

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

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GBIF

Global Biodiversity
Information Facility

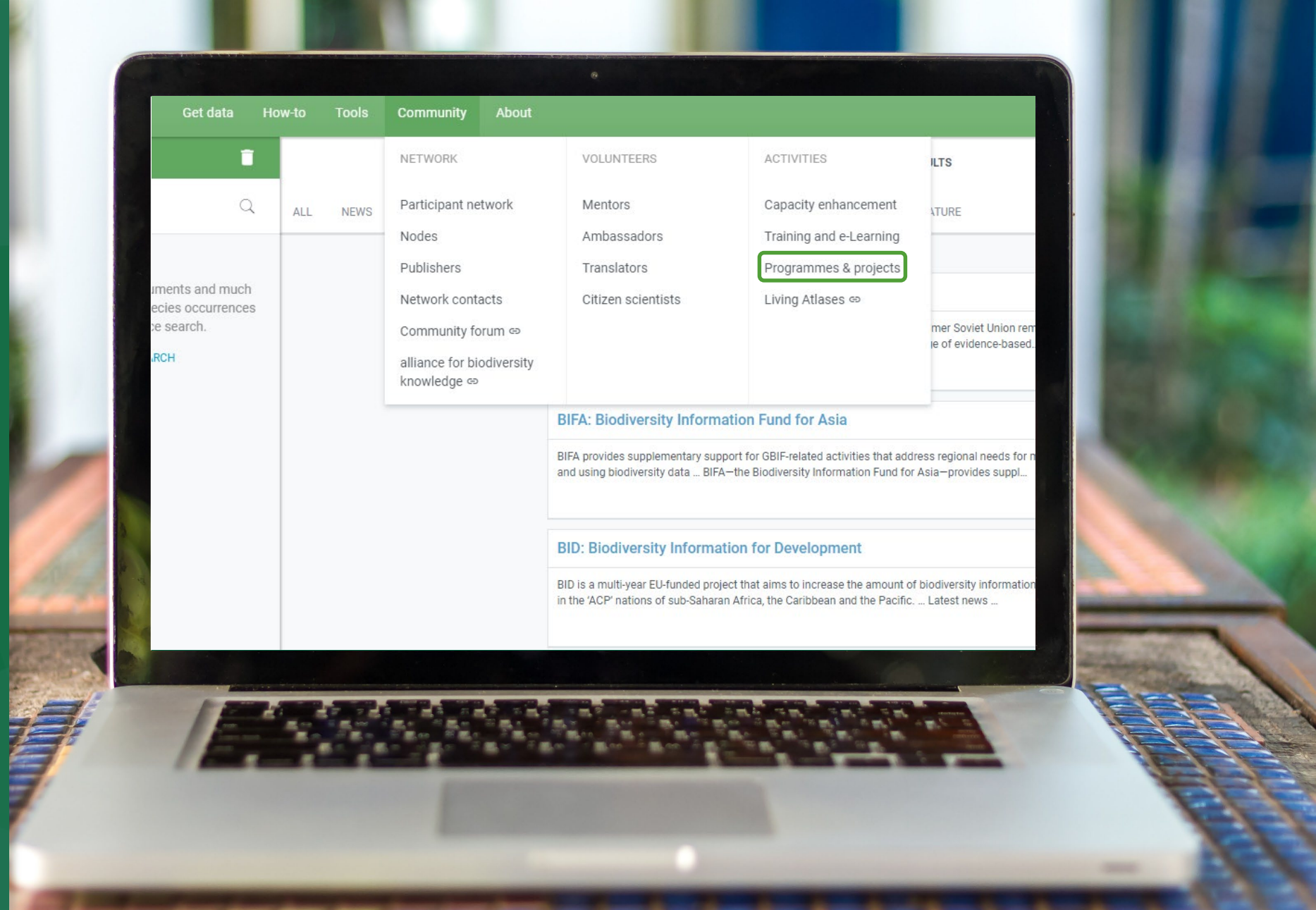
The top half of the slide features a white background with a complex, abstract pattern of thin, light gray lines. These lines form various geometric shapes, including circles, triangles, and irregular polygons, some of which are interconnected to resemble a network or a map. A small, solid green horizontal line is positioned above the main title.

