# Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs)
Using biodiversity observations to understand its status and trends

EBVs are biodiversity data tracked over time, mapped or calculated from basic measurements. Managed by the **Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)**, EBVs help monitor changes in biodiversity over time and space.

This **standard approach to evaluating change in biodiversity metrics** helps us understand changes over time and space using models and time series, and make better choices to protect our environment.

EBV classes and EBV names:
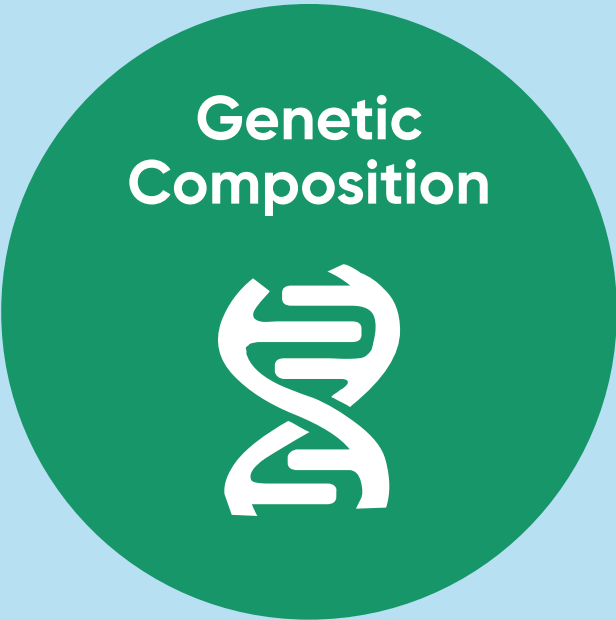
Genetic Composition
- Genetic diversity
- Genetic differentiation
- Effective population size
- Inbreeding

Species Population
- Species distributions
- Species abundances

Species Traits
- Morphology
- Physiology
- Phenology
- Movement
- Reproduction

Community Composition
- Community abundance
- Taxonomic/ phylogenetic diversity
- Trait diversity
- Interaction diversity

Ecosystem Functioning
- Primary productivity
- Ecosystem phenology
- Ecosystem disturbances
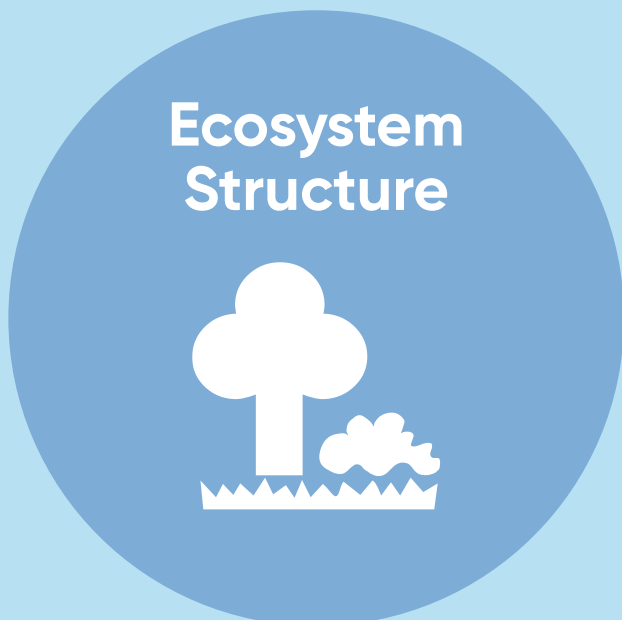
Ecosystem Structure
- Live cover fraction
- Ecosystem distribution
- Ecosystem Vertical Profile

GEO BON
Group on Earth Observations
Biodiversity Observation Network

MBON
Marine Biodiversity
Observation Network
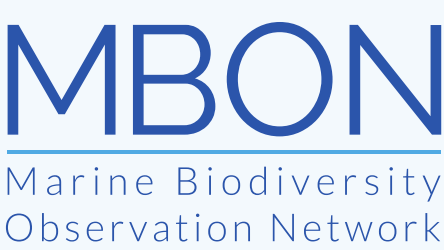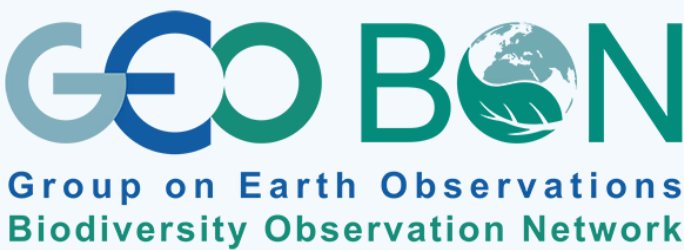
More information on the EBVs can be found on the GEO BON website www.geobon.org