



Meeting the information challenge for crop wild relatives (CWR) *in situ* conservation: A global portal hosting national and international data on CWR

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Overview of presentation

- CWR definition and importance
- The global CWR project
- Challenges at beginning of project
- Addressing the challenges
- Results: national information systems and global portal
- Some conclusions and lessons learned
- Future needs / local global linkage







CWR – definition and importance

- Wild species more or less closely related to crops, but unlike them, have not been domesticated.
- Threatened by global change. An estimated <u>16-22%</u> of CWR species studied might go extinct by 2055.
- Seriously under-conserved *ex situ* and *in situ*
- But many CWRs harbor genetic traits that could hold the key for many crops to adapt to climate change







The global CWR project

- Title: In situ conservation of crop wild relatives through enhanced information management and field application
- Supported by UNEP/GEF
- Implemented by Bioversity International
- April 2004 February 2010
- Partner countries
 - Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan
- Partner organizations
 - BGCI, BLE, FAO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC
- Co-financing: BMZ, Germany







Challenges at beginning of project

Develop CWR information management systems and capacity when:

In general

- very little information activities on CWR exist as examples
- information is very scattered and difficult to access
- no global web site exist dedicated to CWR

In partner countries

- only one targeted information activity exists (CWR atlas in BOL)
- data are dispersed, in format not readily usable
- little data are digitized, in particular location data
- data structures are different in institutes within one country
- Very different national settings regarding in-country collaboration, IT infrastructure and capacities





Addressing the challenges

- Development of CWR descriptors for data types and fields necessary to capture all relevant information about CWR
- Digitization and aggregation of existing but dispersed information in national or institutional databases based on descriptors
- Collection of new occurrence data from numerous field surveys
- Use of and integration into existing IT structure
- New collaborations between different institutions within a country
- Training on GIS and national CWR information systems
 within the countries







Results

CWR information systems in the countries

- National information systems to manage CWR data, integrated in national settings, making best use of existing infrastructure:
 - The establishment varied from building up a web based system from scratch, to adapting existing Access databases through providing CWR to an already existing national data portal
- National web sites providing access to CWR information and data
- Systems now hosted in national organizations with relevant capacity, committed to maintenance, updating and long-term sustainability

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Results

CWR global portal

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www.cropwildrelatives.org

- All five national inventories searchable through a unique search function
- links to international resources that provide additional information about the CWR taxa
- Content management system: easy management; sustainability
- Other features: News, events, publications, experts, institutes, projects
- Straightforward user contributions





Some conclusions and lessons learned

- Establishment of effective partnership in the countries among institutions that formerly had not worked together has been crucial to the successful development of the national inventories
- all major players in the area of content as potential contributors and users need to be involved, in order to make the content provided as comprehensive as possible
- Taking care of local context and embedding the national information systems well into the national context, building on existing capacity, infrastructure and ways of collaboration has shown to be a solution that best addresses issues of sustainability in the future







Future needs / local – global linkage

Future needs

- Identification of further national and international information sources and additional national inventories
- Consideration on how characterization and evaluation data can be integrated or linked.
- Provide training and capacity building materials to assist in increasing practical experience in CWR in situ conservation

Local – global linkage

- National data from 5 countries can be searched through one search interface
- Data exchange has been formalized through data sharing agreements and is based on a commonly used data standard, i.e. Darwin Core.







Armenia

- Web-based system (MySQL and PHP) for data entry and management
- Input mask deployed to 6 institutes that provide data to a central database
- Quality check at central database







Armenia

- Contains *ex situ* records, occurrence data from field surveys, plant images, maps, red listing data
- detailed information for 104 species; about 2000 species in the national inventory
- Web site where that data can be browsed
- <u>www.cwr.am</u>





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Protected Areas	Aceraceae Acer ibericum	0			Сгор					
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Publications	Aceraceae Acer platanoides	0			Сгор					
Seminars	Aceraceae Acer trautvetteri	3			Сгор					
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* Higher Geography : Transcaucasia, Caucasus, former USSR

Biological Elements

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Collecting Event Elements



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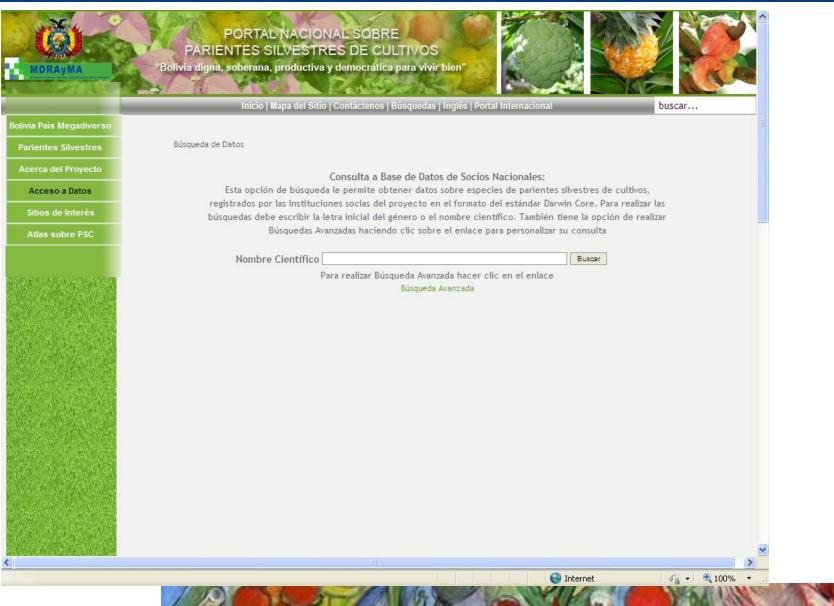