GBIF APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



FOCUS:

Enhancing capacity for
effective mobilization
and use of biodiversity
data in research and
policy





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



Ministry of the Environment

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 6TH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- 6th 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

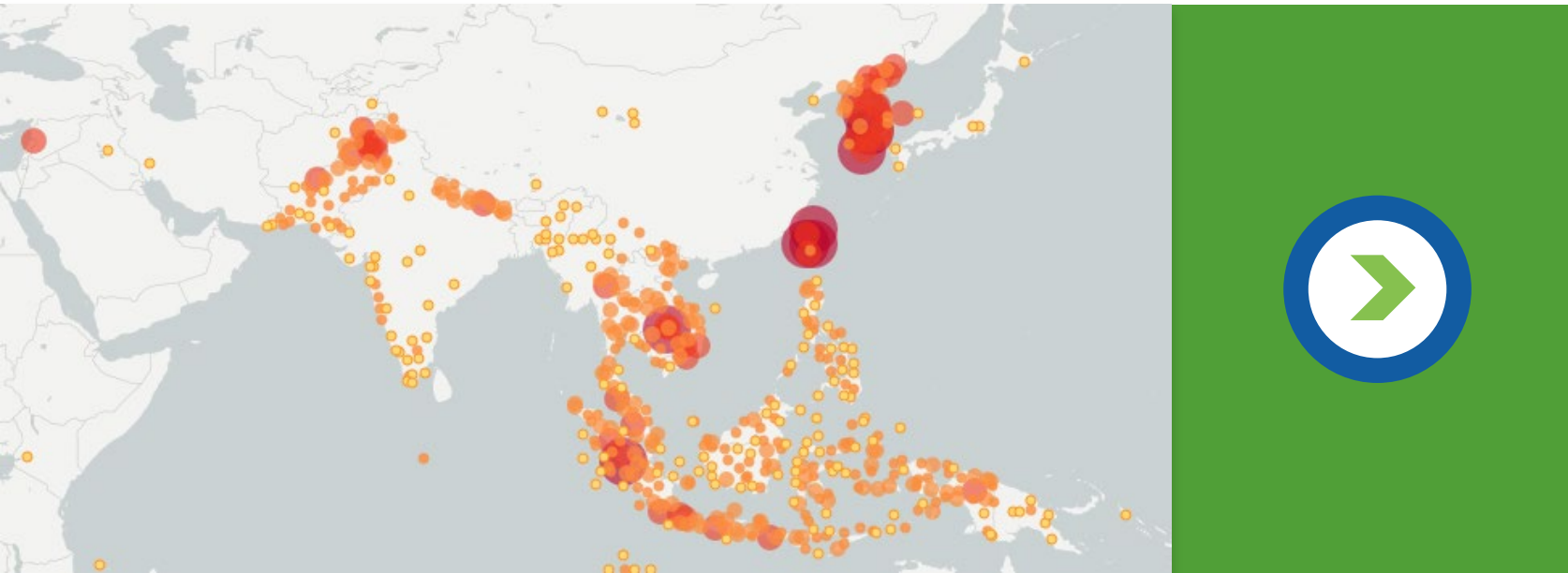




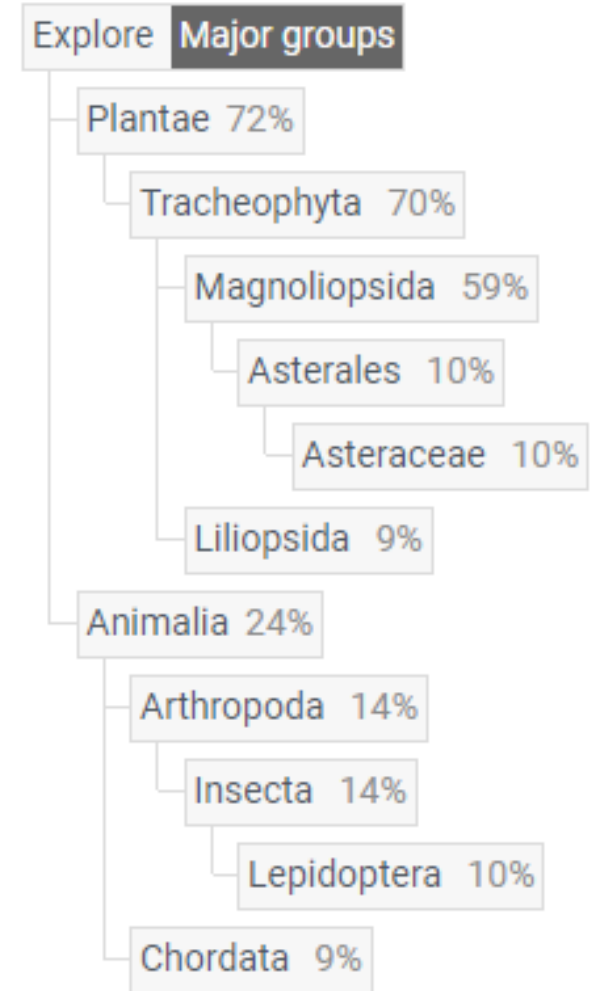
OUTCOMES OF THE BIFA PROGRAMME



FILLING KNOWLEDGE GAPS



- 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
• <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/search?advanced=1&programme=BIFA>

