Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Enhancing Capacity In the Pacific Region – Strengthening Processes for Invasive Species and Biodiversity Data Mobilisation. - BID-PA2020-004-REG
Project page: https://www.gbif.org/project/BID-PA2020-004-REG/strengthening-processes-for-invasive-species-and-biodiversity-data-mobilization-in-the-pacific-region
Internal reviewer: Tim Hirsch

Status

Approved

Due Date: 30/6/2023

Due On: 30/6/2023

Approved on: 2/10/2023
General Feedback:
We acknowledge the important impact the COVID-19 pandemic and the many additional challenges and natural disasters have had on the implementation of the project. We understand that, due to these many crises, the project could not be implemented as initially planned.

We recognize the value of the engagement activities led by the project team to increase regional awareness of the benefits of open data sharing and formal membership to GBIF.

We strongly encourage SPREP to continue these engagement activities even after the end of the project and would appreciate receiving additional information on how SPREP suggests continuing these engagement activities, especially with Niue, Tuvalu, RMI, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

The SPREP team is very welcome to contact the GBIF Secretariat to seek detailed information on the benefits of GBIF participation and GBIF alignment with multilateral agreements, receive latest information on GBIF tools and opportunities, and/or seek recommendations on how best they can continue their data mobilization activities after the end of their project.

Lastly, we noted that a section of the report was missing and request you to complete it. We also identified a few data quality issues and encourage you to address these to improve the overall quality of the data.

Further note on resubmission of the report: Thank you for addressing the critical issues. As noted in evaluation of the other SPREP projects, we look forward to discussions on how GBIF and SPREP can collaborate most effectively on regional capacity programmes in future.

Critical issue(s):
No
Critical issue(s) specific to data publishing:
No
Non-critical issue(s):
No
Non-critical issue(s)/recommendation(s) specific to data publishing:
No

Instructions

Your final report <u>MUST</u> clearly demonstrate the impact achieved through your project.
It should incorporate all relevant information, including information that may be listed in documents listed as sources of verification such as but not limited to, numbers and affiliation of participants to workshops, steps taken to ensure knowledge dissemination, direct or indirect

impact in decision-making processes, etc.
In addition, your final report should address ALL NON-CRITICAL ISSUES listed in the review of your Midterm report.

- Your report must be written in **English.** Grantees are encouraged to have their report reviewed by their partners or regional support team to ensure the quality of the language and reporting
- Please take into consideration any information in any **approved** amendment request when completing this report
- **Save often** at the lower right (select **Edit** to re-open the form). Note that the portal does not auto-save. You must click the **Save** button to ensure your data will not be lost
- You can save your draft progress report as often as you wish. When you return to the GBIF grants portal, you will find it under **Reports Due.** You can then continue to **Edit** it
- You must **Submit** your progress report before the deadline. Note that once submitted, you can no longer **Edit** your progress report
- You can print a copy of this form by first selecting the **Save** button (if in Edit mode) at the bottom right, then select the **Print** icon at the top right. **This generates a PDF that you can print or share with collaborators.** See **FAQ**
- Remember that this report will be made available on your project page on the GBIF website and therefore should not include any contact information, unless you have permission from all mentioned in the report that their contact information can be published
- For additional guidance, please watch our video on project reporting

Please Note: To edit a draft, respond to a revision request, or request for additional information, select the **Edit** button at the top right

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Project Proposal Summary

This project will increase capacity in the Pacific for data mobilization. One of the ways that we are going to do this is by broadening the geographic scope of GBIF in the region, by engaging partners who have not been involved with GBIF previously. Another way is by expanding the nature of the organizations involved; Primary partnerships are focused on departments and ministries charged with managing the environment or natural resources. However, we recognize the important roles performed by non-governmental organizations in the Pacific region. Many NGO's are involved in environmental management and monitoring; many provide employment opportunities for graduates and contribute significantly to sustainable development. Advice received from BID provides confidence that we are able to engage with the various Territories in the region. This project provides us with a rare opportunity to work with such a diverse group. Having said that, none of the partners are

