



Mobilization of data on non- timber forest products’ species in Zimbabwe’s five biodiversity hotspots: towards the enhancement of food security and human health

**Stakeholder Workshop, Ministry of Environment Boardroom, 12th Floor, Kaguvi Building,
Harare, Zimbabwe
11 January 2019**

Workshop Report



This programme is funded by the [European Union](#)



Contents

Summary	3
Session 1	3
Session 2:	4
Any other Business	5
Stakeholder Workshop programme	6
List of Participants.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.





Summary

This report gives an outline of proceedings from the 3rd stakeholder workshop held on 11th of January 2019 at the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (METHI), Harare. The meeting was done in Harare as it was the most convenient given the fuel and economic crisis in the country. The meeting started with a welcome note from the Director of Environment in the METHI. This was followed by discussions on overview of GBIF, activities of local BID projects and ended with paving a way forward for sustainability of the project and suggestions for participants in Node activities.

Proceedings

Session 1 Chaired by Dr Justice Muvengwi (BUSE)

The opening address

The meetings started with a welcome note from Mr. Edward Samuriwo, a director in the Ministry of ETHI. In his welcome address he highlighted the importance of sharing biodiversity data but also highlighted that care should be taken to ensure that sensitive data was guarded jealously. He thanked the European Union for funding the project and hoped that this was just the beginning of great things.

Overview of GIBF

This was presented by Dr. Lizzie Mujuru, who outline the mandate and activities of GBIF and how it is linked to the BID project. An outline was given on biodiversity data usage and publication by region/continent. The publications and areas/fields of study where biodiversity data can be used were also highlighted.

Discussions

There is some confidence in sharing biodiversity data. It was highlighted that the Research Council and scientists of Zimbabwe be involved in issues to do with data sharing as it was clear that the bulk of publications with Zimbabwe data were not from scholars within Zimbabwe. There was also need to partner with the other organisations such Zinatha, other Universities, and NGOs to have more data on the resources we have. However, it was noted that developing countries due to lack of funding, are not willing to share data obtained through personal funding, thus affecting data sharing. Researchers were encouraged to conduct joint researches.





Importance of Data sharing- Dr Admore Mureva

The presentation outlined the importance and major concerns of data sharing. The presentation bemoaned the duplication of data collection in many Zimbabwean institutions. Dr Mureva emphasized that this duplication of data collection is a waste of money and researchers should aim to maximize the research dollar by making sure that the collected data has been used to its maximum potential. The maximum use of research data can only be achievable if data collecting institution make their data easily available to researchers and other institutions.

Discussions

Main discussions were around issues of patents especially for medicinal plants. We need help to be able to commercially package our own medicinal plants. In this regard, we need a business case for our biodiversity. The data should be integrated in protected areas. It was also highlighted that biodiversity information should be communicated to all levels in order for the knowledge of biodiversity conservation to be culture. It was highlighted people worry to lose their ideas and work to other people however they were assured that once they published they would have legal rights to their work.

Session 2: Chaired by Mr Anthony mapaura (NHBG)

How to use GBIF data for policy and development – Ms Kudzai Mafuwe/ Ms Tsitsi Maponga

The session was well covered by the two ladies who clearly showed how the GBIF data can be used in policy and development agenda.

Discussion

The issue of citizen science and integrated disciplines through workshops was highlighted as one of the major thrust for the project future. The ministry of cyber security was identified as key to the future of the project. Stakeholders highlighted the need for more training on data use. Use of social media platforms for biodiversity was also highlighted. Participants were notified of the twitter account created for the project.





Any other Business

There was a discussion on possible people to be included in running the Zimbabwean Node activities. Several suggestions were given and the final arrangements agreed upon were that 10 people from different high level organisations be in the steering committee. The following were suggested:

Steering Committee/Board

1. Bindura University (Secretariat)
2. Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry
3. Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Climate Change and Rural ---
4. Ministry of Higher education
5. Business council for Sustainable development
6. Research Council of Zimbabwe
7. UNDP
8. CZI
9. Attorney General's office

Technical Committee

1. Node Manager – Dr. L. Jimu
2. Three GBIF trainers –Ms K. Mafuwe,
3. Ms. T Maponga and
4. Dr. A. Mureva
5. Zoology specialist (animals)- Pro E. Gandiwa
6. Botany specialist- Mr. C. Chapano
7. Micologist- Dr Cathy Sharp
8. Entomologist- Ms Kudzai Mafuwe
9. Protected area rep-/ Ecologist- Ms R. Mandisodza
10. Ornithologist – Mr. T. Fakarayi
11. Itchiologist – Prof Lindah Mhlanga
12. Herpatologist – Mrs Broadly
13. Environmentalist- R. Mafuratidze
14. GIS specialist/ spatial analysis- N. Nondo
15. Henry Ndaimani
16. NUST- Mr R. Mwase
17. NBA- Ms Faith Mavhunzi

The Node manager, Head of delegation and the Ministry will work on modalities to invite the organisations and individuals to work in node activities.



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11 January 2019		Facilitator Ms K. Mafuwe
09:00-09:30	Registration	Mr G Ncube/ Ms J. Muzamhindo
Session Chair- J. Muvengwi		
0930-09:40	Welcome, Introductions and Official Opening	Mr. A. Samuriwo (Director Ministry of Environment)
09:40-10:10	Background to GBIF	Drs L. Jimu/L. Mujuru
10:10-10:30	Importance of data sharing	Dr. A. Mureva
10:30-10:45	Tea Break	All
Session Chair Mr. A Mapaura		
10:45-11:00	How to use GBIF data for policy and development	Ms.K. Mafuwe
11:00-11:15	The Zimbabwe BID and GBIF activities	Drs L. Jimu/L. Mujuru
11:15-12:30	Discussions on Node activities and how biodiversity data can be used by policy makers	Dr L. Mujuru
12:30-1245	Closing remarks	Dr. J. Muvengwi
1245	Lunch	All