DEVELOPING REGIONAL CAPACITY



- 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

DATA FOR RESEARCH

594 occurrences 9 citations

Insectivorous Bats of Gunung Mulu National Park, Malaysia

Occurrence dataset

Insectivorous Bats of Gunung Mulu National Park, Malaysia

Published by Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit

650 occurrences 6 citations

Insectivorous bats of Bako National Park and Wind Cave Nature Reserve, Malaysia

Occurrence dataset

Insectivorous bats of Bako National Park and Wind Cave Nature Reserve, Malaysia

Published by Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Unit

134 occurrences 5 citations

Vietnamese insectivorous bat

Occurrence dataset

Occurrences published by BIFA-funded projects cited over 1,150 times in publications



Environmental and anthropogenic constraints on animal space use drive extinction risk worldwide

Hirt, M. Barnes, A. Gentile, A. Pollock, L. Rosenbaum, B. Thuiller, W. ... - (2021) Ecology Letters

Animals require a certain amount of habitat to persist and thrive, and habitat loss is one of the most critical drivers of biodiversity decline. While habitat requirements have been predicted by relationships between species traits and home-range size, the extent to which constraints imposed by

allometric scaling • animal movement • climate change • global change • home-range size • human footprint

Journal article Open access Peer-reviewed

Data referenced in study DOI 10.15468/dl.f87zwu

A 25,000 year record of climate and vegetation change from the southwestern Cape coast of South Africa

Quick, L. Chase, B. Carr, A. Chevalier, M. Grobler, B. Meadows, M. (2021) Quaternary Research

Abstract The southwestern Cape of South Africa is a particularly dynamic region in terms of long-term climate change. Fossil pollen from a 25,000 year sediment core taken from a near-coastal wetland at Pearly Beach that revealed that dramatic changes in vegetation composition occurred at

Atlantic meridional overturning circulation • Climate change • Heinrich stadial 1 • Last glacial maximum • South Africa • Vegetation dynamics

Journal article

Data referenced in study DOI 10.15468/dl.692yg6 DOI 10.15468/dl.87tbp6 DOI 10.15468/dl.axv3yd

DOI 10.15468/dl.da9wz8 DOI 10.15468/dl.fscw6q DOI 10.15468/dl.h2kjc DOI 10.15468/dl.jv3wsh

DOI 10.15468/dl.neruy DOI 10.15468/dl.ra49dt DOI 10.15468/dl.sffzxx DOI 10.15468/dl.t9zenf

