



# BID-REX Basque Country Information needs



**Conclusions of the 1st Regional Participatory Workshop with Stakeholders**

**6th February 2017  
Bizkaia Technology Park**



## **BID-REX BASQUE COUNTRY: INFORMATION NEEDS**

### **WHY DID WE LAUNCH THIS PROCESS?**

Numerous organisations and initiatives contribute to generating information and scientific knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation services; all of this information is relevant for making decisions, producing regulations and defining future political strategies. This said, today there is no recognised, validated mechanism capable of collecting, summarising and analysing all of that information or which enables said decision making.

To rectify the situation, the Basque Government Ministry of the Environment and Planning has joined forces with the European BIDE-REX project, seeking to **reinforce the scientific-political interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services and thereby contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, human welfare and sustainable development.**







### **THE PROJECT.**

**BID-REX** is a European project funded by the Interreg Europe programme, running for 5 years (April 2016-March 2021), with the following mission:

**To improve conservation of the natural value by means of improved regional development policies, creating/strengthening the relationship between relevant biodiversity data and conservation decision making processes.**

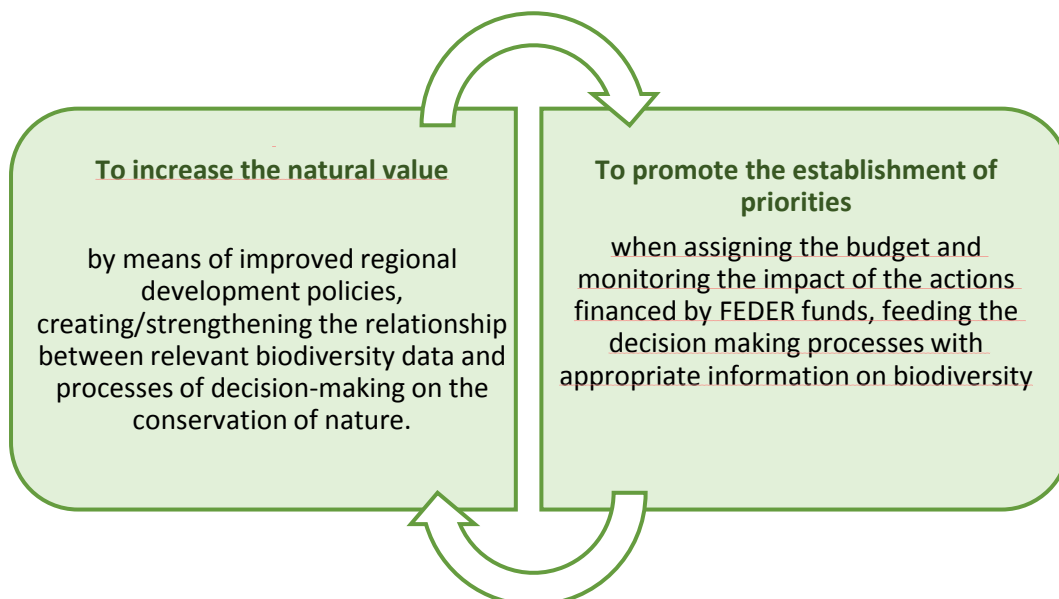
More specifically, it aims to facilitate the collection and use of information on biodiversity by providing decision making processes with appropriate information.

The Basque Government, by means of its Ministry of the Environment and Environmental Planning, participates in this project alongside another 6 regions in 6 European countries:

	REGION	PARTNERS
1	CATALONIA	 Generalitat de Catalunya <b>Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat</b>
2	BASQUE COUNTRY	 <b>EUSKO JAURLARITZA</b> <b>GOBIERNO VASCO</b>
3	NORFOLK COUNTY (United Kingdom)	 <b>Norfolk</b> County Council <b>UEA</b> University of East Anglia
4	MARCHE REGION (Italy)	<b>REGIONE MARCHE</b> 
5	LJUBLJANA MARSH (Slovenia)	 <b>NIB</b> NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY
6	NORTH GREAT PLAIN REGION (Hungary)	 University of Debrecen Debreceni Egyetem
7	WALLONIA (Belgium)	 <b>DGO 3</b>

This is a **process of policy learning** between relevant bodies dedicated to producing policies with the macro objective of **improving the implementation of programmes and regional development policies**.

### SPECIFIC AIMS OF THE PROJECT



## WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT?



Improved **prioritising** of biodiversity conservation efforts, using methods based on available evidence on biodiversity and the environment



A **guide** on how to obtain and use biodiversity data to **increase impact** of the funds assigned for the conservation of Europe's natural heritage



As a result of this interregional exchange, the partners and players involved will improve their **biodiversity information management skills**

## THE WORKSHOP.

This document looks at the contributions and reflections of the **1st regional participatory workshop** held on Monday, 6th February 2017, at Innobasque.

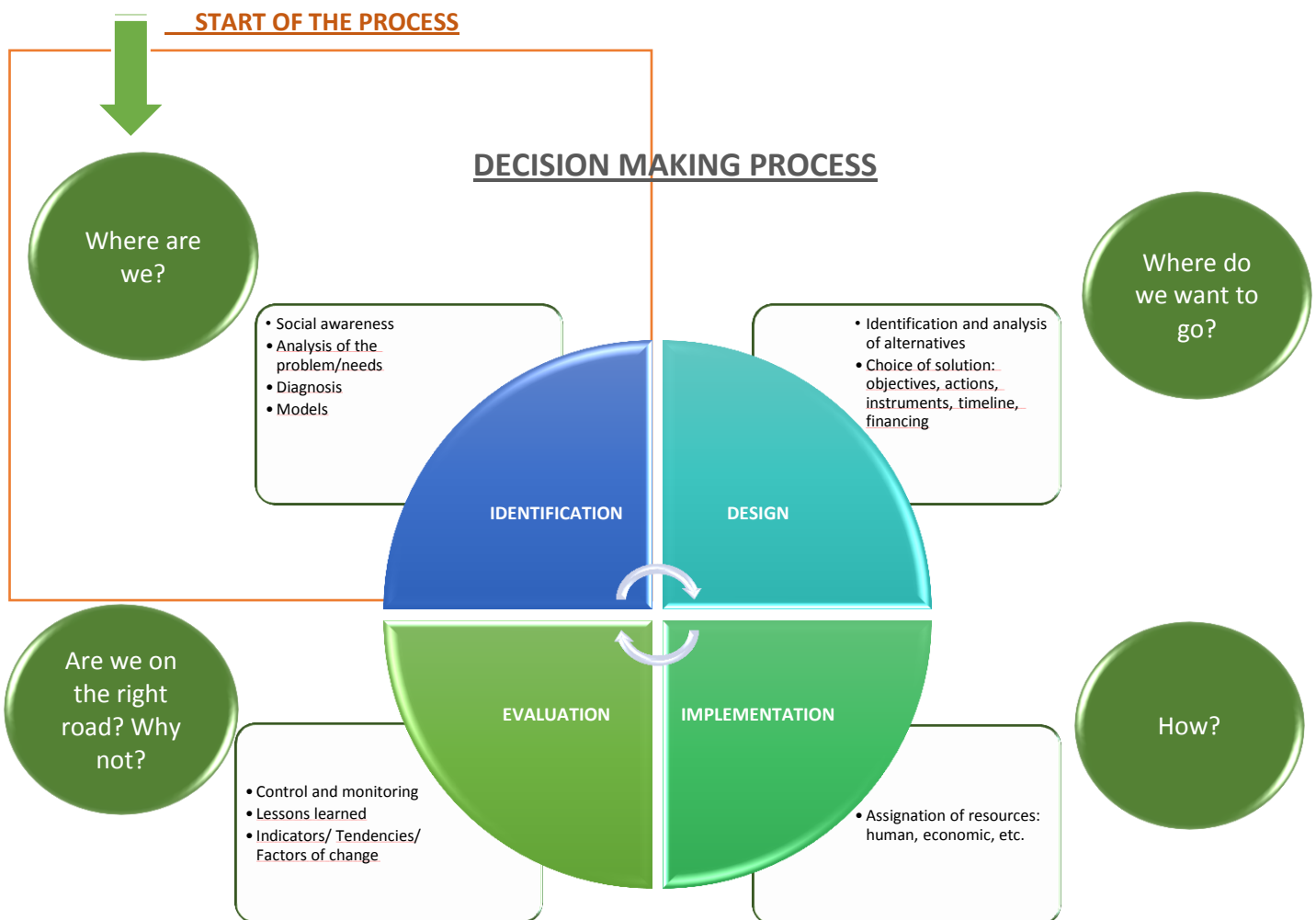
These regional sector forums are attended by key local players (data management heads, NGOs, professionals, researchers, etc.) involved in the collection, production and dissemination of biodiversity data; said forums act as a learning process and occasion for mutual enrichment between these players and the Regional Authorities.