Bolivia

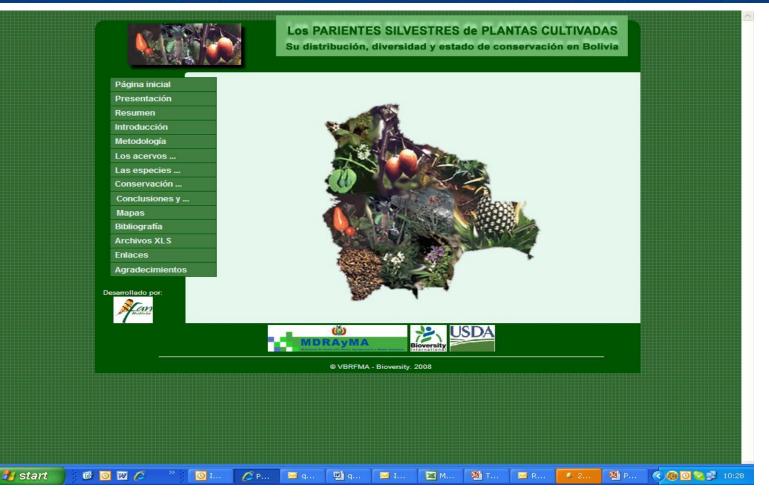
- 9 institutes set up institutional CWR databases with very detailed data
- 3010 records for 162 species
- Institutes send data for agreed descriptors via web services to national portal available at http://www.cwrbolivia.gov.bo/inicio.php
- CWR atlas http://www.cwrbolivia.gov.bo/atlaspsc/

















Madagascar

- Central Access database based on CWR descriptors
- Data for 154 CWR species
- Customization of existing national data portal on biodiversity data, REBIOMA, for the publishing of CWR data at national level rather than developing a dedicated CWR portal





Taxon Information					
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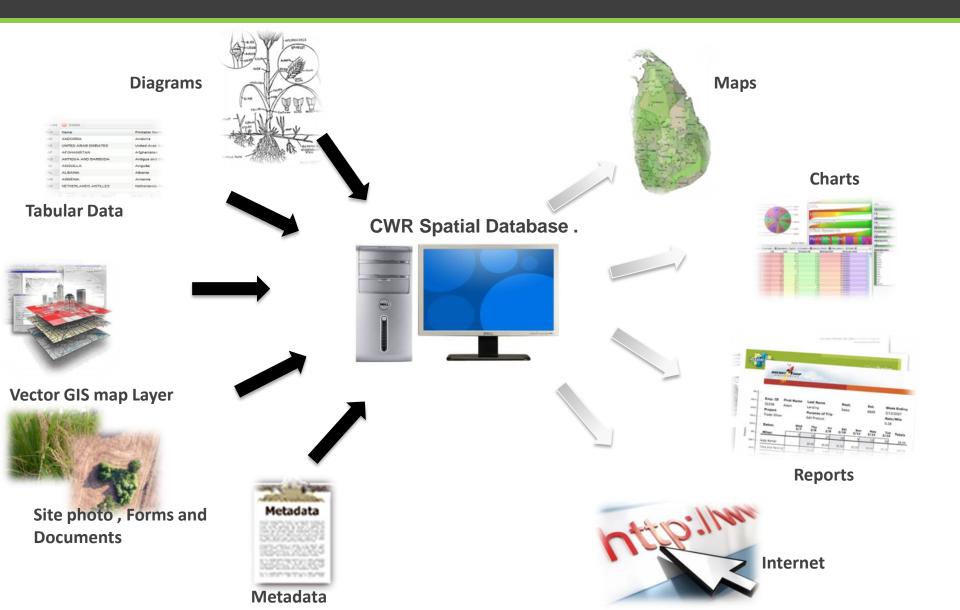
Sri Lanka

- Multi-user database
- CWR data integrated with display and generation of distribution maps





Spatial database components



CWR Spatial Database Control Panel





Taxon Module main window

Taxon		
Details about the taxon to which the described populati	nn accession or specimen belongs	
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Using Google Earth to Map CWR Site Locations and Save Them to a File

View in Google Earth

Google Earth in CWR Spatial Database

When you click the button on solution on the Google earth.

CWR atlas, all queried sites will be







Uzbekistan

- Access databases created
 - *in situ* based on field survey form used in the project
 - ex situ data from 6 research institutions
- Distribution maps
- All this is available from national website at <u>www.cwr.uz</u>