DOI 10.15468/dl.vfr257 DOI 10.15468/dl.x2r7pa DOI 10.15468/dl.ydhyhz

Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses

Zhou, H. Ji, J. Chen, X. Bi, Y. Li, J. Wang, Q. ... - (2021) Cell

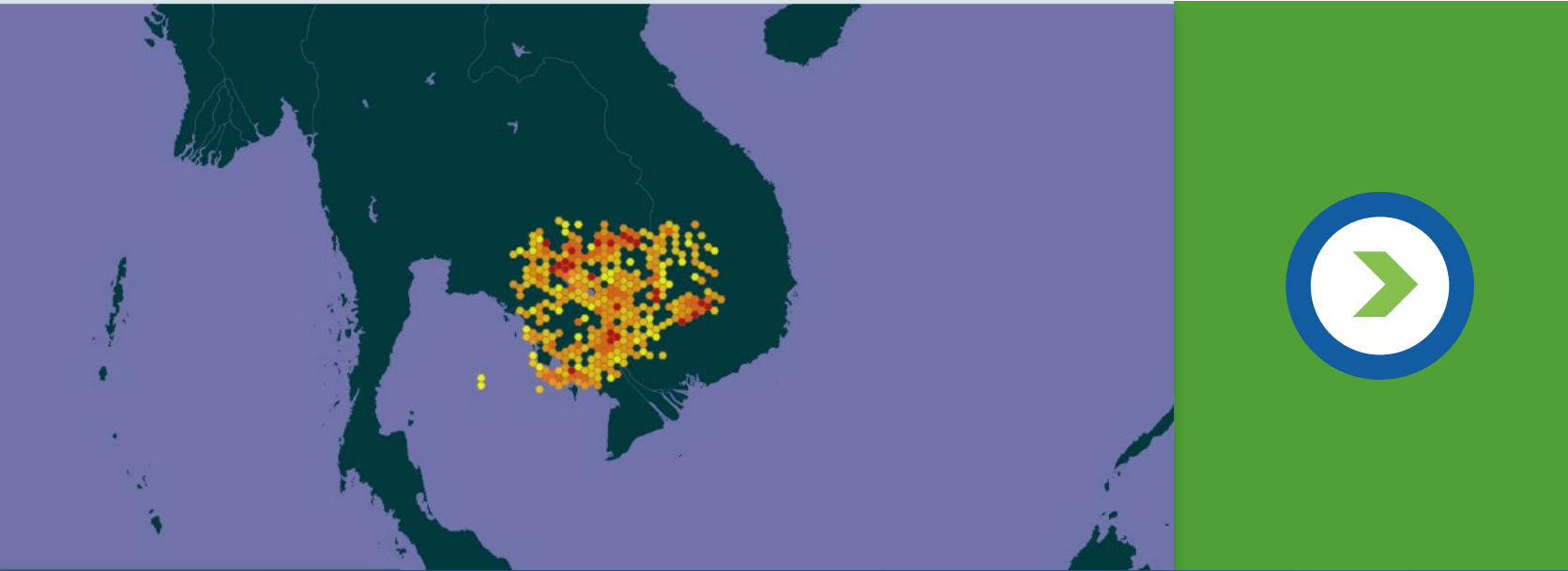
Despite the discovery of animal coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV-2, the evolutionary origins of this virus are elusive. We performed a meta-transcriptomic study of 411 bat samples collected from a small geographical region in Yunnan province, China, between February 2019 and November 2020. We identified

COVID-19 • SARS-CoV-2 • bats • coronavirus • evolution • phylogeny

Journal article Peer-reviewed

Data referenced in study DOI 10.15468/dl.kdjwtd DOI 10.15468/dl.qjqtde DOI 10.15468/dl.wdbmj4

SUSTAINABILITY PROSPECTS: EXAMPLE OF CAMBODIA




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**

NEWS | 20 MAY 2020

Cambodia joins GBIF as associate participant

Biodiversity-rich kingdom in tropical Southeast Asia becomes 60th formal member country



Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) is just one of more than 300 Red Listed species present in Cambodia. Photo 2017 lensnater via Flickr, licensed under CC BY 2.0.

The [Kingdom of Cambodia](#) has joined the GBIF network as an associate participant, expanding the [network in Asia](#) as its fourth national member and tenth formal participant.

Cambodia formalized its entry into GBIF with signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by Dr Tin Ponlok, Secretary-General of the [National Council for Sustainable Development](#), a cross-ministerial body coordinated by the Cambodian [Ministry of Environment](#).

As outlined in the most recent [National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan](#) submitted to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), despite a positive trend toward greater knowledge and understanding of species, significant gaps in data and coordination at a national scale remain.

The decision to join GBIF followed discussions over recent months between the GBIF Secretariat and the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development /Ministry of Environment (GSSD/MoE), which identified the need for increased capacity to organize and facilitate access to data



LESSONS LEARNED AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE



LESSONS LEARNED



Importance of:

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

Biodiversity Data Mobilization Course

Secretariat – training@gbif.org – Version 12, May 2021

document is also available in [PDF format](#) and in other languages: [español](#), [français](#), [Português](#), [Русский](#), [繁體中文](#)



Zonocerus elegans (Thunberg, 1815) observed in Zimbabwe by nickypegg (licensed under [CC-BY-NC 4.0](#))

[Course description](#) →

JOIN US!



Mentors and trainers

By sharing their knowledge and expertise, GBIF mentors help others within the community needed to achieve the GBIF network's common goals

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



<https://www.gbif.org/article/5SExsCfj7UaUkMCsuc6Oec/mentors-and-trainers>

<https://www.gbif.org/translators>

<https://www.gbif.org/article/6dNF1d0tgcl4cmqeoS2sQ4/biodiversity-open-data-ambassadors>

THANK YOU

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