

Biodiversity Information Sharing System (BISS) focuses on ASEAN Protected Areas

■ By Imelda C. Pangga

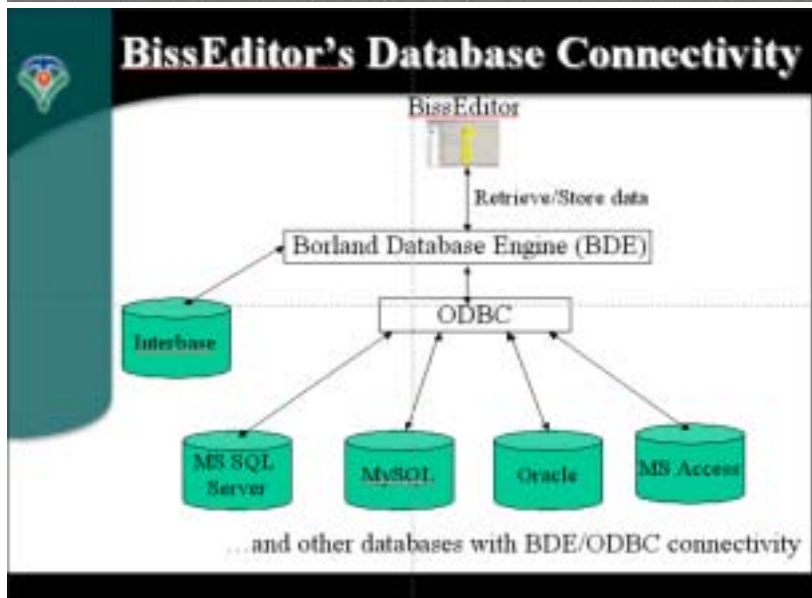
The ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) is a network of institutions designed to strengthen biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region. The Centre is located in Los Banos, Philippines and linked to focal agencies working on conservation of biodiversity among the ASEAN Member Countries (AMC). It began operations in 1999 and is jointly funded by the European Union and the ASEAN.

ARCBC currently manages and maintains a database consisting of protected areas and species of flora and fauna of the ASEAN and biodiversity institutions, experts and training resources data. The ARCBC metadatabase is accessible through a website (www.arcbc.org).

The Centre developed a state-of-the-art data management system that is easily transferable to the NBRUs or biodiversity focal agencies in each ASEAN country. The database is web-ready and could be used as an effective database platform suitable to the needs of the NBRUs and the ARCBC itself.

ARCBC developed the following software products for making on-line databases:

- 1) ABISS Web-database module – Full biodiversity data search and retrieval engine on any number or type of items stored in the database. It has a mapping feature that can show a map of a region showing point data from the database with any number of zoom levels. Individual points can be queried to have access to the underlying data (e.g distribution of species).
- 2) GenSQL – A data transfer utility which uses Borland Database



- Engine (installed with it)
- 3) Remote Datapump – enables the transfer of data tables between two different databases, or to update data from another table in a remote or local server (web-based)
- 4) BISS Editor – provides easy access to records and datasets in a SQL database.

The website shows the searchable database of plant, butterfly, amphibian, bird, reptile, freshwater fish. On-line species data includes 2396

birds, 945 mammals, 655 amphibians, 1995 freshwater fish, 1652 reptiles, 33411 plants. A total of 1518 protected areas are currently on-line.

All of these products were made out of free software and maintenance use is free of charge. These were then provided to the NBRUs to be used in managing their country data sets. ■

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