Progress report

Executive Summary

Briefly describe:
- Your project' implementation, key achievements and impact
- The context and approach taken for the final evaluation of your project and the main conclusions
- The key lessons learned and best practices identified
- Any additional objectives that were defined during the implementation of the project and the reason(s) they were added to the project's initial objectives
- Any unexpected challenges which have prevented you to reach a planned project objective and/or implementing an activity and/or producing a deliverable
- Any post-project activities

SPREP recruited an experienced and high quality project management team to deliver the project. These appointments capitalized on existing structures and personnel. It included key players from the previous BID funded project. They brought experience, confidence and lessons learned along with a clear understanding of where the opportunities were, to add value to aligned initiatives.

In November 2021, The Project Team delivered the Project Inception Workshop for the 21 project participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This event was a great success. It was delivered via zoom. Much of the content was prerecorded and was made available to participants for use in their National GBIF Workshops.

The 14 National GBIF Workshops were scheduled to happen in the first half of 2022, however many were delayed due to covid restrictions preventing people from gathering. This affected momentum for the project activities generally. In total 5 national workshops were delivered.

The Regional Workshop was hosted at SPREP in Samoa in November 2022. David Bloom led the delivery of the workshop. 14 participants from 7 countries attended.

Six datasets were published containing 653 new records. One of the datasets has been referenced within the project implementation period.

A series of zoom meetings were held with the countries that had expressed an interest in joining GBIF and improving biodiversity data management. This was followed up at the Regional Workshop. The Project Manager and Coordinator then travelled to Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands. The Head of Delegation and the Coordinator travelled to Tuvalu and Niue to promote the MoU and Data Management Standard Operating Procedures. As of March 2023, none of the target countries had signed the MoU.

Overall, we have been disappointed with the level of engagement from Pacific countries. The project happened at a difficult time for the Pacific with regards to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Pacific countries were very slow to reopen. Even when movement became possible, there was a lot of caution amongst participants.

Progress against milestones

Use this section to indicate whether your have completed the mandatory milestones:

Has your project completed all planned activities?   Yes

Has you project produced all deliverables?   No

Please explain why you didn't produced all the deliverables originally planned by your project and if you intend to produce the missing deliverables during post project activities. [Max characters: 1,000]

Rationale explaining the non production of all deliverables:

Target project countries still may sign the MoU and endorse the Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management. Countries were generally looking for more tangible benefits when considering the MoU. One of the important selling points was the opportunity to participate in the GBIF Governance Meetings, however the travel difficulties and potential for catching covid 19 meant that this opportunity was less attractive, than it was previously.
Levels of engagement were down generally, due to the pandemic. We had fewer National Workshops than anticipated and lower participation at our Regional Workshop. As a result, we didn't get anywhere near the 200,000 records target. We also did not get 10 new publishing agencies.
We did get 50 datasets, however it was across the 3 BID projects. Some of the datasets were different to those identified in the Project Proposal, due to the wants, needs and preferences of the project participants.

Global Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl)

The Global Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl) is a comprehensive, community-curated clearinghouse of collections information.
The collections registry includes data on institutions, collections and associated staff members and spans all scientific disciplines.
The collections registry also serves as the registry for
InstitutionCodes and *CollectionCodes* as well as *institutionIDs and collectionIDs* * — elements used in the DarwinCore data standard used in the biodiversity informatics community.
Use of these terms enables publications and databases to point unambiguously to collections and their contents.

Does you institution hold any physical scientific collection (containing, for example, fossil or preserved specimens)?   No

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Report on Activities

▼ Activities described in the project proposal

In this section, review the activities described in your project proposal and describe your progress.