The workshop was organised by the Basque Government Ministry of the Environment and Environmental Planning, in collaboration with Innobasque, as the first in a series of regional workshops to debate on issues related to the **need for coherent, pertinent and structured biodiversity information enabling the development of more efficient policies for conservation of the natural environment.**

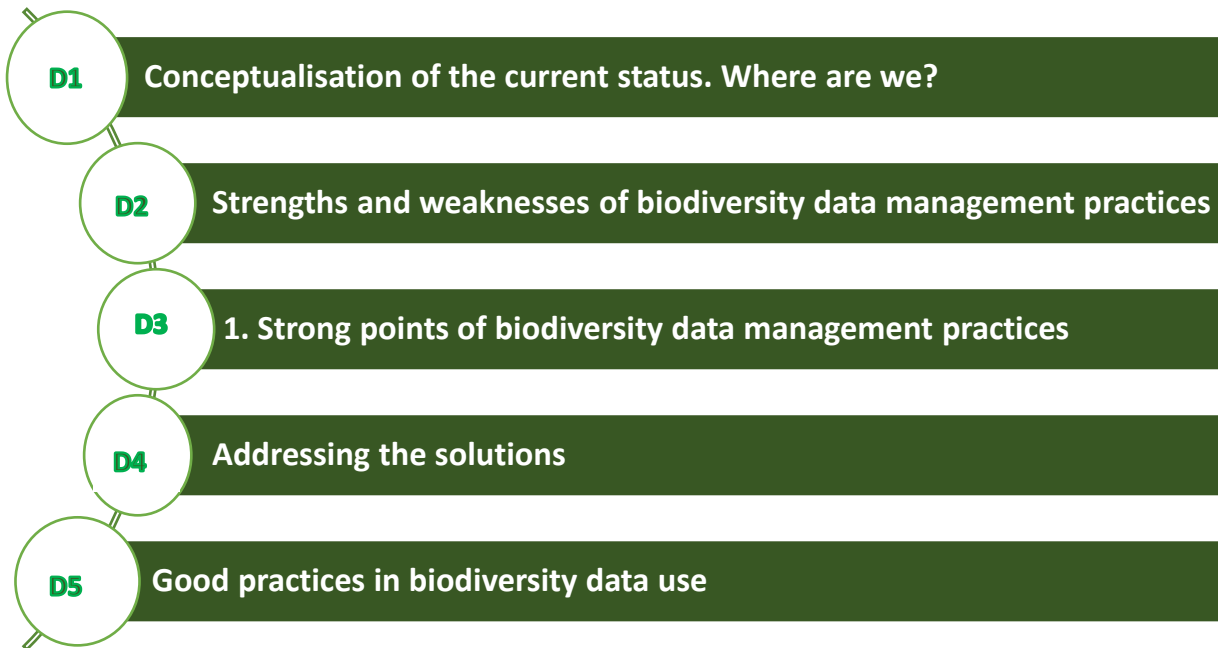
## WORKSHOP CONTENTS – THE DYNAMICS

The workshop had the core objective **to identify and prioritise information needs and data infrastructures in the field of biodiversity.**

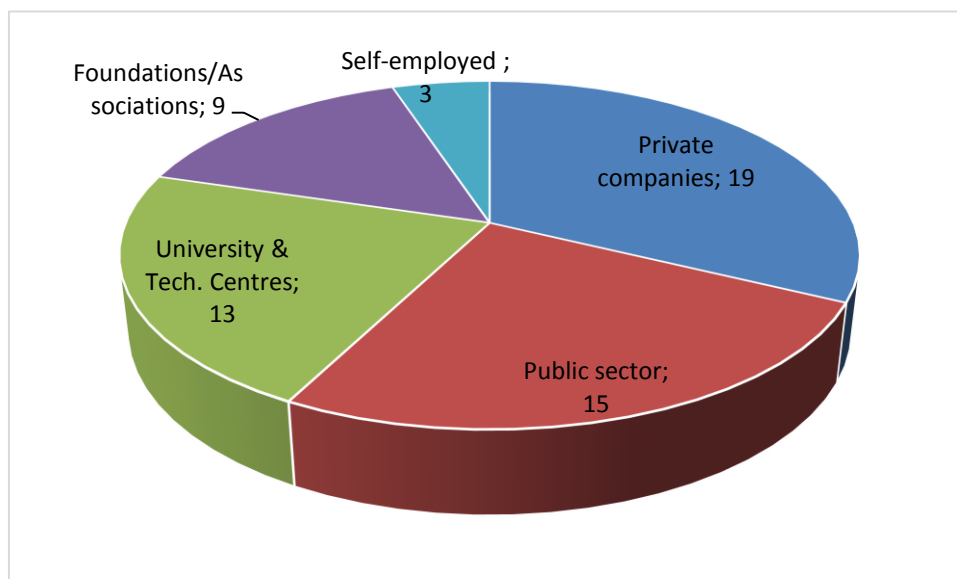
The intention was to obtain the first-hand impressions of data management heads regarding the currently existing biodiversity data management process. All of the information gathered will help political personnel and Project heads to define the strengths and weaknesses of the currently existing regional decision making process based on natural environmental conservation data management.



