SANBI-GBIF and GBIF-Spain partnership to investigate data mining approaches for impactful data use cases and stories

Programme: CESP
Project ID: CESP2022-005
Project page: https://www.gbif.org/project/CESP2022-005/cross-continental-partnership-to-investigate-data-mining-approaches-for-impactful-data-use-cases-and-stories
Project lead organization: South African National Biodiversity Institute - GBIF
GBIF Participant Represented: South Africa
Project implementation period: 1/8/2022 - 31/7/2023
Report approved: 1/3/2023

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

An initial institutional visit to GBIF-Spain was conducted, With a focus on training with regards to the eLearning Platform, as well as having discussions with regards to data
use and data analysis, as well as discussions related to data science aspects like, big data and Artificial intelligence. A draft agenda including topics and potential trainers was put together for the training workshop that will be held in South Africa in June 2023. A course was created on the eLearning platform with 30% of the content uploaded.
An additional data science expert, Dr Dr. Fernando Aguilar, will be joining the in-person training in South Africa to bring relevant skills to the training event. An additional expert from GBIF Spain might also assist with writing scripts and material although will not attend as a trainer. An additional member of staff from SANBI, Mrs. Hannelie Snyman, also attended the first meeting.

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary
Activities 1 and 2 were carried out in December 2022 in Spain. Activity 1 was 100% complete , and a course was created on the eLearning platform for the training workshop in July 2023. The eLearning training and information exchange allowed for SANBI-GBIF support person to gain new insights on the online platform which included various methods enhance efficiencies in data and information upload, to decrease the in the amount of time it takes to create and upload content to the online course. Together with GBIF-SPAIN support staff, the course was created with documents and information being uploaded immediately. There was a delay in when this trip was taken (December instead of August) due to COVID regulations, which limits the amount of time available for the overall project to be undertaken. A movement in travel dates meant an increase the cost of flight tickets.
Activity 2 was successful with 80% completion. Discussions and engagements on the identification of data techniques and analyses to support impactful data use cases/stories were conducted. Lists of topics, techniques, and trainers were established, which allowed for the generation of an agenda for the training in June 2023, in South Africa. The remaining 20% will be finalized in activity 3- the institutional visit to SA in March 2023.

Activities 3 and 4 will take place a month later than originally identified in the proposal, however, this will not impact the project negatively, as it still falls within the project period.

Completed activities:
Activity 1: eLearning training and information exchange.
Activity 2 : List has been developed

Completed activities

Activity name: Institutional visit to Spain

Description: Institutional Visit and Learning Exchange to GBIF Spain
Start Date - End Date: 12/12/2022 - 16/12/2022

Verification Sources: Report

Activity name: Identification of analysis techniques

Description: Active discussions to develop a list of techniques for training
Start Date - End Date: 12/12/2022 - 16/12/2022
Verification Sources: List of Analysis techniques

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

The project has met its first deliverable which is an institutional visit to GBIF-Spain. An article for the SANBI Gazette has been drafted for publication.
A number of social media tweets were distributed by both GBIF Spain and SANBI-GBIF.
The second institutional visit to SANBI will take place in March 2023 and the training event will be conducted the week of the 19th June 2023.
Based on the requirement to bring in expertise to the training event in June, the documentation production will need to be covered by the team. Where possible, SANBI-GBIF will seek in-house support.

Completed deliverables

Title: The capacitation of a SANBI-GBIF Support person on the GBIF Spain eLearning Platform

Type: Training Workshop
Description: Document
Sources of verification: Mentoring Report

Title: Development of a list of key analysis techniques for semi-technical Node Managers based on a review of data, and selection of data for analysis to elaborate on the use, relevance and impact to tell stories or elaborate the use case

Type: Documentation
Description: Identification of key techniques
Sources of verification: list of techniques

Events

Institutional Visit and Learning Exchange

Dates: 2022-12-12 - 2022-12-16
Organizing institution: GBIF Spain
Country: Spain
Number of participants: 6
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: https://www.sanbi-gbif.org/post/2023/visit-spain/

Communications and visibility

The project was promoted through both SANBI-GBIF and GBIF-Spain social media platform (Twitter) during the one week training in Spain. Members from both GBIF Nodes gave daily updates on the activities and people present. This was viewed by other Nodes and various national and international institutes. Furthermore, a brief article on the project was written up and will be published in the upcoming issue of the SANBI Gazette. This article has already been made public to stakeholders on the SANBI-GBIF new hosted portal website.
https://www.sanbi-gbif.org/post/2023/visit-spain/

Visibility of the project was also raised at a Biodiversity Informatics conference 28-30 November at a national event, hosted by the University of Stellenbosch, where Ms. Parker conducted a keynote address.

https://twitter.com/sanbigbif/status/1603317223732428800
https://twitter.com/GbifEs/status/1602624540621918209
https://twitter.com/Fatimakirs/status/1603505315005272065
https://twitter.com/laufw81/status/1597518451593351168

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

The project has been monitored by means of a Google drive where participants upload content and add to existing documents. There are also deadlines that have been put in place to ensure the project's completion; such as planning and preparation for the training workshop. The project is being evaluated as tasks are being assigned and completed.

Members are in regular contact and meetings are held as needed.

An additional trainer will be brought on board, to support the teaching of relevant content areas identified.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

We had a slight delay to the project but there were no overall issues

The Capacity Support Enhancement Programme (CESP) is funded by GBIF