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Expected Impact
Project Implementation	Project management, coordination, reporting, financial reporting, IT support	2021-07-01	2023-07-30	Supporting smooth delivery of project activities through integration with existing projects. Logistic arrangements,

				financial management and reporting all on time and to specification
Initial Training and Introduction to GBIF for Organizational and National Representatives	Assessing biodiversity data holdings and user needs through a virtual interactive meeting. Training data managers within key data holding institutions on data mobilization and management	2021-07-01	2021-12-31	There is an identified need for someone with some understanding of GBIF to facilitate the National meetings. This virtual training session will identify and upskill attendees so that they are able to effectively deliver these meetings and identify data sets for publishing
National Workshops for Data Identification	Assessing biodiversity data holdings and identifying data for mobilization.	2022-01-01	2022-06-30	We discover and identify some valuable datasets within communities that can be published to GBIF, while promoting the platform and data use for decision making
Regional Workshop for Data Mobilization	Organizing regional workshops to promote inter-institutional collaboration. Training data managers and collections staff within key data holding institutions on data mobilization and management. Validating and publishing regional, national and local species checklists, invasive species lists or threatened species lists. Directing workshops and advocacy actions that promote the use of openly accessible data, for example, in national-level biodiversity reporting Hosting workshops on data analysis techniques Applying biodiversity data in decision-making processes. Documenting use cases and sharing them with partners in the region	2022-06-30	2022-12-31	Data mobilization skills are developed by participants. Their knowledge of GBIF, data mobilization and data use for decision making is dramatically increased. For those with prior knowledge, the skills and understandings are reinforced and consolidated. Each participant publishes at least one dataset during the workshop. Significant volumes of data are published to GBIF
Institutionalise biodiversity data mobilization processes into Pacific organizations.	Country visits to promote Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management	2022-01-01	2022-12-31	This activity is designed to complement work done by the INFORM project which has close working relationships and

				human resource infrastructure in Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. National Data Policies will be introduced and promoted for adoption along with Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management
Support new Pacific Voting Participants	Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation	2022-01-01	2022-12-31	Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Niue and RMI will be visited by the SPREP Head of Delegation and SPREP BID Project Manager to promote countries joining GBIF as voting participants. This activity is heavily co-financed. 5 new voting participants

Activity implementation - summary

Referring to the activities described in your project proposal replicated above:
- Review the activities listed and describe your achievements
- Highlight any new activity you implemented
- Highlight any delayed activity and describe (1) the cause(s) of the delay, (2) impact on the project, (3) if you expect to implement this activity as post-project activity (if so indicate the dates) or if you do not intend to complete this activity

SPREP recruited an experienced and high-quality project management team to deliver the project. These appointments capitalized on existing structures and personnel. It included key players from the previous BID funded project. They brought experience, confidence and lessons learned along with a clear understanding of where the opportunities were, to add value to aligned initiatives.

On 10 November 2021, The Project Team delivered the Project Inception Workshop for the 21 project participants from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This event was a great success. It was delivered via zoom. Much of the content was pre-recorded and was subsequently made available to participants for use in their National GBIF Workshops. This Workshop was designed to address a lesson learned in the Phase 1 project where National level participants were asked to facilitate National meetings without any prior knowledge of the subject matter. The Project Inception Workshop inducted attendees so that they were able to effectively deliver respective National meetings and identify data sets for publishing. An interactive tool called Mentimeter was used to highlight key take home messages and then quiz participants to assess how well the messages were understood. We were then able to resolve misunderstandings in real time by discussing the specific topic in more detail. The presentation, which includes results, was uploaded to support the mid-term report.

The 14 National GBIF Workshops were scheduled to happen in the first half of 2022, however many were delayed due to covid restrictions preventing people from gathering. This affected

momentum for the project activities generally. In total 5 national workshops were delivered. This result was affected by the pandemic. As movement became possible the small government departments that represent our project participants were almost immediately overwhelmed by immediate priority works. I think that GBIF was not seen by many as a priority at this time and the results reflect that. Although we achieved a healthy level of engagement at the Inception Workshop, this did not flow through into better results with the National Workshops. Better results would probably be achieved by having a GBIF expert in attendance.

