



## Workshop on capacity building on biodiversity data mobilization in the framework of the BID Regional and National Projects

Abomey-Calavi, from October 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2016



**REPORT**

## **Introduction**

In the framework of the implementation of BID Regional and National Projects, the workshop on Biodiversity data mobilization has been hold at Maison d'Accueil Ste Anouarite of Abomey-Calavi from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. This workshop aims increase the biodiversity data publishing in order to support decision-making in Benin through capacity reinforcement of the BID projects partners.

As part of collaboration between BID projects in Benin, BID Individual projects partners were invited to join this meeting including the project AF2015-0044-SMA untitled "Gathering of biodiversity data on bird species for their sustainable management in Benin".

A total of forty participants attended this workshop.

The main activities developed in the workshop are resumed in the following.

This report summarized the main workshop activities with particular attention on the participation of the BID AF2015-0044-SMA project partners.

### **1. Opening Ceremony**

The workshop started at 9 AM with the speeches of officials. After the welcome speech of BID Regional and National Coordinator follows the one of the representative of the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, the Secretary General.

Professor Jean Cossi Ganglo, BID Regional and National Coordinator in his speech welcomed all the participants, highlighted the full support of the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Professor Joseph Hounhouigan in the framework of BID projects implementation in Benin. He did not forget to thank Dr. Gaston Akouehou, Head of Delegation of GBIF Benin before wishing a fruitful workshop for all.

On behalf of the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, the Secretary General, Mrs. Aimée Hounnga, addressed her acknowledgments to the Coordinator of BID Regional and National Projects. She emphasized on the importance of biodiversity in the world and the usefulness of biodiversity data publishing for decision-making. She ended her speech by cheering BID projects coordinator of the full support of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Abomey-Calavi.

### **2. Overview of national and Regional BID projects**

The first presentation of this workshop was given by Professor Jean Cossi Ganglo on the BID Regional and National Projects funded by the European Union. The goal of BID Regional

project (Capacity building and biodiversity data mobilization for conservation, sustainable use, and decision making in Africa and Madagascar) is to establish and strengthen international cooperation for the mobilization of biodiversity data. A total of eight Senegal, (Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Niger and Benin) countries are involved in this project.

As to the BID National project, untitled " Strengthening biodiversity data mobilization capacities to address national priorities in health and food security in Benin", its aims to increase the availability of biodiversity data on medicinal and agroforestry species, by providing technical and financial assistance.

At the end of the presentation, participants questions have been answered by the Coordinator of this two projects.

### **3. Presentation on the importance of Biodiversity Information**

Presentation on the importance of Biodiversity Information was also done by Professor Jean Cossi Ganglo. During this presentation, definitions of biodiversity, biodiversity informatics, primary data, were given so as the description of services provided by biodiversity. He highlighted the role of GBIF to facilitate free access to biodiversity data via Internet. The benefits from biodiversity data publishing were also mentioned. Furthermore, the state of biodiversity data on the portal of GBIF Benin was described. In total, the portal of GBIF Benin contains 201 datasets with over 240,000 occurrence data reported by 22 countries. It is important to notice that the data published in this portal are insufficient and more concentrated in the south. This presentation was ended with practical demonstration of how to view the data was conducted and the answers to participants questions.

### **4. Training session**

The training session occurred during the workshop was composed of several presentations and practices.

#### *4.1 Presentations*

Among given presentations, we can mention those on:

- ✓ Data to be published on GBIF portal by Professor Jean Cossi Ganglo;
- ✓ Principles of data management by Mr. Jaures Alain Gbètoho;
- ✓ Data digitizing, cleaning and publishing by Professor Jean Cossi Ganglo and Mr. Jaures Alain Gbètoho.

During this presentations, a huge information was given to the participants through the development of the themes above. Globally, the participants were very interested in the given presentations and asked many questions. This theoretical information has been supported by some demonstrations and exercises.

#### *4.2 Practices*

Practices took more time than other activities during the workshop. After theoretical information, demonstrations and exercises were used by trainers to allow better assimilation of knowledge shared with the participants. Those demonstrations and exercises were focused on data digitizing, data formatting tools use and data cleaning. In this training session, spreadsheets based on "Darwin core archive" were presented with instructions for successfully fill in them; data cleaning tools such as Parser, Iplantcollaborative, ITIS, coordinates converter and Google Refine were been used through exercises; Geolocate and QGIS was also used for data cleaning practices. It is important to mention that this training session was the most interesting for participants during the workshop.