The workshop dynamics focussed on studying and answering the question “**Where are we?**”, with contributions from the different guest stakeholders. The idea was to join hands in identifying and diagnosing the current status of the biodiversity data system, based on the following dynamics:



Note that the workshop finally had 59 participants from different fields, as shown in the following graph:



## MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE-WORKSHOP

Below is a structured summary of the contributions made at the conference-workshop held on 6th February. These conclusions will serve as a basis for producing a Final Report, which will be added to the contributions made by the Basque Government at the Interregional Seminar in Wallonia on 22nd and 23rd February.

### DYNAMIC 1: DIAGNOSIS: WHERE ARE WE?

During the first part of the conference the stakeholders were invited to participate in a dynamic to **conceptualise the current status of the system** regarding the regional collection, processing/managing and publishing of biodiversity data.

The results of the dynamic focussed on defining the **processes** currently underway, the **types of data** collected and **the players/stakeholders** who currently participate in the ecosystem.

The participants defined the different types of process used in the field of biodiversity:

- 1) **WHAT ARE THE DATA USED FOR?** Report types (what the data are used for);
- 2) **WHAT DATA ARE USED?** Type of data used for said processes;
- 3) **WHO USES/USE THESE PROCESSES?** Type of stakeholders/players involved in their development and reception.

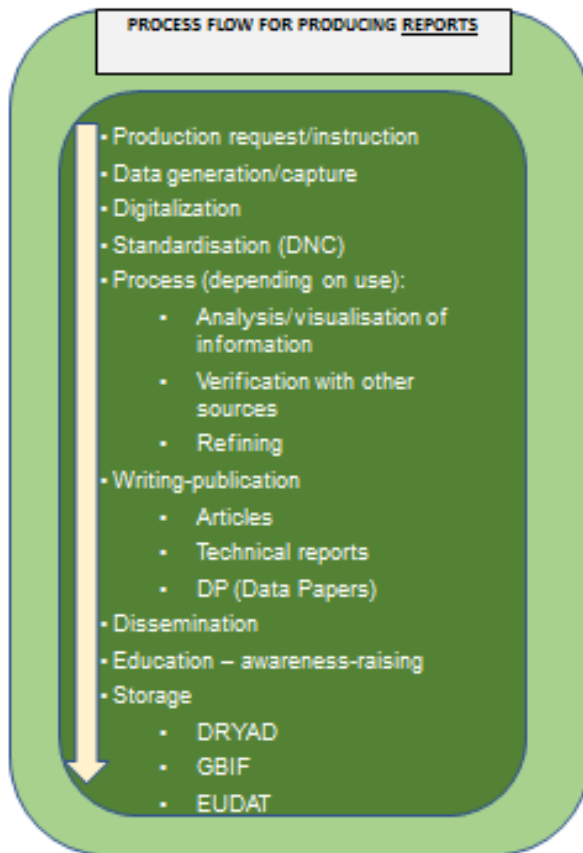
The results obtained can be seen in the following graph:

PROCESSES	DATA TYPES	PLAYERS/AGENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Producing reports               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTGF</li> <li>• EIA</li> <li>• Physical environment studies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Producing Plans (strategic/management)</li> <li>• Researches</li> <li>• Evaluations</li> <li>• Cartography</li> <li>• Regulations</li> <li>• Development of computer tools</li> <li>• Creation of didactic material (awareness-creating)</li> <li>• Communicative documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary (new and specific)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field data</li> <li>• Experts' data</li> <li>• Databases</li> <li>• Collection by volunteers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Secondary               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• GIS</li> <li>• Lists</li> <li>• Distribution areas</li> <li>• Time series</li> <li>• Bibliographic data</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Internal/external</li> <li>• Organised/analysed</li> <li>• Cartographic data</li> <li>• Georeferenced data</li> <li>• Regulations</li> <li>• Products               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB indexes</li> <li>• Distribution maps</li> <li>• Cartography</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants</li> <li>• Affected companies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Public administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basque Gov.</li> <li>• Provincial councils</li> <li>• Local bodies</li> <li>• State bodies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Citizens               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual</li> <li>• Organised</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Technology centres</li> <li>• Associations and NGOs</li> <li>• Field technicians</li> <li>• Universities (Researchers)</li> <li>• International organisations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU-BON    - Open Up!</li> <li>- GBIF       - LPI</li> <li>- IPBES      - Lifewatch</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

In this second stage the participants addressed and defined the **work flows used most (standardised)** in their fields of research/influence with a view to understanding, or at least to visualizing processes where shortfalls or gaps in biodiversity data could exist. On the one hand they defined the phases of producing a Report and, on the other, the phases involved in producing a Plan. The peculiarity of the latter is that they envisage the existence of high citizen participation in their design, collection and verification. And this, unlike the Report producing processes, is a different way of capturing and managing data. This said, both processes are always carried out with the intention of guaranteeing high data (intrinsic, FFU, sensitivity) quality and reliability, a recurring concept in the discussion space provided for attendees.

Below is a detailed graph of the necessary process flow for producing both a Report and a Plan, as depicted during the workshop:





## DYNAMICS 2 and 3: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF BIODIVERSITY DATA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

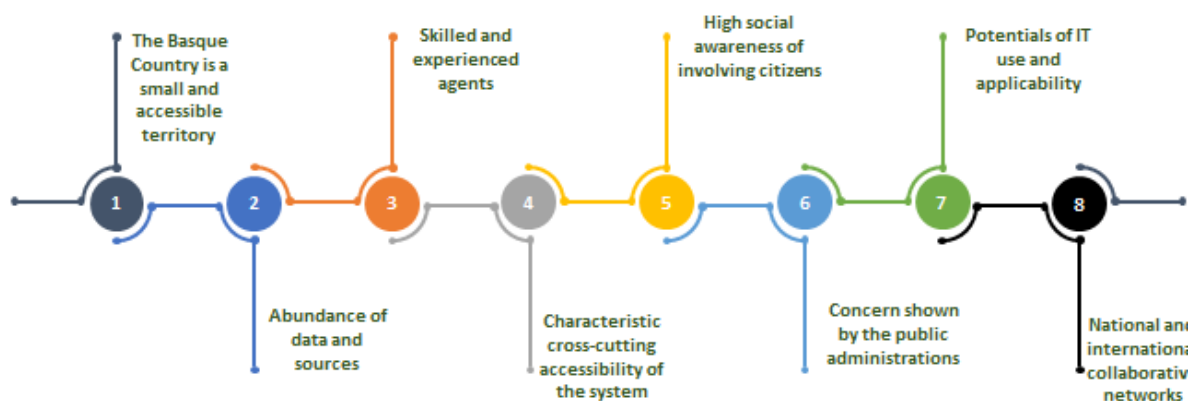
Having made the initial diagnosis and defined the starting point, the participants separated into groups to debate on the **strengths and weakness of the regional system** of collecting and storing information (data) on today's biodiversity.