The Regional Workshop was hosted at SPREP in Samoa in November 2022. David Bloom led the delivery of the workshop. 14 participants from 7 countries attended. Six datasets were published containing 653 new records. One of the datasets has been referenced within the project implementation period. Data mobilization skills were developed by participants. Their knowledge of GBIF, data mobilization and data use for decision making was dramatically increased. For those with prior knowledge, the skills and understandings were reinforced and consolidated. Each participant published at least one dataset during the workshop. However, the number of participants, their levels of engagement and the data that was published are all reflective of the broader situation previously described. We did get 50 datasets; however, it was across the 3 BID projects. Some of the datasets were different to those identified in the Project Proposal, due to the wants, needs and preferences of the project participants.

A series of zoom meetings were held with the countries that had expressed an interest in joining GBIF and improving biodiversity data management. This was followed up at the Regional Workshop. The Project Manager and Coordinator then travelled to Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands. The Head of Delegation and the Coordinator travelled to Tuvalu and Niue to promote the MoU and Data Management Standard Operating Procedures. The Project Coordinator and Head of Delegation also had a series of meetings with the RMI Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, and RMI delegation, where the MOU and GBIF Voting Participation was promoted. While we have not had any target countries sign the MOU, Niue, Tuvalu and RMI have circulated the MOU within the relevant national agencies for review, and are taking steps to have this signed. The SPREP Team will be faciltiating these based on the progress taken by the country even after the end date of this project.

Completed activities

Referring to the activities described in your project proposal, please add details below for all activities that you have completed in the course of your project.

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Verification Sources
Project Implementation	Project management, coordination, reporting, financial reporting, IT support	2021-07-01	2023-07-30	Logistic arrangements, financial management and reporting all on time and to specification

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Verification Sources
Initial Training and Introduction to GBIF for Organizational and National Representatives	Assessing biodiversity data holdings and user needs through a virtual interactive meeting. Training data managers within key data holding institutions on data mobilization and management	2021-07-01	2021-12-31	GBIF Inception Workshop (agenda) https://www.sprep.org/news/workshop-to-delve-into-biodiversity-data-sharing-and-why-it-matters

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Verification Sources
National Workshops for Data Identification	Assessing biodiversity data holdings and identifying data for mobilization	2022-01-01	2022-06-30	National Workshop Reports uploaded in support of this Report

Activity	Description	Start	End	Verification Sources

		Date	Date	
Regional Workshop for Data Mobilization	Organizing regional workshops to promote inter-institutional collaboration. Training data managers and collections staff within key data holding institutions on data mobilization and management. Validating and publishing regional, national and local species checklists, invasive species lists or threatened species lists. Directing workshops and advocacy actions that promote the use of openly accessible data, for example, in national-level biodiversity reporting Hosting workshops on data analysis techniques Applying biodiversity data in decision-making processes. Documenting use cases and sharing them with partners in the region	2022-06-30	2022-12-31	Regional Workshop Agenda uploaded in support of this see also link https://www.sprep.org/news/enhancing-capacity-in-the-pacific-to-digitise-biodiversity-data

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Verification Sources
Institutionalise biodiversity data mobilization processes into Pacific organizations.	Country visits to promote Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management	2022-01-01	2022-12-31	Report

Activity	Description	Start Date	End Date	Verification Sources
Support new Pacific Voting Participants	Country visits to promote GBIF voting participation	2022-01-01	2022-12-31	report

Report on Deliverables

In this section, review the deliverables described in your project proposal and describe your achievements.

