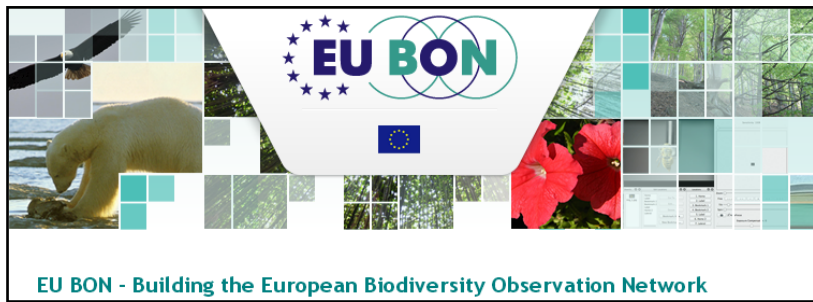# FP7 e-Infrastructures Programme

## An NZ example of engagement

## Jerry Cooper

# FP7 e-infrastructure Programme

- *"It aims at empowering researchers with an easy and controlled online access to facilities, resources and collaboration tools, bringing to them the power of ICT for computing, connectivity, storage and instrumentation"*
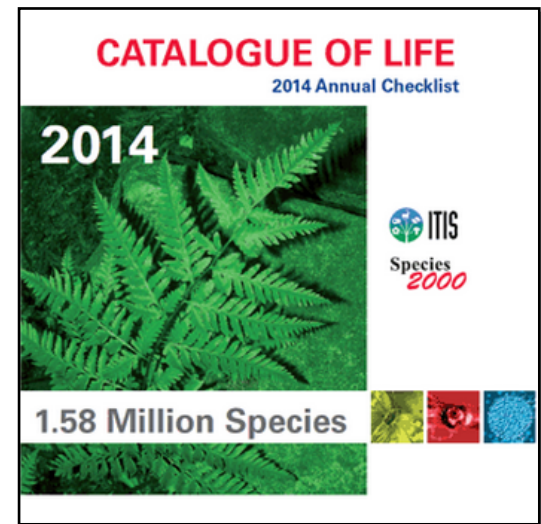
EU e-infrastructure and NSF cyberinfrastructure programmes are vital to tech/information transfer

# Our engagement was with ...





Two e-infrastructure programmes to support **the Catalogue of Life** (CoL)

CoL is the (incomplete) list of all names of all described organisms, their synonyms and common names.

It is a vital data-backbone for biodiversity data-management supporting research, operational management, policy development ... IUCN Red data, GenBank, GBIF ...

# How/Why did we engage?

Teams from different countries were already interacting at the international level to solve a common problem.



The **Catalogue of Life** is (was) manually assembled from over 100 separate databases several times a year

European/Global E-Infrastructure required!

**The New Zealand Organisms Register** (NZOR) is the New Zealand national digital species catalogue, assembled from separate databases on a weekly basis.

NZOR is part of CoL

National E-infrastructure required!

# What happened?

- China, USA, Australia and NZ proposed as vital non-EU partners in 4D4Life by UK-based lead

- Confusion about eligibility of non-EU partners for (EU) funding
    - issue around communication/support within the EU system for applicants

- China got EU funding
- USA leveraged national funding
- Australia and NZ – no funding (but still in project!)

# Outcomes

- We achieved allocated milestones within several work packages
  - work we needed to do anyway, and largely funded elsewhere

- NZ developed the ONLY operational e-Infrastructure to solve the problem

- Our work not picked up by CoL because it wasn't funded within the project
  - The EU lost out on utilising our expertise
  - Future engagement for NZ limited (clique formation)

# (My) lessons

- Remember EU funding is about supporting the research process, as well as doing it

- Leverage existing international networks
  - which requires NZ-sourced funding to support international engagement in the first place

- Get in early (before the cliques develop)

- Make sure everybody knows and agrees who is eligible for what funding before you develop the work plans

# H2020 e-infrastructures Potential?



ESFRI (FP7 prep for H2020)
Already done a heap of work
prioritising work, and
identifying partners for bids



H2020: ELIXIR Biological e-
infrastructure consortium

No current involvement from
NZ