Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia (BIFA): programme overview and progress

Tim Hirsch, Deputy Director, GBIF Secretariat

GBIF ASIA REGIONAL MEETING, HANOI, VIET NAM, 13-14 JUNE 2017

BIFA PHASE 1 (2015): OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the availability of data relating to Asian region biodiversity to support science-policy needs

- Establishing or strengthening national biodiversity information facilities in Asian countries as networks to support the long-term mobilization, management and use of biodiversity information

- Expanding the GBIF network in the Asian region

GBIF

BIFA PHASE 1 (2015-16): ALLOCATION

- Support for GBIF Asia nodes meetings in 2015 and 2016 (Taiwan, Philippines)

- Project call among GBIF nodes

- Six concept notes received, four projects invited to full proposal stage

- Projects totalling €106k under way from April 2016

GBIF

BIFA PHASE 1 (2015-16): ALLOCATION

Biodiversity informatics cookbook and regional training workshop

GBIF nodes in India, Japan, Korea and Taiwan will produce a biodiversity informatics 'cookbook' – an open-access learning resource to support regional training activities.

May 2016 to Jun 2017

Strengthening GBIF Philippines

This project aims at strengthening PhilBIF by enhancing the capacities of partners in the publishing of biodiversity information according to GBIF standards.

Apr 2016 to Jan 2017

Development of the biodiversity database system in Vietnam

The Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), an arm of Vietnam's Ministry of National Resources and Environment, proposes to strengthen national capacity in database management and to promote GBIF in the country as an opportunity for information exchange at the global level.

Apr 2016 to Oct 2016

Mobilizing biodiversity data from ASEAN protected areas

The goal of this project is to facilitate the mobilization of biodiversity information from ASEAN Heritage Parks - regionally significant protected areas for biodiversity.

Apr 2016 to Aug 2016

GBIF

BIFA PHASE 2

Support for expanded regional meeting (Viet Nam)

Call for projects in 2 categories – approx. €80k available:

1. Capacity enhancement grants (nodes only)
2. Data mobilization grants (open call)

GBIF

BIFA PHASE 2 - CALL RESPONSE

- 12 concept notes from 5 Asian countries, 1 regional organization

- 11 invitations to submit full proposals

- Only 5 full proposals received by deadline (27 Feb 2017)

- Three projects selected for funding by evaluation panel
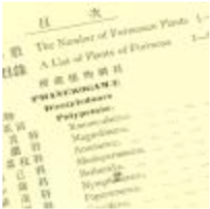
- Underspend of approx. €46k of project funds

GBIF

BIFA PHASE 2 – FUNDED PROJECTS

Filling a long-standing data gap for birds in the Central Highlands of India

This project will research and collate historical observations from the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas, analyse specific data gaps and conduct targeted fieldwork to generate a more thorough dataset of regional bird occurrences.

Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

Compiling a multi-language gazetteer for occurrence distribution in Asia

This project focuses on compiling a multilingual gazetteer for locations in Asia from different data sources, initially tapping locality information from the non-georeferenced specimen records currently available through GBIF.

Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

Checklist of mammals in the southwestern Mongolian-Manchurian Ecoregion

This project will use camera traps, field transects and live traps to close knowledge gaps about mammalian species distribution across the grasslands in the extreme southwest corner of the Mongolian-Manchurian Ecoregion.

Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

GBIF

OPTIONS FOR ALLOCATING REMAINING FUNDS

€46k from BIFA 2 and €131k available for BIFA 3

Possible approaches:

- Re-open project call?

- Regional workshop to support 'living atlas' portal development (early 2018)

- Directed call for specific data mobilization target, e.g. Asian plant specimen data, with funded workshop available for all projects

- Other suggestions?

GBIF