▼ Deliverable listed in the Project Proposal

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Feral Pigs of Niue
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: Occurrences of feral pigs, as recorded by the Department of the Environment in Niue
Approximate # of Records: 200
Data Holders: Department of the Environment, Niue
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology: hunting records
Current Format: Partially Digitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu Tokelau
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: Records of Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu Tokelau
Approximate # of Records: 197
Data Holders: Department of Environment; Tokelau
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology: Eradication operation
Current Format: Fully Digitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Follow up Records for Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu, Tokelau
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: Follow up records from 2019
Approximate # of Records: 9
Data Holders: Department of Environment; Tokelau
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology:
Current Format: Fully Digitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Rodent Survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: Results from a pre-eradication rodent survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI
Approximate # of Records: 35
Data Holders: SPREP
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology:
Current Format: Fully Digitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Ha'apai Islands Rodent Survey, Tonga
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: 2020 pre eradication rodent survey from 4 small islands in the Ha'apai group: Tau; Tonumea, Nuku, Kelefesia
Approximate # of Records: 200
Data Holders: Dept of Environment; Tonga
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology:
Current Format: Undigitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Turtle sightings in Vanuatu
Dataset Type: Occurrences
Dataset Description and Scope: Sightings of turtles reported by community members during Dugong catch/by-catch questionnaire survey conducted in 2017/8
Approximate # of Records: 500
Data Holders: VESS
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology: questionnaire survey
Current Format: Fully Digitized

Dataset Details

Dataset Title: Protected Area Species Checklists
Dataset Type: Checklist
Dataset Description and Scope: Checklists from the BIOPAMA Pacific Island Protected Area Portal
Approximate # of Records: 1000
Data Holders: SPREP
Expected Host Institution: SPREP
Sampling Methodology:
Current Format: Fully Digitized

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Increase capacity in the Pacific for data mobilization	More Pacific GBIF users with greater capability and understanding of how data sharing benefits all.	Project reporting, images, event evaluation results

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Institutionalise	3 Pacific National Governments	Governments of Tonga, Vanuatu and the

biodiversity data mobilization processes into Pacific organizations. | endorsing Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management | Solomon Islands to endorse Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Publish 50 new datasets	Increase volume of Pacific data currently available on GBIF.	50 new Pacific datasets available of GBIF

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Publish 200,000 new records	Increase volume of Pacific data currently available on GBIF.	200,000 new Pacific records now available on GBIF

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Endorse 10 new Pacific data publishers	Expanding networks to support long-term data mobilization and inter-institutional data sharing	10 new Pacific data publishing agencies on GBIF

Title	Description	Sources of verification (Full Proposal)
Support 5 new Pacific Voting Participants	Establishing and strengthening networks to support long-term data mobilization and inter-institutional data sharing	Governments of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Niue and the Marshall Islands become GBIF voting participants

Production of Deliverables - summary

Referring to the deliverables described in your project proposal replicated above:
- Review the deliverables listed and describe your achievements
- Highlight any new deliverables
- Highlight any delayed deliverables and describe (1) the cause(s) of the delay, (2) if you expect to produce these deliverables as a result of a post-project activity (if so indicate the date of completion) or if you do not intend to produce these deliverables

The Regional Workshop was hosted at SPREP in Samoa in November 2022. David Bloom led the delivery of the workshop. 14 participants from 7 countries attended. Six datasets were published containing 653 new records. One of the datasets has been referenced within the project implementation period. Data mobilization skills were developed by participants. Their knowledge of GBIF, data mobilization and data use for decision making was dramatically increased. For those with prior knowledge, the skills and understandings were reinforced and consolidated. Each participant published at least one dataset during the workshop. However, the number of participants, their levels of engagement and the data that was published are all reflective of the broader situation previously described. We did get 50 datasets; however, it was across the 3 BID projects. Some of the datasets were different to those identified in the Project Proposal, due to the wants, needs and preferences of the project participants. It is hoped that the datasets identified in the project proposal will be published in the future.

Production of deliverables

- Referring to the deliverables described in your project proposal replicated above, please add details below for **all** deliverables that you have produced.
- Please provide a status on the completion of **all dataset** deliverables (even if not yet published), as well as expected date of publication.

