

## Mentoring GBIF Armenia – GBIF France

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**Programme:** CESP  
**Project ID:** CESP2021-010  
**Project lead organization:** Armenian National Agrarian University  
**GBIF Participant Represented:** Armenia  
**Project implementation period:** 17/8/2021 - 31/7/2022  
**Report approved:** 29/9/2022

### Narrative Midterm report

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#### Project partners

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### Systeme Mondeal d'Informacion sur la Biodivesite

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**Country:** France  
**GBIF Participant Represented:** GBIF France  
**Role in the project:** Mentor Node

#### Executive Summary

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The project beginning was prolonged due to the co-funding subcontracting issues and finalization of the agreement with GIZ Yerevan office and ANAU.

Finally, we have signed the contract with GIZ on July 21, 2022. The money we received up to 4,757,188 AMD that is about 8844Eur (\*1 Euro=537.9 AMD) at the beginning of August, where we were in Holliday. Thus, we started actively to implement the project activities accordingly.

So, we have successfully implemented the “Opening Symposium” that was planned to organize within the on-line form. Taking into consideration the stakeholders need, we organized it in the hybrid form to increase the stakeholders awareness, interactions and impact with the project.

The other activities such as “Investigating the preparedness level of stakeholders’ biodiversity data digitization, usage and assess their needs is meant for funding by both sides GBIF and GIZ grants. So, we were waiting until the final agreements of GIZ. However, during this “waiting” time, we have reviewed the stakeholders list and worked on methodology for stakeholders analysis based on novel Quadruple Helixes approach. This initial work, will definitely facilitate the implementation of future activities as soon as we receive the funding. The last activity that we need to be done during this term is” Mentoring training on how to establish effective national node in Armenia” shall be led by GBIF-France were postponed in February-March 2022 by our partners, as the first activity we have started to implement on December. We do not need any general changes unless we obtain the co-funding then we will manage to finish the project on-time.

#### Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report

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Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report:

1. Opening Symposium held.
2. Mentoring training on how to establish effective national node in Armenia held.
3. The preparedness level of stakeholders’ biodiversity data digitization and usage investigated, and their needs assessed.
4. Midterm report including feedback of the second survey submitted.

Information on progress against milestones is provided in the activities and deliverables sections.

#### Report on Activities

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##### Activity progress summary

The first activity is the opening symposium is planned for the launch of the project in Armenia. Initially, it is proposed to conduct in the period of 01/09/21-30/9/21. However, due to the co-funding technical

issues we have prolonged the all activities implementation by 2-3 months until receiving the co-funding.

The "Opening Symposium" is organized in the period of 01/12/21-25/12/2021. In the project, it is proposed to realize online. However, we made an amendments and instead of on-line form were organized hybrid form: on site and on line at the same time by involving about 60 direct participants and about 1500 indirect participants.

The opening symposium event has been organized by 3 phases: (1) Preparatory activities e.g. publishing the reports, announcements, making the invitations, communicating with stakeholders, preparing the logistics, booking the room, and ensuring the technical assets: 3 laptops for technical needs of organizing the hybrid zoom, the room video camera and the high solution internet, the Agritech hub was provided by the co-funding of ANAU etc (2) The Symposium hybrid form of the event was launched on December 16 at Agritech incubator center at ANAU. Our 2 international partners (GBIF General Secretariat and GBIF France) and national stakeholders from scientific, government, NGO and business sector were presented in the event. (3) Post communications, press and TV releases. After the event, the emails with the presentation content and information materials by ppt and pdf files were sent to the participants, TV broadcast and press release were reported and disseminated the information for raising the public awareness.

The other activities such as A2: "1 Mentoring training on how to establish effective national node in Armenia" and A3: "Investigating the preparedness level of stakeholders' biodiversity data digitization, usage and assess their needs" were delayed as they were prolonged due to the co-funding technical issue. These activities were planned to implement A2: April and A3: September-October in 2022. In any case we will reach the proposed impact of the project by the proposed in time.

### Completed activities

#### Activity name: Opening Symposium

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**Description:** Led by GBIF Armenia, this activity aims to bring 150 participants from different stakeholders on the online event, EM, Universities, NGOs etc. Press conference will take place to increase the awareness of GBIF Armenia and the project activities.

**Start Date - End Date:** 1/12/2021 - 25/12/2021

**Verification Sources:** file:///D:/GBIF-CESP-Project-2021/CEP-START/REPORT-31%20Jan%202022/CEP2021-010-Completed%20Activity%201.pdf

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZFP\\_7dimM8&t=7s&ab\\_channel=%D4%BC%D5%B8%D6%82%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZFP_7dimM8&t=7s&ab_channel=%D4%BC%D5%B8%D6%82%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LltodyTxJKs05hyMLBhIMDJwcAz-s89/view>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ScE5AvEYxZgoAT2IE8Jh\\_IIfZOPVOXjX/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ScE5AvEYxZgoAT2IE8Jh_IIfZOPVOXjX/view)

### Report on Deliverables

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#### Deliverables progress summary

During this Midterm period there were two deliverables "capacity building" and "raising awareness and dissemination" to be reached partially, since there were certain activities that fall in the next period of implementation of the project. For instance for the raising awareness deliverables we need to conduct opening symposium and closing event. For the capacity building deliverable we need both trainings provided by GBIF France to GBIF Armenia node staff and Local Capacity Building trainings that was co-funding by GIZ. Since, this deliverables were connected with the next activities followed by "Opening Symposium" it was prolonged respectively.