This exercise served to identify

- on the one hand, gaps to be covered;
- and, on the other, potential mechanisms or tools for improvement.

The results obtained are summed up in the following graphs:

## STRENGTHS OF THE SYSTEM



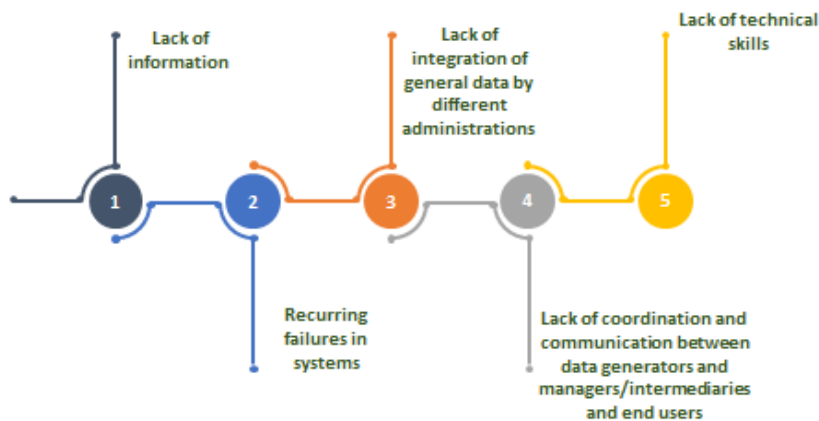
## STRENGTHS OF THE SYSTEM



- 1. The Basque Country is a small and accessible territory** with fairly exhaustive knowledge of its own geography and natural environment.
- 2. Despite its size, the abundance of data and sources is an aspect to be underlined**
  - The basic necessary information is accessible. The data are global and disaggregated, with potential interest in different sectors.
  - There is a powerful network for collecting primary data involving a wide variety of local stakeholders (businesses, knowledge and research centres, public administrations, associations and volunteers) which foster the generation of knowledge and its transfer.
- 3. Skilled and experienced stakeholders** with an obvious desire and vocation to capture and generate quality data and information.
- 4. Accessibility is a cross-cutting characteristic of the system:** on the one hand is the perception that the people involved in collecting, managing and producing data are accessible professionals and, on the other, the perception of the different experts/analysts who consider the existence of real data accessibility and visibility to be a fact.
- 5. Where there is high social awareness of involving citizens:** there is a real opportunity to raise awareness and involve citizens in the processes of collecting/compiling data/information. What is known as “Citizen Science” and its development represent a window of opportunity for the territory.
- 6.** There is a certain perception of **proven concern among the public administrations**, added to involvement and awareness-raising endeavours to develop support initiatives and instruments capable of generating improved conditions for the natural environment conservation and management system.
- 7.** We cannot forget the opportunities and **potential for use and applicability** offered by **the new information technologies**, and the fact that the necessary conditions for their appropriate use are considered to exist in the territory.
- 8.** Another point deserving mention is the abundance of **national and international collaborative networks** (technical committees, associations, information networks, etc.) which include and are appropriate spaces for learning, sharing experiences and demonstrating achievements.

The weaknesses or areas for improvement indicated by the participants are as follows:

## WEAKNESSES OF THE SYSTEM



## WEAKNESSES OF THE SYSTEM



### 1. It lacks...

- Basic primary data
- Updated data (e.g. Cartography)
- Standardised data
- Data on certain groups and species
- Data on taxonomic groups with scant representation
- Historical records
- Metadata

### 2. The information systems have recurring faults owing to...

- Insufficient methodological description
- Lack of standards for information collecting, storing and availability
- Poor information reliability (origin, source)
- Incompatibility between information sources (contradictory data from a same source)
- Accumulative errors owing to the use of unreliable data

- Existence of a large amount of “grey information”
- Repetitions
- Restricted access to certain existing data
- Information omissions/gaps

**3. Lack of general data integration by different administrations**

**4. Lack of coordination and communication between data generators and managers/intermediaries and end users**

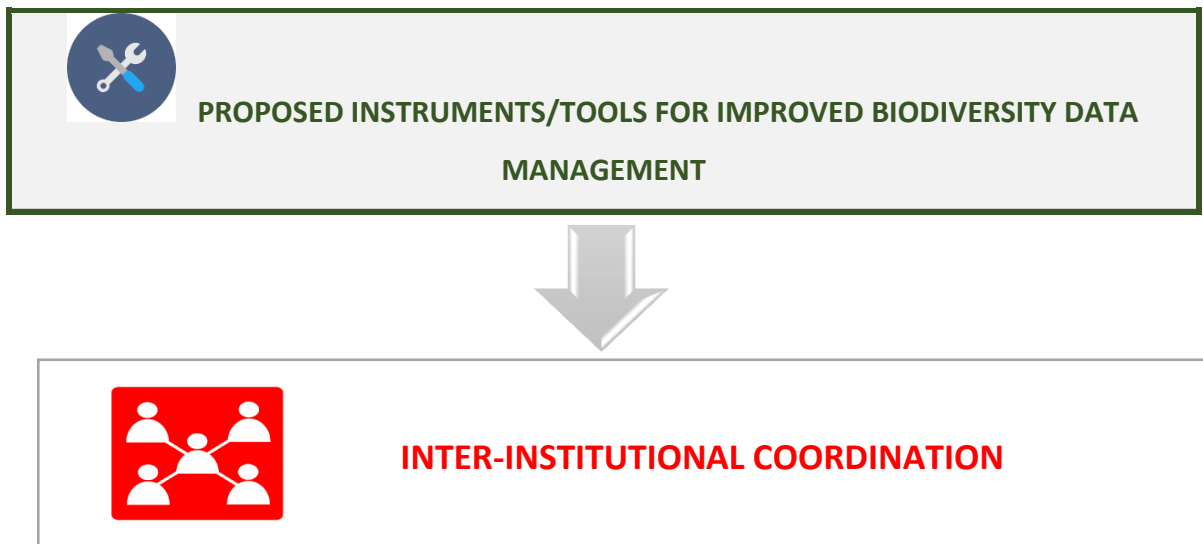
**5. Lack of technical training**

- Lack of specialists in certain areas
- Lack of technical and human resources (undervalued professionals)

## DYNAMIC 4: ADDRESSING THE SOLUTIONS – TOOLS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Having conceptualised the current status of the system and analysed its strengths and weaknesses, the participants set about working on **ideas to improve the processes of collecting and managing the currently existing biodiversity data**. A number of gaps were identified and different practical and viable practical solutions were suggested which, jointly set in motion, could imply substantial improvement both for the future of the information system and for decision making processes in the field of natural environment conservation.

The suggestions made by the workshop participants are detailed below:



The demand for greater coordination and cross-cutting exchange between institutions is constant. Not only between the **Basque Government, Provincial Councils and local bodies**; there is also a belief in the evident need for improved coordination between the **generators, intermediaries and end users** of biodiversity data/information.

