

Mobilizing Cuban plant information from the IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Programme: BID

Project ID: BID-CA2020-001-NAC

Project lead organization: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Project implementation period: 1/7/2021 - 30/6/2023

Report approved: 23/6/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

During first half of the project we digitalized and prepared for mobilization via GBIF according DwC standard 33 319 occurrences (about 3029 records per month) almost the amount we anticipate to mobilize for the end of the project. We also produced and published a checklist dataset (617 records) based on updated list of invasive plants in Cuba. It was also completed the planned assessment of biodiversity data user needs for more effective conservation management, planning and policymaking. During this period we also accomplished training about 22 students and stakeholders on data mobilization.

Progress against milestones

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

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI
Checklist of Invasive Plants in Cuba - 2022	https://doi.org/10.15468/q56c5c

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

Name of the workshop participant: Lisbet Gonzalez-Oliva

Certification obtained: Advanced Badge

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

All three workshops planned under the project were delayed due unexpectedly long and strict Covid-19 travel bans and meetings prohibitions. Our COVID contingency plans were based on the early-pandemic regional travel bans, but as the pandemic progressed, the Cuban government implemented stricter restrictions that limited the movement even between neighboring municipalities. Then we were forced to postpone all workshops until restrictions were lifted. In the meantime, we provided one-on-one biodiversity mobilization training to critical project members, also we designed a questionnaire to assess biodiversity information needs and conducted the survey.

These changes did not affect the expected results. With those trained persons we worked in data capture and management for data mobilization in order to aim partial goals. Later, in April 2022 when restrictions were lifted. we conducted the postponed workshops. At the present (May 2022) all

activities planned to finished during first project's half are completed. The other critical activity (Mobilization of Cuban Plant Specialist Group data - includes data quality activities) planned to this first half is also executed according to plan, even better because until now we are digitalized more than 90 % of occurrence compromised to mobilize during the whole project.

Completed activities

Activity: Train the data mobilization coordinators

Description: Gain mandatory certification. Two staff members were trained in biodiversity data mobilization and gain both their advantage badges at BID Caribbean Data Mobilization Course.

Start Date - End Date: 19/7/2021 - 17/10/2021

Verification Sources: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8614410

https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8614408

Activity: Design a questionnaire to assess biodiversity information needs

Description: A questionnaire to assess biodiversity information need of conservation stakeholders were produced and made available online. Survey were conducted and responses were analyzed and summarized.

Start Date - End Date: 8/9/2021 - 30/4/2022

Verification Sources: <https://www.questionpro.com/t/ATxF1Zot9K>

https://gerbet.mx-router-iv.com/web_version/85m4xq/kuw_rcuc

Activity: Workshop: Challenges and solutions for biodiversity data use

Description: Based on results of the questionnaire previously designed and applied to detect biodiversity information needs, in this workshop we discussed about plant data needed for conservation planning, research, and policymaking. We will also identify actions and partnerships that could address data needs.

Start Date - End Date: 15/4/2022 - 17/4/2022

Verification Sources: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8614757

Activity: Workshop: Mobilizing biodiversity data - guidelines and tools

Description: Workshop to building new capacities to mobilize biodiversity data. This workshop revised DwC standard, as well as data capture, management and publish through GBIF IPT. This workshop was aimed to CubanPSG members, new partners and students.

Start Date - End Date: 12/4/2022 - 15/4/2022

Verification Sources: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8631703

Activity: Data Publishing - Checklist of Invasive plants

Description: dfdasdf

Start Date - End Date: 18/5/2022 - 30/5/2022

Verification Sources: pendiente de adjuntar

Activity: Workshop: Using CubanPSG biodiversity data for conservation planning, policymaking and decision-making

Description: This workshop aimed to improve access to data of IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group for conservation planning, policymaking and decision-making. This workshop explored data sets of the IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group and outline its potential to support conservation planning, policymaking and decision-making. We also record all comments and recommendations for improving usability of our searching platform and its results.

Start Date - End Date: 17/4/2022 - 18/5/2022

Verification Sources: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8631444

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

Project deliverables scheduled for 2022 were executed as planned (1 Dataset and 1 Report about biodiversity information needs and challenges). The other deliverables are scheduled for the last year of the project: 3 datasets, 2 reports, 1 paper submitted. Datasets progress are good, 50-90 percent complete. The other deliverables should be beginning to execute in the last months of the project after work with datasets almost done.

Dataset deliverables

Checklist of Invasive Plants in Cuba - 2022

Dataset type: Checklist

Dataset scope: This dataset contains the updated checklist of invasive alien plants in Cuba, based on data gathered between 2017 and 2022, plus other relevant information like invasion pathway, degree of establishment and local vernacular names.

Number of records: 617

Data holder: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Data host institution: GBIF Secretariat

% complete: 100%

Status update: Published and registered in GBIF

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15468/q56c5c>

Expected date of publication:

Distribution of Cuban Vascular Plants

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: This dataset contains occurrence records for Cuban vascular plants. We will exclude occurrence records of species threaten by illegal trade.

Number of records: 35,400

Data holder: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Data host institution: GBIF Secretariat

% complete: 90%

Status update: About of 90% of occurrences initially planned for mobilization as part of this dataset are already digitalized.

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-05-31

Species Conservation Assessments

Dataset type: Checklist

Dataset scope: This checklist dataset includes information about conservation assessments of Cuban native plants.

Number of records: 6,000

Data holder: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Data host institution: GBIF Secretariat

% complete: 50%

Status update: We are finishing the update of Red List of Cuban plants. We are finished already revision and validation of species taxonomy and authorship, also their reported uses.

