

The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS, an international programme of biodiversity sciences, actively explores and explains the great biological richness of the mountains of the world. It contributes input to policy on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in mountain regions, e.g providing input to the review of the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), GMBA encourages a global effort to mine biodiversity databases on mountain organisms, to achieve a better understanding of mountain biodiversity and predicting its changes. A synthesis of two GMBA workshops on "Data mining for global trends in Mountain Biodiversity" (CRC press/Taylor and Francis, available in Sept. 2009), provides a collection of convincing studies using geo-referenced biodiversity data for biodiversity research and management. An interactive mountain biodiversity webportal will allow usage of GBIF data in a mountain specific context. A joint workshop on "Linking Geodata with Biodiversity Information in the Himalayas" with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in November 2008 aimed to improve the biodiversity data from the Himalayan region and to provide open access to geo-referenced biodiversity information.

GMBA also coordinates a worldwide network of field experiments on land use and biodiversity in steep mountain terrain, aiming to quantify the influences of land use and biodiversity on catchment value. Projects are underway in the Bolivian Altiplano, Central Caucasus (Georgia), European Alps (Austria, France and Switzerland), and Himalayas (China).