**Improved coordination and organisation** between these institutions would mean, among others:

- ✓ More efficient use of the available economic, technical and human resources
- ✓ Greater ease in regard to establishing a common medium/long-term strategy with the appropriate financing package
- ✓ Improved planning of data collection, analysis and the production of studies
- ✓ Potential existence of funding for projects to promote updating, continuity, reliability and communication/dissemination

It is suggested that the **Basque Government assume the role of coordinator/enabler**, and that it group and coordinate under its framework of action the other administrations whose work is connected to management and conservation of the natural environment.

Another aspect to be underlined in this section is the perceived need to **promote networking, thereby enabling the participation of stakeholders** from the start of the processes of decision making to design policies, etc.



## PROTOCOL COMMON GUIDE ON DATA COLLECTION AND USE

Insistently and almost unanimously, the participants stressed the need to **guarantee good data quality**. A suggestion was therefore made to propose the development of a **common protocol** for collecting, using and pooling data in order to:

- ✓ Unify criteria/methodologies
- ✓ Establish filters (reliability)
- ✓ Share protocols for data capturing, storing and availability
- ✓ Guarantee data compatibility and coherence at different scales

This protocol can be used to guarantee the reliability (screening) of data collected and their **standardisation, processing and coordination**. It can also be used to **enhance their visibility and dissemination**, since introducing and fostering the use of this type of mechanisms for better grouping and standardisation results in an improvement in their final result.

This would mean an improvement in

- ✓ The transfer of data from the generating stakeholders to those responsible for their management;
- ✓ The possibility of end user access by producers in order to obtain knowledge permitting them to better refine the data captured.



## TRAINING

Another of the aspects to have emerged repeatedly is the **need to train the data generating stakeholders** in how to use the available collecting tools, with a view to more efficient data transfer. **Training for the end users** was also asked for.



## SHARED INFORMATION SYSTEM/PLATFORM

The **creation of a new platform, or improvement of those already existing** was suggested. There was talk of a biodiversity “**portal of information portals**” where the Basque Government, as its coordinator, would open access to and report on the existence of data from different sources (Provincial Councils, Universities, Research Centres, associations, etc.).

This was also a **proposal to integrate the information generated by all stakeholders** with a view to substantially reinforcing the knowledge base on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The consensus is that this platform can serve as a **powerful communication tool** capable of guaranteeing the **stronger political backing of actions related to biodiversity**, as well as **greater visibility and involvement by society**.

It is a way of **channelling data collection towards a holistic model**, and in turn, an undertaking to ensure the availability of organised data.

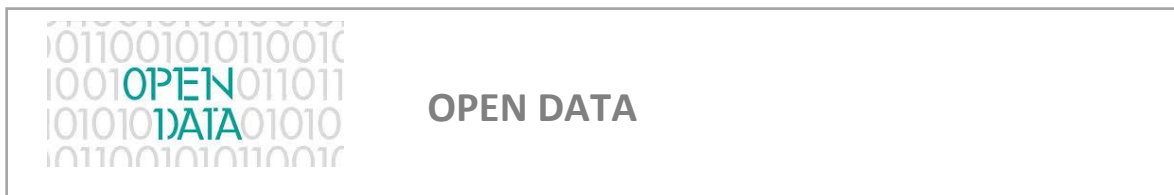
This could in turn enable **an expert network added to maintenance and fostering of the teams of specialists who work in the field of biodiversity**, hence lending visibility and rigour to their work.





There was insistence on the need to **support and boost the use of mobile devices**; applications, GPS, photos-videos for **faster data collection and management**.

These could also be used as an efficient way to **empower society**, enabling its members to become more involved in knowledge and dissemination of the natural environment around them (citizen science).



**Data which can be reused, reproduced and verified.** Organised data availability.

To achieve greater transparency and to ensure that the information can be used for the common interest, preventing it from being “retained”, we must insist on **publishing already existing reports** and the **digitization of so-called “grey information”**. However, this does require an enormous amount of work in the **fields of dissemination and awareness-raising**.

A suggestion is made to **work in collaboration with standardisation and metadata** (GBIF, TDWG/TBTS, EU-BON, EUDAT) **publishing bodies**.

## DYNAMIC 5: IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

The last workshop activity asked the participants to **identify and present examples of good practices in regard to processing and/or managing natural environment conservation data**. This could include good practices not only of a regional nature, but also national and international.

This identification exercise was intended to permit the Basque Government team to make a first screening and identification, in collaboration with the local stakeholders, of the ideas and practices that could be used as references in the framework of the project.

Below is a list of the good practices identified, together with a short description of each one, as proposed by the participating stakeholders:

**NOTE:** *All of the information given below has been directly taken from the contributions of the participating stakeholders. In some cases, more than existing good practices, they describe potential actions that could result in beneficial practice for developing a more efficient natural environment conservation policy thanks to efficient data management.*

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR DATA GAP ANALYSIS FOR BIODIVERSITY STAKEHOLDERS</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Best practice guide produced by GBIF taking a closer look at Data Gap Analysis processes in the case of biodiversity data, which may help to prioritise data mobilisation activities.</i>  <i>Authors: Arturo H. Ariño (who attended the Workshop), Vishwas Chavan and Javier Otegui</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provides a good standard for finding normalised data</li> <li>✓ Data accessibility</li> <li>✓ Improves data reliability</li> <li>✓ Training</li> </ul>

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<p><b>Forming part of international networks such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Global Network of National Geoparks (GGN)</b></li> <li>○ <b>BID-REX project</b></li> </ul>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Useful for exchanging ideas, experiences and knowledge (success stories)</li> <li>✓ Serves to join forces on common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practices</li> <li>✓ Implies the improved effectiveness and efficiency of resources</li> <li>✓ Turns the spotlight on own geological heritage</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>REGIONAL NETWORKS</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<p><b>Fostering networking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Udalsarea 21</b></li> <li>○ <b>Regional participatory workshop</b></li> </ul>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Generates technical conferences</li> <li>✓ Coordination of subjects to be worked on by Town and City Councils and by the different agencies, bringing them into line with the Basque Government Strategy</li> <li>✓ Coordination of subjects to be studied in thesis work and at the university in general, bringing them into line with the Basque Government Strategy</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>MUGI 21</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<p><b>Computer application of indicators for monitoring the extent of fulfilment of Local Agenda 21. It also includes all information on the Local Action Plans of municipalities and Local Sustainability Indicators.</b></p>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Defined, unified methodology</li> <li>✓ Enables management and monitoring of Local Agenda 21 processes</li> <li>✓ Compilation of standardised indicators</li> <li>✓ Useful at local level and permits the addition of information at provincial and BAC levels</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>AZERTU Programme</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Environmental Education Programme which, through environmental studies and the promotion of participation, aims to draw attention to the need to protect the environment. Combines two campaigns: AZTERKOSTA and Ibaialde.</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Raises awareness on the importance of generating information as a social, shared asset</li> <li>✓ Increases the citizen's knowledge of the natural environment, prompting action (those who know protect)</li> <li>✓ Good record of scientific data</li> <li>✓ Citizens participate in collecting data, invites participation</li> <li>✓ Has a large number of collaborators/volunteers for collecting data, which translates into lower costs</li> <li>✓ Education, dissemination and awareness-raising for the general public</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>URA- BASQUE WATER AGENCY</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Coordination between the agency and its data providers</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Involvement of technical personnel</li> <li>✓ Good coordination between the Agency and data generators</li> <li>✓ Up to date with European legislation</li> <li>✓ Having its own legal identity (Agency) makes for easier data management</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>CUSTODY OF THE TERRITORY AS A DATA GENERATING SOURCE (CATALUNYA)</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Involves "owners" in preserving natural resources</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Innovative and participatory initiative</li> <li>✓ Example of public-private collaboration</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>GEOEUSKADI</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE) of the Basque Country</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Easy access to and use of the information published</li> <li>✓ Contains information from different sources and bodies</li> <li>✓ Availability of data for any user</li> </ul>	