Dataset deliverables

Checklist of coral species Great Astrolabe Reefs, Kadavu, Fiji (1988-1997

Dataset type: Checklist
Dataset scope: Coral species on the Great Astrolabe reefs in Kadavu, Fiji.
Number of records: 196
Data holder: USP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: Published
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15468/s763gg
Expected date of publication: 2023-06-01

Ornithology of Erikub Atoll in Marshall Islands

Dataset type: Checklist
Dataset scope: summary of all known bird records from the two island groups
Number of records: 18
Data holder: Smithsonian
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: Completed
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15468/yevkjh
Expected date of publication:

Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu, Tokelau

Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Occurrence records of Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu, Tokelau recorded in 2019
Number of records: 196
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: Completed
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15468/xa98rz
Expected date of publication:

Strandings of Oceania

Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Strandings and incidental sightings of whales and dolphins in the Pacific from 1991-2019
Number of records: 74
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: Completed
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15468/yfk7r5
Expected date of publication:

Environmental Weeds Present in Vailima, Samoa

Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Data collected as part of a control programme in 2022.
Number of records: 36
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: Completed
DOI: https://doi.org/10.15468/yd78b2
Expected date of publication:

Tonga Panama Rubber Tree Data

Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Baseline collection of data to find the distribution for the eradication of Panama Rubber Tree – Castilla elastica
Number of records: 133
Data holder: Department of Environment, Tonga
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 100%
Status update: https://doi.org/10.15468/x8nyjf
DOI:
Expected date of publication:

Feral Pigs of Niue

Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Occurrences of feral pigs, as recorded by the Department of the Environment in Niue
Number of records: 200
Data holder: Department of Environment, Niue
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data. Representatives from Niue did not attend the Regional Workshop

DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-07-31
Follow up Records for Sphagneticola trilobata in Nukunonu, Tokelau
Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Follow up records from 2019
Number of records: 9
Data holder: Department of Environment; Tokelau
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. Representatives from Tokelau did not attend the Regional Workshop.
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-07-31
Rodent Survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI
Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Results from a pre-eradication rodent survey on Denneo and Bokinbotin Islands in Majuro RMI
Number of records: 35
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This is in the hands of the RMI Representatives
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-09-30
Ha'apai Islands Rodent Survey, Tonga
Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: 2020 pre eradication rodent survey from 4 small islands in the Ha'apai group: Tau; Tonumea, Nuku, Kelefesia
Number of records: 200
Data holder: Dept of Environment; Tonga
Data host institution: SRPEP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. This is in the hands of the Department of Environment in Tonga
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-09-30
Turtle sightings in Vanuatu
Dataset type: Occurrences
Dataset scope: Sightings of turtles reported by community members during Dugong catch/by-catch questionnaire survey conducted in 2017/8
Number of records: 500
Data holder: Vanuatu Environmental Science Society
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 20%
Status update: VESS have the data in a digitized format. Representatives from VESS did not attend the Regional
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-09-30
Protected Area Species Checklists
Dataset type: Checklist
Dataset scope: Checklists from the BIOPAMA Pacific Island Protected Area Portal
Number of records: 1,000
Data holder: SPREP
Data host institution: SPREP
% complete: 50%
Status update: We have the data in a digitized format. The SPREP Personnel who manages this portal did not attend the Regional Workshop
DOI:
Expected date of publication: 2023-09-30

Other deliverables

Increase capacity in the Pacific for data mobilization
Description: More Pacific GBIF users with greater capability and understanding of how data sharing benefits all.
% complete: 100%
Status update: Successfully Completed
Sources of verification: https://pbif.sprep.org/posts/en/2022/enhancing-capacity-in-the-pacific-to-digitise-biodiversity-data/

Events

Please list each of the events that you have organized as part of your project. Provide links to any documents or web pages providing more information on the event in the "Website or sources of verification" column. Attachments should be uploaded in the "Report attachments" section at the end of this report.

Regional Inception Worksop

Dates: 2021-11-10 - 2021-11-10
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Virtual Hosted in Samoa 14 Countries
Number of participants: 21
Comments: Completed
Website or sources of verification: https://www.sprep.org/news/workshop-to-delve-into-biodiversity-data-sharing-and-why-it-matters

National Workshop in Niue

Dates: 2022-11-07 - 2022-11-07
Organizing institution: Department of Environment, Niue
Country: Niue
Number of participants: 35
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: Report

National Workshop in the Solomon Islands

Dates: 2022-05-31 - 2022-05-31
Organizing institution: Department of the Environment and Conservation
Country: Solomon Islands
Number of participants: 19
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: report

