Movebank Data Model

Description of the Movebank data model – which facilitates the integration of animal movement data across a range of species, study designs and tracking methods.

# Main Data Model Concepts

All data is stored in individual studies (created and managed by user accounts) – the main concepts include animal, tag, deployment, and event.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

## Animal

An individual of a known speces/taxon – they are referenced within studies, if multiple studies refer to the same animal, there will be multiple records of it in Movebank. In these cases it is best practice for users to assign the same identifier to the animal in each study.

## Tag

A tag can have multiple sensors and can only deployed on one animal at a time. A unique identifier (Tag ID) must be linked to every event in Movebank.

## Deployment

A deployment represents the period during which a specific tag is attached to a particular animal.

## Event

An event is a measurement or set of measurements recorded at or associated with a known time. An event is equivalent to one record or row from an imported data file. Events can include location estimates, measurements recorded by or derived from the tag (such as temperature or acceleration) and information provided by the data owner (such as a behavioural classification).