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Provides sound, independent information on the environment. Is the main source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public.</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Development of Environmental Status Indicators by means of integrating national data</li> </ul>	

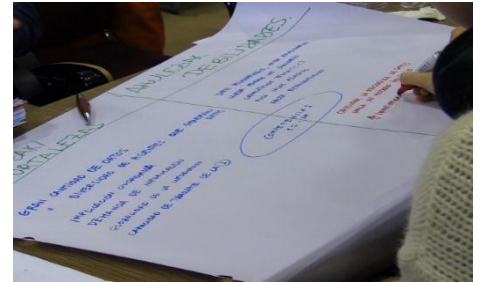
<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVES</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Citizen science initiatives are a valuable means of collecting updated, quality data; they also mobilise citizens to participate in biodiversity conservation activities.</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Simple data transmission</li> <li>✓ Awareness-raising and empowerment of citizens</li> <li>✓ Community creation and involvement</li> <li>✓ The Basque Government acts as the stakeholder responsible for coordinating the data obtained by means of these platforms</li> <li>✓ High potential for providing data at local level thanks to involving individuals</li> </ul>	

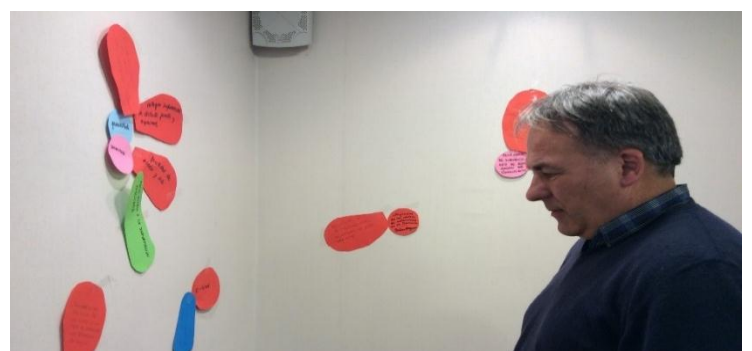
<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>EVALUATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY</b>
<b>Description of the practice</b>	<i>Establishes the current status, pressures and future scenarios based on existing information</i>
<b>Why is this practice proposed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Obtains a holistic vision of existing information</li> <li>✓ Proposes policies for improving the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> <li>✓ Identifies information gaps</li> </ul>	

Below we list other good practices mentioned but not developed, which we indicate for information purposes:

- **Biodiversity Information System (Ornitho)**
- **CIRCA**
- **Basque Government census reports**
- **IUCN red and green list of species**
- **E-bird**
- **Integration of nature centres in its territory (Peñas Negras)**
- **Department programme of subsidies for generating knowledge**
- **Biodiversity Action Plan (UK)**

## IMAGES – PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP







# ANNEXES

- ✓ **Results of the questionnaire on stakeholder recognition**
- ✓ **1st Basque Country Regional Workshop in the Social Media**
- ✓ **Appraisal of the workshop by its participants**

## Results of the questionnaire on stakeholder recognition

During the conference a questionnaire was distributed to the participants in order to obtain first-hand information on the extent to which **stakeholders feel they obtain recognition for their data collection and production work**, which they sometimes do selflessly and voluntarily.

The Basque Government was interested in learning whether **the correct mechanisms had been developed to make said recognition effective** and what aspects **have room for improvement**.

### QUESTIONNAIRE MODEL

Eragileekiko aitormena · Reconocimiento a los agentes		
Eragilea askok sekulako lana egiten dute datuen bilketa eta sorkuntzan, musutruk. Datu horiek partekatzerakoan... Muchos agentes realizan un inmenso trabajo de recopilación y producción de datos de manera voluntaria y altruista. A la hora de compartir esos datos...		
	Ongi egindakoak Aspectos positivos	Hobetzekoak / Aintzat hartzekoak A mejorar / A tener en cuenta
Eusko Jaurlaritzak lan hori behar bezala aitortzen edo baloratzen du? Zergatik? ¿El Gobierno Vasco reconoce y valora ese trabajo suficientemente?		
Nola jokatu beharko luke gai honetan Jaurlaritzak? ¿Qué más podría hacer el Gobierno Vasco?		
Besterik erantsi nahi duzu? ¿Quieres añadir algo más?		

**Thirty-seven questionnaires** were completed; the replies are grouped together and summed up in the following section.

**Do you think the Basque Government recognises and appreciates your data collection and production work, taking account of the fact that in some cases it is a voluntary and selfless task?**

- **Recognition is positively valued by contracting projects and financing certain research groups.** However, care must be taken at times of budgetary restrictions when this is the only channel used to make said recognition effective, meaning that other mechanisms must be established.
- There is recognition of the fact that, thanks to the voluntary work of some stakeholders, **knowledge gaps can be covered which the Administration would otherwise be unable to achieve** due to lacking the means (economic, human and technological) and/or time.
- It is obvious that, thanks to these collaborations, the stakeholders obtain short contracts giving them **a means to publish part of their data compilation and capturing work**, which is gratifying.
- Nevertheless, publishing these data on the knowledge platform **DOES NOT** earn prestige for the person who collected them. Efforts **should be made to raise the platform prestige and to encourage stakeholders** to participate in this initiative.
- The stakeholders understand that recognition also involves **applying quality standards to the revision and supervision of the data** shared with the Basque Government. They want to be expected to produce quality, and not to receive a subsidy in exchange for keeping them “happy”.
- There is a great deal of insistence on the fact that there are different degrees of expertise when processing data, and that some sources are more reliable than others (the taxonomists consider themselves to be the principal generators of “quality” data). They therefore **insist that data not shared in exchange for compensation or shared by volunteer organisations be subject to a stronger scientific/technical filter.**
- One constant perception is the **scarcity of means, whether economic, human or technical, available to the Basque Government for going about this recognition work.**

