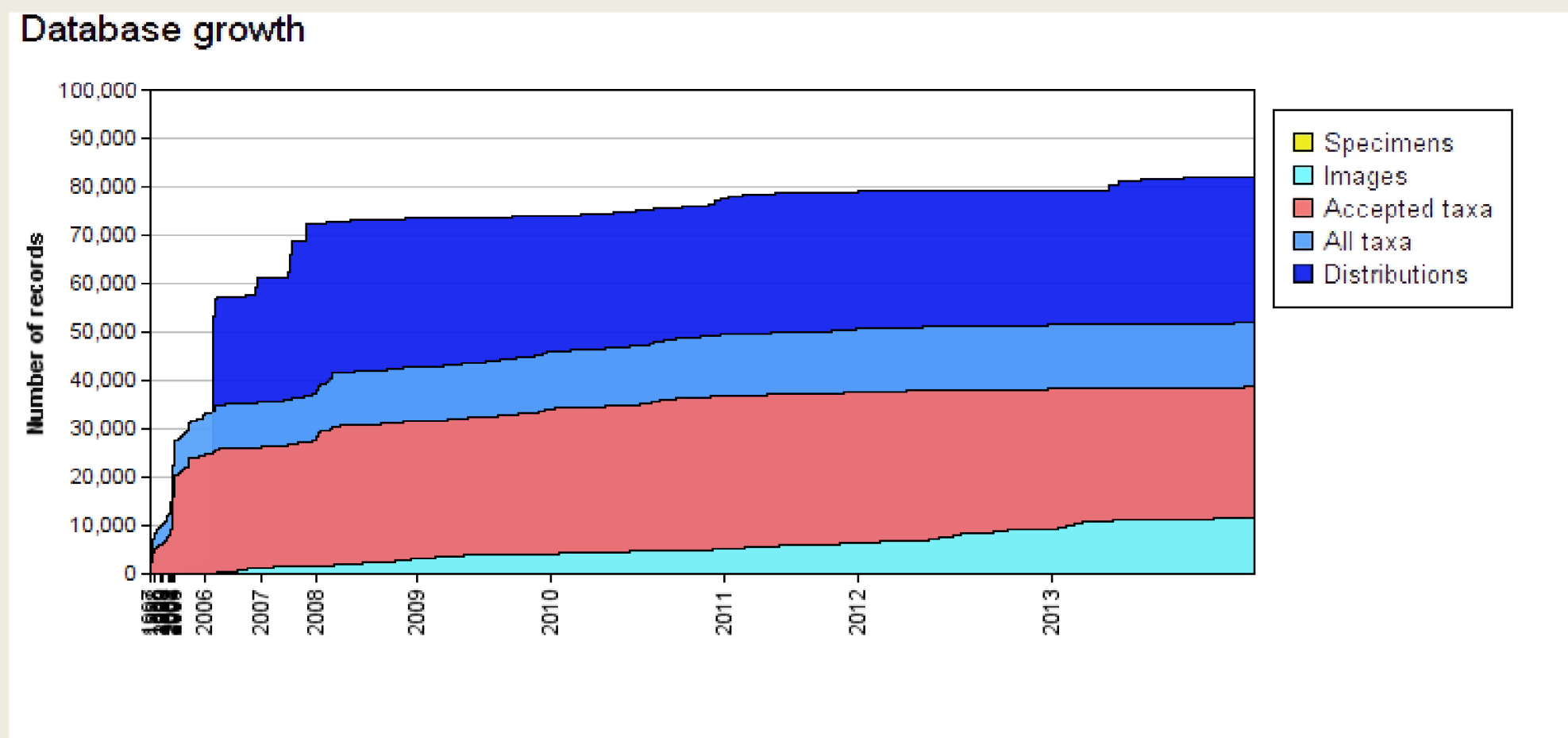
