Zimbabwe biodiversity data in support of climate action, life on earth and sustainable food and feed: Biodiversity of reptiles, arachnids found in Protected Areas and edible insect fauna in Zimbabwe

Programme: BID
Project ID: BID-AF2020-026-INS
Project lead organization: Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe
Project implementation period: 1/4/2021 - 31/3/2023
Report approved: 11/3/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

To date the project has held training for our museum personnel and stakeholders. Members of this project too participated in the training on data cleaning, data sharing, data quality and data publishing in May 2021. The principles of Citizens science were presented to the photographic society of Bulawayo in May and to the spider club of Zimbabwe in November 2021. This was to encourage active participation in iNaturalist projects and bioblitz. All necessary software has been installed and standardized. 3000 records for reptiles, 4300 arachnids, 1900 edible insects has already been digitized into excel and work is still on going with accessioning any new collections for this project. Cleaning of this data has already been initiated including geo-referencing. Time is now being spent on corrections and verifying identifications using the latest literature and on line catalogues.

To monitor our project we have been holding monthly meetings as project personnel and also have consultations with our regional co-ordinator for GBIF on some issues pertaining to implementation of certain aspects of the project.

We do not wish to make any changes to our project in the remaining project period.

Progress against milestones

Has your project published at least one dataset through GBIF.org?: No

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI

Has at least one member of your project team received certification following the BID capacity enhancement workshop?: No

Rationale: Use case 2 submitted by Dorothy Madamba on 31 July 2021
Use case 3 submitted by Dorothy Madamba on 31 July 2021

Waiting for the result of the certification process

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

Training in Mobilization of Data was conducted in May 2021, This was to train stakeholders and museum personnel in digitization of data and also on how to clean and standardize data.

Entomological Association was launched in December 2021 with a total of 23 members from various institutions across the country. 23 participants received Online Training Course for Mobilizing

Zimbabwe's Insect Data For Information in GBIF in support of SDGS. This was also carried out aimed towards increased awareness of edible insects resource and Entomology personnel of Zimbabwe and increase in ease of access to research and monitoring datasets as well as long-term monitoring. Two citizens science presentations have been held (see attachments below). We have completed 80% of our data mobilization and cleaning will continue up to December 2022.

Completed activities

Activity: Data Mobilisation Workshop

Description: Training workshop for museum personnel and stakeholders
Start Date - End Date: 26/5/2021 - 27/5/2021
Verification Sources:
https://assets.ctfassets.net/uo17ejk9rkwj/wXCQtGTiyPyNnGe1EAA9G/051d611db2f37e9c69601ba9e0e9af23/Workshop_repor

Activity: Digitization of Specimen Data

Description: 8300 specimen data digitized
Start Date - End Date: 1/4/2021 - 31/1/2022
Verification Sources: Still on going

Activity: Data Cleaning

Description: This is ongoing on the data already digitized
Start Date - End Date: 1/4/2021 - 31/1/2022
Verification Sources: Ongoing

Activity: Entomological Association Meeting

Description: Launch of Entomological Association of Zimbabwe and On line training
Start Date - End Date: 22/12/2021 - 22/12/2021
Verification Sources: Ongoing

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

Delays in publishing data sets has been caused by the non functioning of the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe IPT. This is being attended to. As soon as the IPT is ready we will publish our data.

Progress towards deliverables

Dataset deliverables

Other deliverables

Communications and visibility

We have used our Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/NHMZimbabwe
Spider Club of Zimbabwe page:https://www.facebook.com/groups/spiderclubzw

Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe page: https://naturalhistorymuseumzimbabwe.com/bid-biodiversity-information-for-development/
The Entomological Association of Zimbabwe page: https://linktr.ee/EntomologicalAssociationZimEAZ

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

After reviewing our mid-term progress we feel confident that we have met our targets for our deliverables and have kept our stakeholders abreast of our progress. Feed back from our partners and stakeholders has been positive and encouraging. They are looking forward to our next workshops and the publishing of our data. Support from our mentor has been positive. With more awareness we are getting more data posted on forums such as iNaturalist.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

Covid-19 impacted on our implementation of our project in that we could not invite as many stakeholder personnel per institution as we had anticipated. Citizens science had few attendees due to restrictions on the number of people to be at any gathering. Training for edible insects in biodiversity data mobilization was conducted online. This was in line with our other option of reaching out to our stakeholders. This option we used due to travel restrictions caused by Covid-19.