

Movebank Update # 1

May 15, 2008

We are glad to send you a first general message/update from your Movebank team:

This is the first update on the Movebank project. You are receiving this because you registered with our website (www.movebank.org). If you want to un-register please reply to this message. This is our first message, and its a bit long. In the future we will aim to send a shorter message out approximately every two months.

Movebank is an online resource for analyzing animal movement data and establishing collaborations to expand our science and conservation reach through shared analyses. We started working on Movebank (as an NSF-funded project) at the end of 2007 and will update you on our progress below. This update will focus on animal tracking data, a future messages will cover our progress with camera trapping data.

LONG-TERM NATURE OF MOVEBANK

- The Max Planck Institute for Ornithology/Germany and the NY State Museum guarantee long-term (25 years and beyond) institutional support for Movebank beyond the first NSF-funded period of 3-4 years. Thus, we are here to stay.

DATA

- Rolf Weinzierl (Max Planck Institute) is leading the effort on the core database, with help from our San Diego crew. We are presently running through some test data and establishing data security and sharing standards. We expect to have a functional database ready for scientists to test in the fall of this year.

- Movebank will enable 4 levels of sharing: 1) only available to specific users you designate (e.g. graduate students, key collaborators), 2) metadata (species name, number animals, etc...) available to all searches but no raw data visible, 3) metadata and raw data visible to searches, but users must agree to contact you before publishing anything to work out authorship/credit 4) metadata and raw data available with no strings attached.

- We have begun discussions with a few groups to set up a distributed data network including SeaTurtle.org, Bird Life International, and the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics. This model will allow tracking data would remain in existing databases organized by the owner of the data, but linked to Movebank for queries and analyses. If you are interested in connecting your database in this way please contact us.

- We are working with Martin Storhas to develop web GUI's and databases and Matthias Berger for some integrated visualization tools (both Max Planck Institute).

ANALYSES

- Team members at San Diego Supercomputer Center are leading our effort to add analyses and visualizations to Movebank through Web Services. Sameer Tilak, Tony Fountain, Roger Unwin and Peter Shin are working first to integrate some spatial analyses available in the R package.

- Movebank team members at University of Illinois, Jiawei Han and Jae-Gil Lee are working with the SDSC crew to open up their trajectory analyses to data from Movebank through web services.

- We are also reaching out past our core team to integrate in analyses and visualizations from other groups. Judy Shamoun-Baranes (Inst. for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, Amsterdam) and Jake Wall (Save the Elephants) are developing web services to be able to integrate their visualization tools in with data through Movebank. If you have visualization or analysis tools you would like to make available to users of Movebank please contact us so we can help you build the web services to connect them.

COLLABORATION SCIENCE

- Allison Cameron (noremacnosila@gmail.com) will be joining us as a post doc in July to help organize collaborative research projects. Please contact her directly if you have specific ideas of collaborative project you think Movebank could help with.

- We are starting to put together our first large scale collaboration project, combining and analyzing all the available raptor migration tracks to get a global view of their movement. We are tentatively scheduling a workshop on this topic at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania for early 2009. If you are interested in participating please contact Alison Cameron.

- We have begun discussions with National Geographic Society and Freedom to Roam about possible outreach and conservation projects involving animal tracking data. We hope to make connections like these available to Movebank users, if they like, to help their data make an impact past the narrow world of peer-review publications.

Thanks again for your interest in Movebank!

Best wishes, Roland and Martin (signed for the Movebank team)