## What else could the Basque Government do? Suggestions for improvement

- **Improve knowledge** of research groups rather than simply recognising them.
- Continue working with certain tools, old and new, to highlight said recognition and guarantee **greater visibility and continuity (long term commitment) of the work carried out by data generating stakeholders**:
  - Issuing certificates and/or acknowledgements
  - Identifying the authorship and origin-source of the data used for publications (quote, quote and quote...)
  - Identifying good practices by stakeholders
  - Invitations to participate in more attractive publications: maps, reports...
  - Support to applied research
  - Publishing “unpublished reports”
- **Lead and improve coordination between institutions**: between different Basque Government Departments (Environment and Education, for example), between different Administrations (Provincial Councils and local bodies) and between public-private bodies.
- Foster the dissemination of scientific knowledge among citizens (**Citizen science**), bring the natural environment to society. Disseminate the platforms and tools emerging as a result of this initiative.
- **Suggested improvements in relation to the platform**:
  - Greater visibility. How and where can biodiversity data be shared?
  - Guarantee appropriate data accessibility
  - Efforts to keep data updated
  - User training
- **Inform on their activities using social media**: suggested LinkedIn group of professionals working in the field.
- **Continue to organise meetings (such as this workshop)** at which to share methods, with emphasis on training and continuous learning.
- **Promote work groups** being set in motion (fauna, flora, etc.). In order for these groups to be more effective and better coordinated, it would be interesting to correctly identify the participants by type of stakeholder (producer, user, etc.).
- **Coordination with European bodies** for the standardisation of emerging local protocols.

## THE WORKSHOP IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA

**elh** Elhuyar  
@Elhuyar

Seguir

@IngurumenEJGV Europako Bid-Rex proiektuaren lana dinamizatzen @Innobasque ren egoitzan



RETWEETS 5 ME GUSTA 6

1:56 - 6 feb. 2017

1 5 6

**i** Innobasque  
@Innobasque

Seguir

"De los datos sobre biodiversidad a las decisiones" @IngurumenEJGV Europako Bid-Rex proiektuaren lana @Innobasque-n



RETWEETS 2 ME GUSTA 1

2:58 - 6 feb. 2017

2 1

**i** Innobasque  
@Innobasque

Seguir

Taller participativo @interregbidrex Mejora del valor natural gracias a mejores políticas de desarrollo regional @IngurumenEJGV @Elhuyar



RETWEET 1 ME GUSTA 2

4:13 - 6 feb. 2017

1 2

**Lucia Peña**  
@LuciaSEOEuskadi

Seguir

Temas muy interesantes en la jornada "De los datos sobre biodiversidad a las decisiones"  
[@SEO\\_BirdLife](#)



RETWEETS 3 ME GUSTA 5

5:41 - 6 feb. 2017

Medioambiente y a Innobasque

3 5

**Alburen**  
@AlburenSL

Seguir

Hoy estamos en [@Innobasque](#) De los datos sobre biodiversidad a las decisiones  
[@Gob\\_eus](#)

RETWEET 1 ME GUSTA 3

0:41 - 6 feb. 2017

1 3

**Geoparkea**  
@geoparkea

Seguir

Today we are participating in a data-driven decisions workshop within the frame of [@interregbidrex](#) project, at [@Innobasque](#) facilities



RETWEETS 4 ME GUSTA 4

3:35 - 6 feb. 2017

**Lucia Peña**  
@LuciaSEOEuskadi

Seguir

Participando en "De los datos sobre biodiversidad a las decisiones" con [@Innobasque](#) y [@IngurumenEJGV](#)



RETWEETS 9 ME GUSTA 8





0:47 - 6 feb. 2017

## WORKSHOP APPRAISAL BY THE PARTICIPANTS

To round off the 1st Basque Country Regional Workshop, a new questionnaire was distributed to gather specific information on the extent of participant satisfaction with the organisation, development and content of this participatory event.

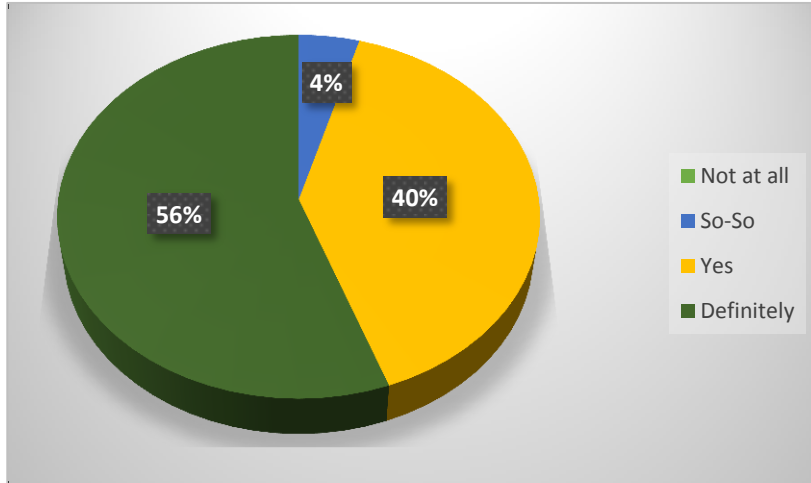
The results were broken down to obtain better understanding and enable the application of improvements to the next events-workshops on the agenda.

### QUESTIONNAIRE MODEL

BILERAREN BALORAZIO-ORRIA HOJA DE VALORACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN				
BALORAZIOA VALORACIÓN				
BILERAREN ORDUTEGIA ETA IRAUPENA EGOKIAK IZAN DIRA EL HORARIO Y LA DURACIÓN DE LA REUNIÓN HAN SIDO ADECUADOS				
GAIAK LANTZEKO MODUA GUSTATU ZAIT ME HA GUSTADO LA MANERA DE ABORDAR LOS TEMAS				
GIRDA ATSEGINA IZAN DA EL AMBIENTE DE TRABAJO HA SIDO AGRADABLE				
BILERAN EGON DIREN ERAGILEEN ANIZTASUNA GUSTATU ZAIT ME HA GUSTADO LA PLURALIDAD DE AGENTES QUE HAN PARTICIPADO EN LA REUNIÓN				
EGINDAKO LANA BALIAGARRIA IZAN DA / EMAITZAREKIN GUSTURA GERATU NAIZ EL TRABAJO REALIZADO ME HA SIDO VÁLIDO / ME HE QUEDADO SATISFECHA/O CON EL RESULTADO				
EGIN NAHI DITUZUN OHARRAK: COMENTARIOS QUE QUIERAS REALIZAR:				

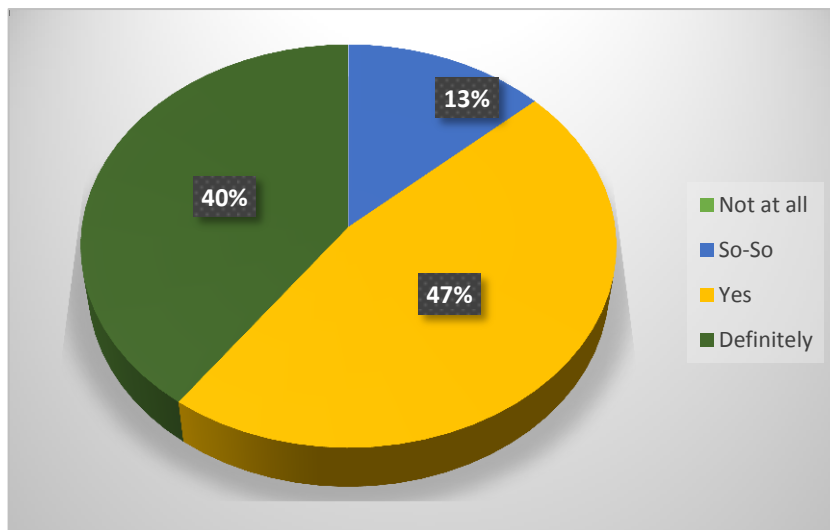
**Forty-five questionnaires were completed.** Their answers are analysed and indicated in the following section.

