

Digitization and mobilization of regional heritage biological specimens of the University of the Philippines Los Baños Museum of Natural History (Part I: Luzon)

Programme:BIFA

Project ID: BIFA5_021

Project lead organization:UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Project implementation period:6/7/2020 - 31/12/2021

Report approved: 13/8/2021

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

As of reporting date, the project already satisfied three mandatory milestones. Before the start of the project and proposal the UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History has already registered as publisher in the GBIF website. Another milestone achieved was the awarding of basic digitization badge to Mr. Jeremy C.B. Naredo, after his attendance to the digitization workshop. We have also published our first dataset in GBIF, the resource title is "UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History Predatory Arachnids from Luzon" which contains 79 occurrence records, as of the moment.

The project kicked off with an online levelling-off and planning workshop which was attended by the museums researchers, administrators, and teaching curators. In the workshop, the project was formally introduced to all stakeholders. Tasks were assigned to involved personnel.

A couple of workshops on data digitization and mobilization were also conducted with the help of our partners in the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The progress of the project is regularly monitored and reported in the museum's monthly meeting. Updates are presented briefly to the project leader and all involved staff of the museum.

Due to the pandemic, administrative process such as purchasing of equipment and formal appointment of staff has been rather delayed. Almost all of legwork and paperwork are done by the main project contact. This has been also caused by our project assistants reporting remotely as well. We plan to change and improve on this by reorganizing and reassigning tasks to our project assistants.

We also plan to lessen the targeted number of records per data set to make our objectives more achievable.

From a total of 14,000 records, we change the target to 2700 (1000,1000,200,500) records.

Progress against milestones

Has your project published at least one dataset through GBIF.org?: Yes

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI
UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History Predatory Arachnids from Luzon	https://doi.org/10.15468/46m8um

Has at least one member of your project team received certification following the BIFA capacity enhancement workshop?: Yes

Name of the workshop participant:Jeremy Carlo B. Naredo

Certification obtained: Basic Badge

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

We have completed two activities, and initiated and partially completed another four projects. The planning workshop and training of data entry team has been completed. We also added to the training a seminar on publishing biodiversity data. Details of these activities are outlined below. We have also started purchasing IT equipment such as laptops and cameras for digitization. These, however are not yet complete due to changes with the purchasing procedure of the UPLB Foundation Inc, during the pandemic. The personnel involved in purchasing are getting more familiar with the process and ensures that all equipment shall be purchased within February. The purchase of equipment had an impact on the speed of digitization activities but we are lucky to have co-funding for equipment already in use by the staff

All digitization activities are in full swing. The entomology, zoology and botany section have started imaging specimens and digitizing their respective data. We have already published our first data set in GBIF. We shall add more records and publish more data sets in the coming months.

Completed activities

Activity name: Levelling-off and planning workshop

Description: In this meeting, staff and curators of the implementing institution met online via zoom to discuss the plans and share tasks to undertake the digitization project.

Start Date - End Date: 26/8/2020 - 26/8/2020

Verification Sources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptjNzXF1xyM>

Activity name: Training of data entry team

Description: Data entry team composed of MNH staff and project assistants attended were trained on the use of species encoder and publishing data to the GBIF. The training was given by Christopher Elloran and Carl Callngan from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

Start Date - End Date: 3/9/2020 - 8/10/2020

Verification Sources: 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzjH7TD1oh0>

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4t15jYi1Hw>

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

The first deliverable achieved by the project is the data set on predatory mites of Luzon island. We have expanded this to include other arachnids and not just mites. Other data sets are still being cleaned especially the DS Rabor Collection which appears to have more records than expected.

We are already conceptualizing on the training manual to be used for the digitization workshop to be hosted by the project.

Progress towards deliverables

Title: Predatory mites from Luzon Island

Type: Dataset

Status update: Dataset already published in GBIF

Dataset scope: records of predatory arachnids from Luzon Island}

Expected number of records: 1000

Data holder: UPLB Museum of Natural History

Data host institution: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Sampling method: : A digitized file of all collection data for acari is available and only needed to be converted to csv files. Collection codes are indicated in slides and would just need matching the identification to the corresponding data in the database.