National Workshop in Tonga

Dates: 2022-06-17 - 2022-06-17
Organizing institution: Department of Environment
Country: TONGA
Number of participants: 14
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: Report attached

National Workshop in Tuvalu

Dates: 2022-08-24 - 2022-08-24
Organizing institution: Department of Environment
Country: Tuvalu
Number of participants: 24
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: Report

National Workshop in Vanuatu

Dates: 2022-08-10 - 2022-08-10
Organizing institution: Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
Country: Vanuatu
Number of participants: 15
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: report

GBIF Networking Lunch - Vanuatu

Dates: 2022-09-21 - 2022-09-21
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Vanuatu
Number of participants: 22
Comments: A follow up event delivered while the Project Manager and Coordinator were visiting Vanuatu to discuss the MoU, Data Policy and SOPs
Website or sources of verification: Image

GBIF Networking Lunch – Solomon Islands

Dates: 2023-03-01 - 2023-03-01
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Solomon Islands
Number of participants: 35
Comments: A follow up event delivered while the Project Manager and Coordinator were visiting Solomon Islands to discuss the MoU, Data Policy and SOPs
Website or sources of verification: Image

GBIF Networking Lunch – Tuvalu

Dates: 2023-03-29 - 2023-03-29
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Tuvalu
Number of participants: 15
Comments: A follow up event delivered while the Head of Delegation and Coordinator were visiting Tuvalu to discuss the MoU, Data Policy and SOPs
Website or sources of verification: Image

Biodiversity Information for Development Pacific Workshop and Regional Meeting

Dates: 2022-11-14 - 2022-11-14
Organizing institution: SPREP
Country: Samoa
Number of participants: 20
Comments:
Website or sources of verification: https://pbif.sprep.org/posts/en/2022/enhancing-capacity-in-the-pacific-to-digitise-biodiversity-data/

Communications and visibility

▼ Communication plan described in the Project Proposal

The SPREP Invasives Team have recruited a Communication specialist and they are about to start work shortly. Their focus will be to manage project communications through the National and Regional Workshop activities. Communications will be addressed during the Initial Training of National representatives. National Reps will be responsible for communications activities in-country. National and Regional activities will have corresponding communications activities that are relative to the geographic scale. Initiatives at the national level will utilize social media and may include radio and newspaper stories. Initiatives at the regional level include those but also press releases and stories published on the SPREP Website. We have the logos for the EU and GBIF and are familiar with the visibility requirements from Phase 1. The improved data management processes in 3 countries activity is supported by the INFORM project and their Communications Team will promote advances made in that regard. The advent of 5 new voting participants for GBIF, also represent important steps forwards in terms of widening the global reach of GBIF. We will liaise directly with the GBIF Secretariat about the communications related to this. The publication titled "Share Pacific Invasive Species Data using the Global Biodiversity Information Facility" meets project requirements and is available in French also. https://piln.sprep.org/ This resource is will be used to support learning achieved through Phase 2, while providing an opportunity to engage and support future Pacific data publishers.

Describe how the results of your project are being, and will be shared with the project stakeholders and broader GBIF community.
Please also review the project webpage (https://www.gbif.org/project/BID-PA2020-004-REG/strengthening-processes-for-invasive-species-and-biodiversity-data-mobilization-in-the-pacific-region) and provide any additional information (including links to resources) that you would like to add to your page.
Please list all the documents you would like to add to your project page and upload these in the "Report Attachments" section at the bottom of this form.

The Project Team includes a communications specialist. Jordan Schuster was recruited in 2021 as part of a cofinancing project. His role is to manage project communications through the project activities. Initiatives utilise the SPREP regional media channels, SPREP website and social media. We have the logo's for the EU and GBIF and are familiar with the visibility requirements from the Phase 1 BID funded project. All materials supplied to partners included the European

Union logo as per the BID Communications Guidelines and included the phrase "This project was funded by the European Union".

