Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia (BIFA): Impacts and achievements

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GBIF APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
FOCUS: Enhancing capacity for effective mobilization and use of biodiversity data in research and policy

BIFA: Programme funded by Japan Ministry of the Environment
APPROACH

• Respond to needs through open calls
• Build skills through training, mentoring
• Develop regional communities of practice
• Establish sustainable data flows, institutional networks
STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE GBIF COMMUNITY:
REVIEWERS – MENTORS – TRAINERS - TRANSLATORS
BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FUND FOR ASIA

Programme funded by Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan
SELECTED PROJECTS SINCE 2015

46 projects in 16 countries and areas in Asia
RESULT OF BIFA 6\textsuperscript{th} CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- 6\textsuperscript{th} BIFA call for proposals published in December 2020
- Emphasis on:
  - Mobilization of DNA-derived data
  - Filling taxonomic and geographic gaps in Asian biodiversity
- 18 months projects - from September 2021
- 13 projects involving institutions from 10 countries and areas selected as a result of this call
OUTCOMES OF THE BIFA PROGRAMME
Over 300,000 occurrence records published of over 11,500 unique species

Nearly 2,000 species registered for the first time in at least one country

Mobilization of 206 species classified as globally threatened*

- Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable under the IUCN red list
• 21 GBIF data publishers have published at least one dataset as part of a BIFA project
• 13 mentors from 8 countries and areas in Asia (BIFA)
• Successful call for proposals for regional project supports roles in Asia
Occurrences published by BIFA-funded projects cited over 1,150 times in publications

https://www.gbif.org/resource/search?contentType=literature
Following the selection of their BIFA project in 2018:

- Registration of Wildlife Conservation Society - Cambodia as GBIF Data publisher
- Publication of over 26,000 occurrences from camera traps
- Publication of 5 checklists and 1 Sampling-event dataset after the end of the BIFA project
- 2020: Cambodia become a GBIF Associate Participant
LESSONS LEARNED AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Importance of:

- Easy access to guidance and materials
- Increased regional support
- Ability to go fully digital
JOIN US!

• Join the community of practice and become:
  Trainer - Mentor – Translator - Ambassador
• Help us expend the BIFA model to other regions or specific thematic areas

https://www.gbif.org/article/5SExsCj7UaUkMCsuc6Oec/mentors-and-trainers
https://www.gbif.org/translators
https://www.gbif.org/article/6dNF1d0tgci4cmqeoS2sQ4/biodiversity-open-data-ambassadors
THANK YOU

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