

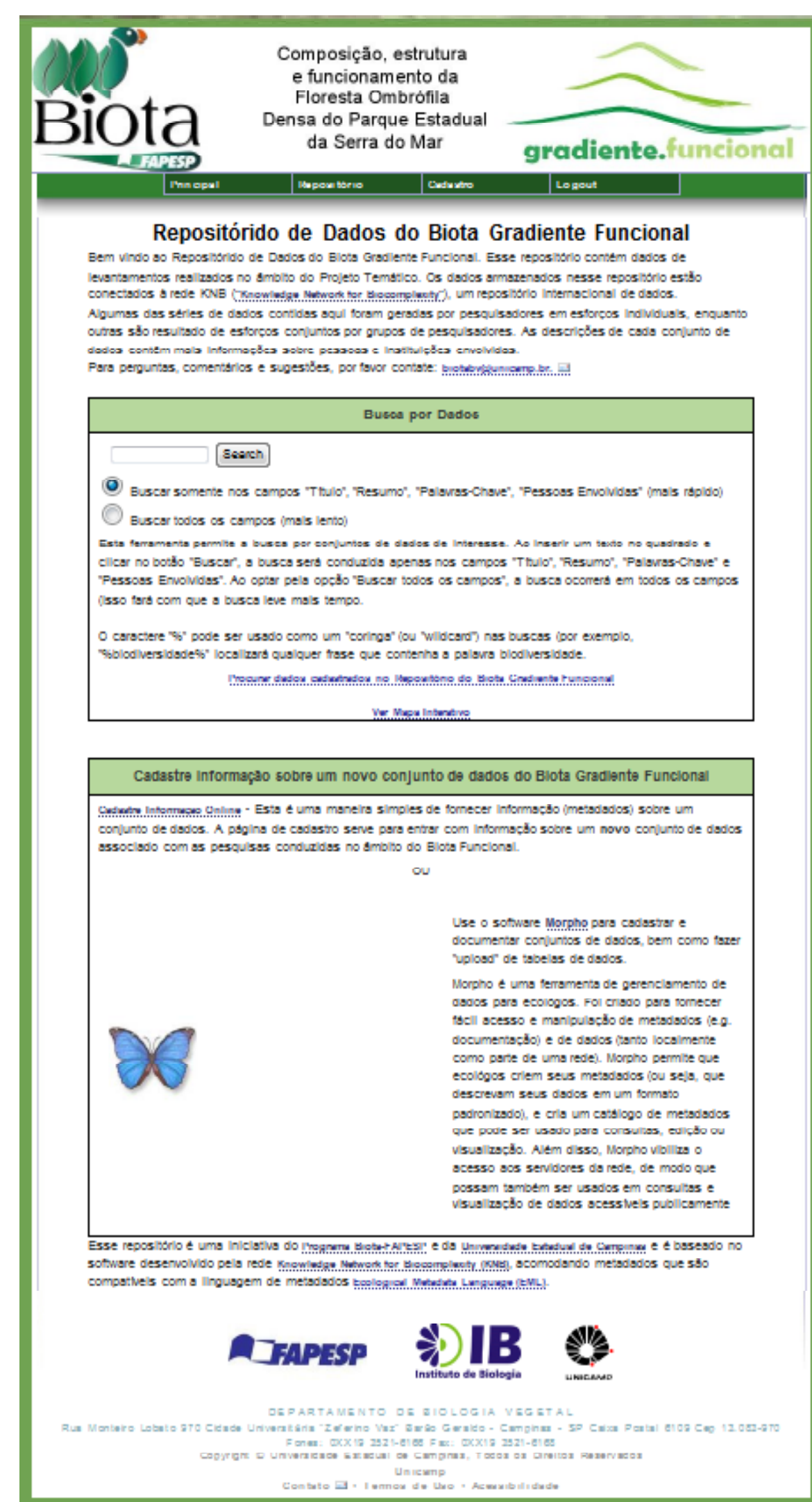


Brazilian Initiatives on Ecological Data Integration and Management



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Several institutions and researchers generate information about Brazilian Ecosystems, but such valuable datasets are often dispersed, poorly documented and inaccessible. We present efforts from three governmental/public pioneer research programs (one at State level, two at Federal level) on biodiversity and ecology to enhance the long-term value of existing data by making it available for further research.



Both **BIOTA/FAPESP** Program - The Biodiversity Virtual Institute (São Paulo State initiative), **PPBio/CENBAM** – Program for Biodiversity Research & Center for Integrated Studies of Biodiversity in the Amazon and **ITER – Brazil** (National initiatives) adopted worldwide used tools to manage and share ecological data (Metacat and Morpho). All information is documented in Ecological Metadata Language (EML), a metadata specification used to describe ecological field surveys datasets in a structured format. Furthermore, data from biological collections was shared online due to initiatives from BIOTA and PPBio Programs.

Further challenges include linking customized databases generated by particular features from different projects to the metadata catalog. Our effort is a contribution to advance on biodiversity information integration and to foster synthetic studies. These initiatives have stimulated other institutions in past decade, and are now building up partnership in order to create a National Standard for Biodiversity Information Management and Curation.