Overall, we successfully reached by the good indicators of deliverable "Raising awareness and dissemination" through implementation just opening symposium. this was possible to succeed due to amendments of the Symposium event, instead of on-line we transfer it into hybrid form.

The aim of the "Raising awareness and dissemination" deliverable is to raise the awareness among the Armenian scientific communities, decision makers and other sectors about GBIF, National Participation and "Mentoring GBIF Armenia-GBIF France" ongoing project.

Initially, we aim to reach 150 participants from different stakeholders on the online opening event to involve EM, Universities, NGOs etc. Also, on opening symposium along with the closing conference as it is described in the project deliverable section the project proposed to reach up to 1500 people by raising their awareness and disseminating the information on the project and GBIF.

However, we have successfully reached the targeted amount just organizing opening event. So, we had 55 on site and 20 on line participants that were directly involved in the opening event. In addition, we were reached out 200 people by sending the email official invitations form.

The event was illustrated by the special video of the First Channel of National Public TV and the video were showed by several times during the "News" broadcast.

So, during one month period, we reached 1507 views in the YouTube channel, we have more than 100 followers in GBIF Armenia Facebook page.

So traditional and digital communications was used to disseminate about data digitization importance, usage in science, conservation, policy decision and other relevant areas, GBIF Armenia and GBIF network, CESP GBIF Armenia project and ongoing activities to take part in it.

### Completed deliverables

**Title:** Raising awareness and dissemination.

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**Type:** Training Workshop

**Description:** Opening event with press conference, up to 150 direct participants and up to 1500 indirect participants of GBIF CESP2021-010 project, ongoing activities, benefits of using GBIF portal etc.

**Sources of verification:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZFp\\_7dimM8&t=7s&ab\\_channel=%D4%BC%D5%B8%D6%82%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZFp_7dimM8&t=7s&ab_channel=%D4%BC%D5%B8%D6%82%D6%80%D5%A5%D6%80)

<https://anau.am/en/%d5%a3%d5%af%d5%ab%d5%b4-%d6%86%d6%80%d5%a1%d5%b6%d5%bd%d5%ab%d5%a1-%d5%b0%d5%a1%d5%b5%d5%a1%d5%bd%d5%bf%d5%a1%d5%b6-%d5%b4%d5%a5%d5%b6%d5%a9%d5%b8%d6%80%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%a9%d5%b5%d5%b8%d6%82/>

### Communications and visibility

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The communication plan is kept as was proposed –internal and –external based on digital and traditional methods to disseminate the project activities and results. We have created google drive folder to make the work transparent and easy to organize among the project staff. Also, the internal communication with the France GBIF node is very effective via emails and zoom calls. For the communication both languages were applied. During the opening symposium event AM and EN were used and in some cases the synchronic translations was provided. The announcement reported by two languages via ANAU's official web pages and social media. Around 200 official e-mails, invitations were sent as well as the arrangements made by using phone call conferences or zoom. As it was initially planned, for the communication we use intensively social media such as YouTube channel, facebook etc. The special GBIF Armenia Facebook page were created to raise the awareness in social media, it has already more than 100 followers in the period of about 1,5 month. In addition, the project web page is used to disseminate the project results and outcomes within the international network. Project regular meeting two times per month is organized to discuss the tasks, implementations and current issues. With the international partner we used mainly zoom format and emails for the planning project activities.

### Monitoring and evaluation

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#### Monitoring and evaluation findings

Midterm evaluation for the project progress overall is good. The limitation was due to the co-funding technical issues, that caused the project activities to be postponed, until we receive the funding. As soon as we receive the funding we will be able to realize the project and reach its desirable results within the proposed time period only the activities we will conduct with the close timeframe.

For instance, just organizing one activity such as the opening symposium we were able to reach the indicators that was proposed initially to be reached by organizing two activities such as the opening symposium and the closing conference described in the deliverable of "Raising awareness and dissemination".

The communication and feedback within the public and interested stakeholders are kept very actively. After the good feedbacks within the received emails were sent to us after the organizing event. We believe after the technical issues that are the main weakness of this project we will be able to reach the desirable outcome.

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

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The COVID-19 pandemic is not directly effected on the implementation of the project, as we consider this risk and were not planned to conduct any international travel etc.

However, while organizing the opening symposium in the hybrid form we could not invite more people than 50 to 60 for taking on site participation due to the limitation of COVID-19 in the closed area of organizing such events.

To avoid the Covid-19 risk during capacity building trainings we have targeted small group of people so we could smoothly organize the activities.

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The Capacity Support Enhancement Programme (CESP) is funded by GBIF

