



BINCO, the acronym for “Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation”, is a Belgian-based organization with expertise in biodiversity assessment and monitoring. We have an international engagement to conserve our natural capital. The unprecedented decline of biodiversity on a global scale is no longer news. Human's growing presence in this world has already driven uncountable species to extinction. With many more species disappearing every day, now is the time to act. To preserve the remaining biodiversity, a first fundamental step is to acquire a sound knowledge of which species live where. All subsequent steps, from gaining a better insight into the role of specific species in ecosystems, to developing individual species protection programs, habitat conservation and nature management, depend on the accuracy and availability of this “primary data”. Despite the importance of this first step, it is often a weak point in conservation projects and policy decisions.

Practically, BINCO is a consortium of seasoned field biologists and scientists that provide a framework for engaged people to develop biodiversity projects, with four main points of attention:

**1. Biodiversity assessment and monitoring**

Collecting information on biodiversity with no geographic limitation. The majority of BINCO projects are Biodiversity Express Surveys (BES) in poorly studied, highly threatened and/or ecologically interesting areas, aimed at documenting the biodiversity in these selected regions. Additionally, BINCO advises (designing, developing and analyzing) a wide range of stakeholders on how to install monitoring programs, estimate population sizes of threatened species and develop regional red lists.

**2. Standardization of biodiversity assessment protocols**

Standardization of biodiversity assessment validates the data beyond the local scale of the study region. BINCO promotes the development of standardized protocols for biodiversity surveys and monitoring.

**3. Data availability**

Free and unhindered availability of biodiversity data is essential when making informed conservation decisions. BINCO is working towards make biodiversity data freely available. With this in mind, we provide dynamic (i.e. updated as information becomes available) reports on the BINCO website which contain all information about expeditions and surveys. Results are also published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and added to relevant online databases.

**4. Education, capacity building and raising awareness**

Effective conservation of biodiversity is possible only through an integrated approach that includes all stakeholders. Collaboration facilitating knowledge transfer, and informing stakeholders on the value of biodiversity are an important part of BINCO projects.

## Contact

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