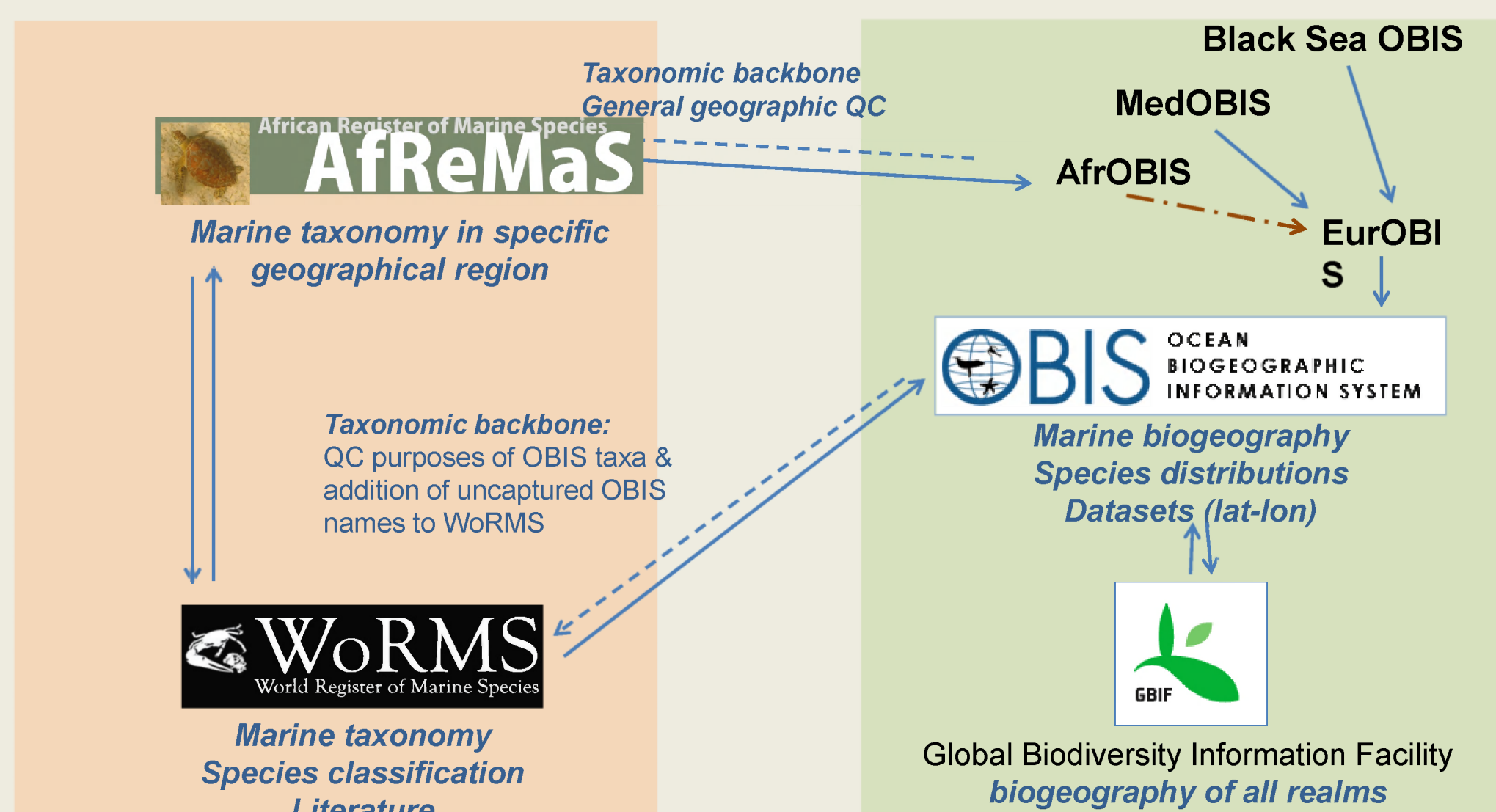
Progress since 2006 – 2007 workshops