➤ THE MEETING TIMES AND DURATION WERE APPROPRIATE



Almost all of those (96%) who completed the questionnaire consider that the meeting times and duration were appropriate (*Answers: Not at all-0 people//So-So-2 people//Yes-18 people//Definitely-25 people*).

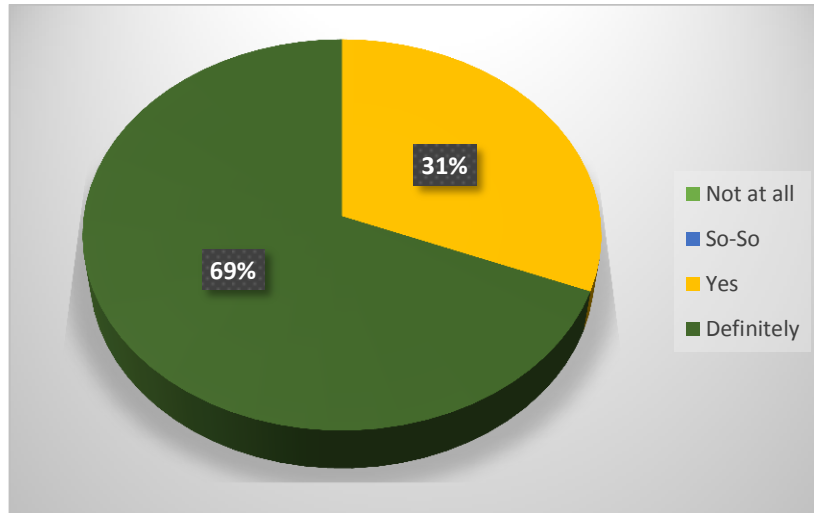
➤ I LIKE THE WAY THE ISSUES WERE ADDRESSED



All of the 87% of those who completed the questionnaire considered the way the issues were addressed to be appropriate, in comparison to 13% who found the dynamics to be so-so. (*Answers: Not at all-0 people//So-So-6 people//Yes-21 people//Definitely-18 people*).

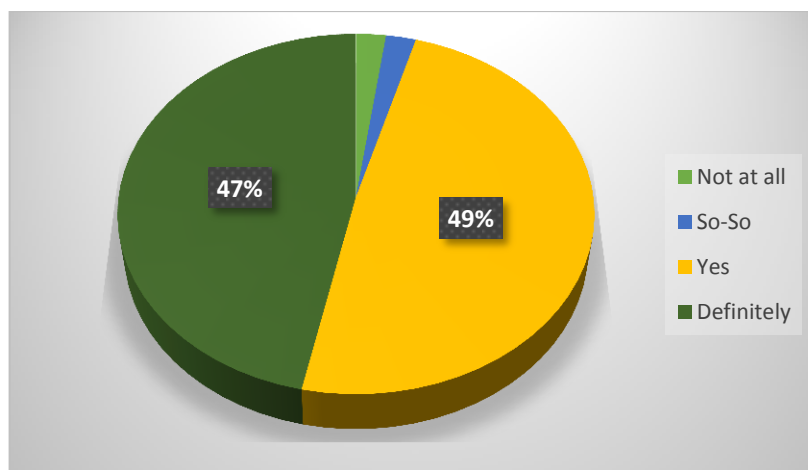


➤ THE WORK ATMOSPHERE WAS PLEASANT



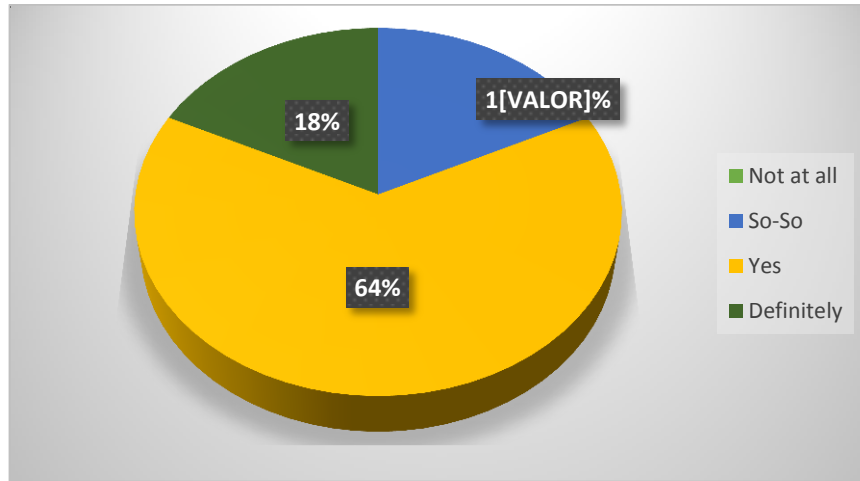
All of the questionnaire respondents (100%) consider that the workshop was a pleasant experience with a good working atmosphere (*Answers: Not at all-0// So-So-0//Yes-14 people// Definitely - 31 people*).

➤ I LIKED THE MIXTURE OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING



Almost all of the questionnaire respondents (96%) consider that the mixture of stakeholders participating in the workshop was well balanced (*Answers: Not at all-1 person//So-So-1 person// Yes-22 people//Definitely- 21 people*).

➤ I FOUND THE WORK CARRIED OUT TO BE USEFUL/I WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS



18% of the questionnaire respondents consider that the work carried out at the workshop was so-so, compared to 82% who were satisfied with the results (*Answers: Not at all-0 people//So-So-8 people//Yes-29 people//Definitely- 8 people*).

A few suggestions to be taken account for future events-workshops:

- **Avoid Monday mornings** when organising a workshop.
- **Not very accessible location.**
- Share a list of attendees with all participants.
- Duration: more time is required if the subject is to be studied in greater depth.
- **Wider diversity of stakeholders:** from other fields (education, computer science) or even stakeholders who could use the data for purposes other than conservation of the natural environment.
- Dynamics:
  - Lack of information at the outstart to lend context and help in achieving greater precision.
  - Start from the results of the online questionnaires already completed in order to channel the participation.