

## ***Interactive comment on “Digital map of the Coral Triangle: An online atlas for marine biodiversity conservation” by Irawan Asaad et al.***

**F. Huettmann (Editor)**

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Dear Authors, I went through the reviews and found them positive, which reflects my own assessment of the work.

However, one issue I would like to stress is the notion of data, and "maps as data". Arguably, a jpg or tiff image, or a map as a PDF figure, is less useful for people to use and re-use, and for transparent and repeatable science.

That's a certain problem in any Atlas work I know of, but can be addressed. Compliant ISO Metadata and Open Source tools, e.g. good database and GIS map formats, R and Open Source GIS tools can be key for that argument to convince and to show leadership.

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Beyond the content and accuracy, I would like to emphasize the relevance of this topic for the wider community of users and for ESSD and its mission.

Thanks so much; I am looking forward to the response. Very best Falk Huettmann PhD,  
Professor Uni of Alaska Fairbanks

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