% complete: 10

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15468/46m8um>

Expected date of publication:

Title: Microbial Culture Collection on Bacteria and Molds Collected from Caves of Luzon Island

Type: Dataset

Status update: Data entry on going

Dataset scope: The dataset will include occurrence, phenotypic and/or genotypic data as published in refereed journals or presented in manuscript (terminal reports etc.). This will include specimens identified to species level. Basic images of the microbial cultures will}

Expected number of records: 200

Data holder: UPLB Museum of Natural History

Data host institution: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Sampling method: Microbial cultures will be imaged and corresponding data will be encoded in the database.

% complete: 1

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2021-09-30

Title: DS Rabor Collection from Luzon Island

Type: Dataset

Status update: Data entry completed Data cleaning and standardization on-going

Dataset scope: The dataset shall cover historical specimens from luzon island.}

Expected number of records: 1000

Data holder: UPLB Museum of Natural History

Data host institution: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Sampling method: Bird and mammal skins will be imaged together with the tag. The data on tags will be digitized. A QR code identifier for the specimen will be attached after digitization.

% complete: 50

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2021-06-01

Title: Epiphytic plants of Luzon from UPLB MNH Herbarium

Type: Dataset

Status update: Specimen staging on going. Co-funding for implementation secured.

Dataset scope: This will include epiphytes such as orchids, Hoyas, and epiphytic ferns from luzon.}

Expected number of records: 500

Data holder: UPLB Museum of Natural History

Data host institution: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Sampling method: Herbarium sheets of plants will be digitized using a herbarium scanner. The data in the sheet will be digitized by an encoder. A unique identifier code will be attached to the herbarium sheet.

% complete: 10

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2021-07-31

Events

Biodiversity Data Digitization and Mobilization Project Levelling-off and Planning Workshop

Dates: 2020-08-26 - 2020-08-26

Organizing institution: UP Los Banos Museum of Natural History

Country: Philippines

Number of participants: 34

Comments:

Website or sources of verification: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptjNzXF1xyM&list=PLbcGvct0W0K2y32tirDlxEzwwzLBOlvqo&index=3>. evaluation-levelling-off 20200826

Events

Learning Event on “Publishing Biodiversity Data”

Dates: 2020-09-03 - 2020-09-03

Organizing institution: UP Los Banos Museum of Natural History

Country: Philippines

Number of participants: 26

Comments:

Website or sources of verification: evaluation-LE-Publishing-Biodiversity-Data, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4t15jYi1Hw&list=PLbcGvct0W0K2y32tirDlxEzwwzLBOlvqo&index=2>

Events

Specialized Training on the Use of Species Encoder

Dates: 2020-10-08 - 2020-10-08

Organizing institution: UP Los Banos Museum of Natural History

Country: Philippines

Number of participants: 20

Comments:

Website or sources of verification: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzjH7TD1oh0&list=PLbcGvct0W0K2y32tlirDixEzwwLBOlvqo&index=1>

Communications and visibility

All of the events hosted by the project are being recorded and posted in the museum's YouTube channel. Links and updates are also shared in our Facebook page and website. Updates on project progress are regularly reported during meetings. We have constant communication with our project partners.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

Comments on the project events are listed in the attached document. In general, the activities were well appreciated by the stakeholders and resulted to suggestions on future events. Important feedback on the project was received through the levelling-off workshop and the presentation on data publication. Still one of the greatest concerns by our researchers and faculty is the sharing of sensitive data. We also received feedback to modify the geographical scope of the datasets to be published. Changes on the taxonomic scope of the first dataset published have been implemented already.

Not a lot of feedback is being received during monthly meetings except for management of hired personnel. A comprehensive midterm report shall be presented to the stakeholders to receive more valuable feedback.

Support from GBIF have been valuable and efficient. Our queries especially on the financial management have been addressed promptly and comprehensively.

A monitoring form with checklist from GBIF will be very helpful in the monitoring and implementation of the project although principal investigators could also devise this.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

COVID-19 affected mostly communication and logistics since all meetings and document submissions are virtual. This affected greatly the processing of documents, recruitment of staff and purchasing of supplies and equipment. Of our 5 project assistants, only 3 are reporting physically and doing imaging while the other 2 remain at home and performs mostly transcription of imaged data.

We have also called-off any plans for attendance to conferences local or international. Our digitization workshop will be done partly virtually and will allow attendees who will only travel by land.

GBIF leads the Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia (BIFA), a programme funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan. The programme provides supplementary support for activities addressing the needs of regional researchers and policymakers through mobilization and use of biodiversity data.