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-01-31

Distribution of Alien Invasive Plants of Cuba

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: This dataset contains occurrence records of alien invasive species of Cuba.

Number of records: 4,000

Data holder: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Data host institution: GBIF Secretariat

% complete: 60%

Status update: We has been worked in digitalization and also in the georeferencing of localities.

DOI:

Expected date of publication: 2023-03-31

Other deliverables

Report on challenges and solutions for biodiversity data use in Cuba

Description: The report includes the challenges faced by Cuban biodiversity data users to access the data, key information needed for aim local and national goals and actions to address these challenges.

% complete: 100%

Status update: Analysis and report are completed (see uploaded attached), results were discussed during a workshop supported by this project and also during talk during Cuban Botanical Congress. Our next step is publish the report as scientific paper, posted in our web page and deliver published paper to all stakeholders involved in survey or not.

Sources of verification: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8629398

Report on threatened species not protected by Protected Areas

Description: This report lists threatened species not protected by the National System of Protected

Areas and provides recommendation for their ex situ conservation in Cuban Botanic Gardens, for their legal protection under the Species of Special Importance Law, and for the establishment of new protected areas.

% complete: 0%

Status update: This report will be produced after finishing the update of Red List of Cuban plants currently in progress.

Sources of verification: N/A

Report on the top 50 alien invasive species of concern for protected areas of Cuba

Description: This report lists the top 50 alien invasive species of concern for the National System of Protected Areas, and provides recommendation for their monitoring and management.

% complete: 0%

Status update: This report will be produced after completing the georeferencing stage of invasive plant occurrences, comparing the georeferenced localities for each invasive plant species with the map of protected areas.

Sources of verification: N/A

Gaps in plant diversity information of Cuba

Description: In this paper, we will identify knowledge gaps in plant diversity of Cuba.

% complete: 0%

Status update: We have started to gather information on knowledge gaps in plant diversity in Cuba based on the work done so far, but this paper will be written after the work on the data sets is completed.

Sources of verification: N/A

Events

Workshop: Challenges and solutions for biodiversity data use

Dates: 2022-04-15 - 2022-04-17

Organizing institution: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Country: Cuba

Number of participants: 35

Comments: During these three days we discussed about plant data needed for conservation planning, research, and policymaking, based on preliminary results of the survey performed using an questionnaire specially designed for this purpose, as well as on participants information needs. We will also identify actions and partnerships (e.g. with Institute of Tropical Geography) that could address data needs.

Website or sources of verification: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8614757

Events

Workshop: Using CubanPSG biodiversity data for conservation planning, policymaking and decision-making

Dates: 2022-04-17 - 2022-04-18

Organizing institution: IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Country: Cuba

Number of participants: 28

Comments: With 28 participants from 10 distinct institutions we presented IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group datasets contents and their potential use for conservation planning, policymaking and decision-making. We also record all comments and recommendations for improving usability of our searching platform and its results.

Website or sources of verification: https://gbif.fluxx.io/s3/model_doc/7602/8631444

Events

Workshop Mobilizing biodiversity data guidelines and tools

Dates: 2022-04-12 - 2022-04-15

Organizing institution: IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

Country: Cuba

Number of participants: 18

Comments: During this workshop we introduced DwC standard, as well as data capture, management and publish through GBIF IPT. We also planned an evaluation assignment focused on data capture for occurrence dataset from literature, with very good or good results in the 12 of participants who submitted assignment in time.

Communications and visibility

We presented the project and results at the First Cuban Botanical Congress, and the Annual Meeting of the Cuban Plant Specialist Group (2022). Due some workshops (delayed for COVID-19 restrictions) have been run during the First Cuban Botanical Congress much more first-hand data users took part of debate and make consensus about need for data mobilization and use of standards like DarwinCore for the different teams of Cuban institutions related to biodiversity. We plan to publish and distribute the paper "¿Cómo compartir de forma eficiente la información sobre biodiversidad?: el caso de las plantas en Cuba" about results included in report on challenges and solutions for biodiversity data use in Cuba, also will be sharing soon with the stakeholders by mailing like we did before with information needs questionnaire. Results are being shared as dataset through GBIF and will be continue to sharing in that way the other three datasets, also are being shared through Cuban PSG website using a search page developed to access to checklists and relevant information about invasive and threatened plants in Cuba (<https://cubanplantsiucn.planta.ngo/consultas-invasoras/> ; <https://cubanplantsiucn.planta.ngo/consultas-lista-roja/>).

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

Project activities have been executed as planned, with successful results We monitored the project's implementation by tracking the number of records digitalized and ready or almost ready to publish. Between July 2021 and May 2022 we digitalized about 3029 records/month, more than we initially planned.

Guidance and assistance of Leonardo Buitrago as BID Regional Project Support Team have been helpful indeed, specially with overcoming obstacles that we encountered in capturing some pieces of information that we consider important in our data and during dataset publish through IPT.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

The events planned for September and November 2022 were delayed due unexpectedly long and strict Covid-19 travel bans and meetings prohibitions. Our COVID contingency plans were based on the early-pandemic regional travel bans, but as the pandemic progressed, the Cuban government implemented stricter restrictions that limited the movement even between neighboring municipalities. We were forced to postpone all workshops until restrictions were lifted. In the meantime, we provided one-on-one biodiversity mobilization training to critical project members, also we designed a questionnaire to assess biodiversity information needs and conducted the survey.

GBIF leads the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID), a programme funded by the European Union. The programme provides supplementary support for activities addressing the needs of regional researchers and policymakers through mobilization and use of biodiversity data.