### **5. Individual projects presentation**

Apart from BID Regional and National projects, BID Individuals projects were also presented during the workshop. These BID individual projects are:

- Project on *Afzelia africana* presented by Mr. Isidore AMAHOWE of the Forest Service. It aims to increase the quantity of available data, predict the evolution of this species and utilize the outputs to enlighten decision makers. Project activities also encompass the strengthening of the capacity of actors.
- Project on conservation of gregarious forest plant species presented by Mr. Romaric LOKOSSOU from Centre for Studies, Research and Training in Forestry (CERF). The project main objective is to set up a seed bank of native species used for reforestation.
- Project untitled "Gathering of biodiversity data on bird species for their sustainable management in Benin" presented by myself, Charles Nounagnon GANGNIBO, aims at contributing to the conservation of bird species in Benin through the enhancement of data availability on these species. In the beginning, the European Union was acknowledged for its financial support and GBIF for its technical support (through online and onsite workshops) in the framework of the implementation of this project. During the project presentation,

importance of birds were demonstrated. The main activities planned in the project were described and the main expected results exposed. Furthermore, the level of achievement of the project on that moment was mentioned. Questions asked by the workshop participants were answered to give them much details on the project.

It is important to notice that during the whole workshop, the project team members (especially Mr. Jaures Gbètoho and I) shared a lot of knowledge won through online and onsite workshops on biodiversity data mobilization.



Presentation of BID AF2015-0044-SMA project by the principal investigator

## **6. Closing ceremony**

Two speeches were delivered during closing ceremony. The first one by Dr Gaston AKOUEHOU, the head of delegation of GBIF Benin and the last one by Professor Jean Cossi GANGLO, Node Manager of GBIF Benin. In their addresses, they thanked all the participants for their seriousness during the workshop. Trainers also have been acknowledged for accepting to share their knowledge with others. A special invitation was made by Professor Ganglo to encourage the participants to publish their data in order to strengthen biodiversity conservation in Benin.

## **Conclusion**

Through the workshop organized in the framework of BID Regional and National projects, opportunity has been given to us to present the BID individual project registered as BID AF2015-0044-SMA. It was also a great moment to show the importance of bird species for human being and to strengthen the capacity of the partners of our project on data digitizing, data cleaning and data publishing.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Program of the workshop

Time	Activities	Responsible
	<b>Day 1: Wednesday, October 12, 2016</b>	
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Opening</b>	
08:30–9:00	Welcome and installation of participants	M. Smith Dossou
09:00–09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome by the BID National Project Coordinator</li> <li>- Opening address by the Dean of the FSA-UAC</li> </ul>	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo  Prof. Joseph Hounhouigan
09:30–09:45	Introduction of participants, including the areas of work, and interests in biodiversity.	Facilitator
09:45–10:00	Presentation of the objectives of the workshop	Facilitator
10:00–10:30	Presentation of the project Prof. National BID	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
<b>10:30–11:00</b>	<b>Family photo + Coffee Break</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	Digitization of biodiversity data	
11:00–12:15	Importance of information biodiversity: Why to publish biodiversity data?  Advantages of data publication	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
12:15–13:00	Types of biodiversity data considered in the context of GBIF activities	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
<b>13:00–14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
14:00–14:30	Data management principles in the digitization process	M. Jaures Gbetoho
14:30–15:30	Practical demonstration on digitization: tools and feedback	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Cleaning, formatting, and transformation of data</b>	
15:30–16:30	Basics of data cleaning	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
	<b>Day 2: Thursday, October 13, 2016</b>	
08:30–09:30	Data management tools	M. Jaures Gbetoho
09:30–10:30	Using OpenRefine in data cleaning	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Publication data</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
<b>10:30–11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
11:00–12:30	Basic Concepts of data publishing	M. Jaures Gbetoho
<b>12:30–13:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
13:30–14:15	Constraints to data publication and possible solutions	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Specificities of BID individual Project</b>	<b>Organizing Committee</b>
14:15–15:00	BID Individual projects: objectives and expected outcomes	M. Charles Gangnibo Isidore Amahowe Romaric Lokossou

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
15:00-16:15	Publication of data on bird species: importance/uses, types of information, data formatting and some helpful tips	M. Charles Gangnibo
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Closing</b>	
16:15–16:30	Evaluation of the training	M. Smith Dossou
16:30–17:00	Speech of the Coordinator BID national and regional Projects Speech by the Dean of the FSA-UAC	Prof. Jean C. Ganglo Prof. Joseph Hounhouigan

## Appendix 2: List of participants

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