Still 1,530 species (acc & unacc) not checked by taxonomic editors

	Workshops	Now (October 2013)
Mollusca species (acc & unacc)	4 772	9,581
Porifera species (acc & unacc)	1 309	3,759
Decapoda species (acc & unacc)	2 752	3,858
Total <u>accepted</u> species (all groups)	?	24,325

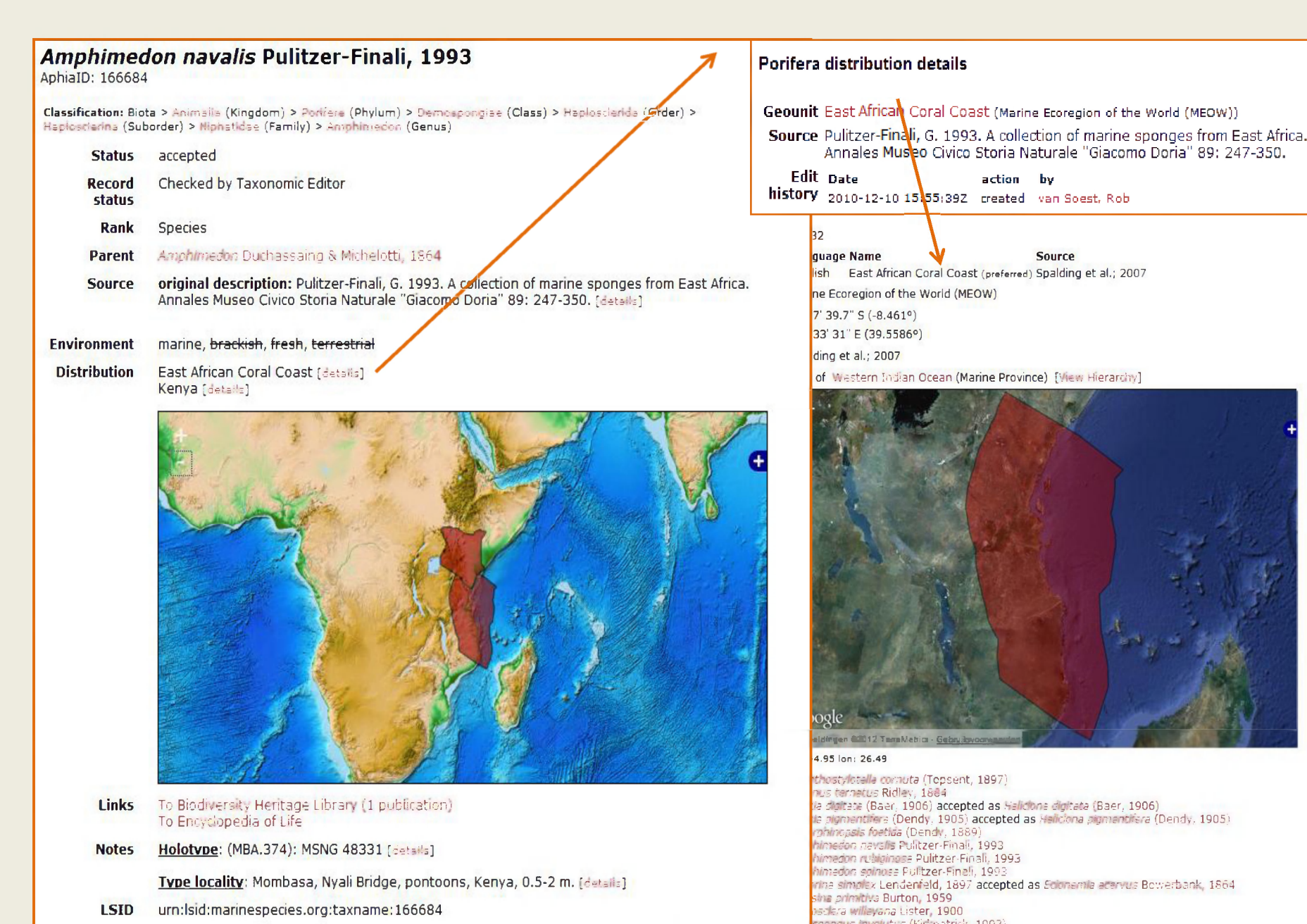
	Workshops	September 2012	October 2013
Mollusca distributions	9 566	11 458	12 220
Porifera distributions	5 185	8 465	8 534
Decapoda distributions	9 936	17 630	18 035
Total distributions (all groups)	59 137	79 025	81 814

Number of records in AfReMaS. -All taxa: number of marine [M] & non-fossil [nF] scientific names at all ranks (sum of species, genera, families,..., accepted and synonyms).
-All species: number of marine [M] & non-fossil [nF] species (sum of accepted and synonyms) within the specific rank.
-Acc. species: number of accepted marine [M] & non-fossil [nF] species within the specific rank.
-Species: number of non-marine [nM] species (sum of accepted and synonyms) within the specific rank.
-Checked taxa: number of marine [M] & non-fossil [nF] scientific names (%) that have been checked by a Taxonomic Editor.

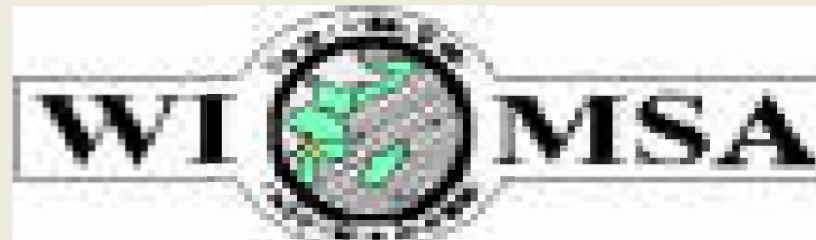


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Interface options for distribution information



Conclusion: Data management is key in the preservation of biodiversity. All scientists are encouraged to submit their species lists and areas in which they sampled to update the database. This database is important for keeping a directory of marine taxonomists with knowledge on the flora and fauna in Africa marine regions. In addition comprehensive bibliographies will be compiled on the biogeography of the region, for selected groups. network

The network of involved experts will also be expanded and they will continue in checking the all taxonomic groups along the African marine regions.