"Share Pacific Invasive Species data using GBIF" was reviewed and updated to include information about the Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility. This added to the set of existing Battler Series publications. These aim to take technical and scientific information and present these in a way that is accessible, engaging and educational for Pacific people. The guide is available in French also.

SPREP has a separate Communications Team who manage the SPREP website. https://www.sprep.org/ has a regional focus and is a recognised platform for sharing relevant information. The SPREP Communications Team have a web of networks through the Pacific. SPREP published a story titled "Enhancing capacity in the Pacific to digitise biodiversity data" to its website https://www.sprep.org/news/enhancing-capacity-in-the-pacific-to-digitise-biodiversity-data

We developed the concept of PBIF Ambassadors and supplied the regional workshop participants with branded shirts.

The project webpage provides another opportunity for project visibility. We have reviewed the page and have nothing further to add at this stage.

Monitoring and evaluation

▼ Monitoring and evaluation plan described in the Project Proposal

Activity Name Corresponding M&E Activity Project Implementation - Project Reporting Initial Training - Interactive Evaluation for real-time engagement. This mechanism ensures that all participants respond by making the presenter accessible to all. It also offers aggregation and presenting features that inform the meeting facilitator and members in real-time. National Workshops - Interactive Evaluation for real-time engagement and aggregation of data and results Regional Workshop - Every participant will be expected to publish at least one dataset during the workshop. Interactive Evaluation for real-time engagement and aggregation of data and results will be used to identify any weak points of the developing knowledge and record progress. Institutionalize Improved Processes - Governments of Tonga, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to endorse Data Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Data Management. Support 5 new Pacific Voting Participants - Governments of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Niue and the Marshall Islands become GBIF voting participants Our group of "Ambassadors" (Regional Consortium Partners) can be surveyed to provide qualitative evaluation assessments to support quantitative metrics expected to be derived from the GBIF Pacific portal. Within the group of 'Ambassadors', there is a smaller identified 'Focus Group' who will consult on specific project activities. The 'Focus Group' will meet virtually and can be engaged or consulted as required.

Monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned

Referring to the Monitoring and Evaluation plan described in your project proposal, please document the final evaluation of your project's implementation and achievements.
This section of the report should cover, for example:
● An evaluation of the project activities and their outputs/deliverables
● Comments on the project implementation, and its efficiency and effectiveness, strength and weaknesses etc.
● Any feedback on the project's relevance from the partners and stakeholders
● Indications and reasons for any changes which have been made to the project's original plans, and actions to follow-up
● The management arrangements for the project, including support from the GBIF Secretariat
● Areas of success to build on, after the project implementation period and best practices identified
● Main lessons from the project experience that could be applied in other contexts
● Conclusions from your experience during the implementation of the project and recommendations for the GBIF Secretariat or the community to reinforce the success of the project

Final Evaluation:

Overall, the level of engagement from Pacific countries was low. The project happened at a difficult time for the Pacific with regards to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Pacific countries were slow to reopen. Even when movement became possible, there was a lot of caution amongst participants with regards to travel and gathering. Consortium partner agencies were overwhelmed with higher priority needs.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned:

Although we achieved a healthy level of engagement at the Inception Workshop, this did not flow through into better results with the National Workshops. Better results would probably be achieved by having a GBIF expert in attendance. The levels of engagement for this project, supports the need for a GBIF representative to be based in the Pacific to help move and build the momentum, knowledge and use of GBIF.

Post Project Activity(ies):

Some of the datasets were different to those identified in the Project Proposal, due to the wants, needs and preferences of the project participants. It is hoped that the datasets identified in the project proposal will be published in the future. Furthermore SPREP will continue to provide support to countries that have been presented the MOU and considered becoming voting participant. Head of Delegation and SPREP team are in touch with GBIF Secretariat regarding the process.

Sustainability

▼ Sustainability plan described in the Project Proposal

Data management processes in Consortium Partner countries currently range from 'non existent' to 'basic'. Building capacity at the regional and national level will catalyze the development of processes for data mobilization and data use for decision making. The GEF project: "Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Reduce the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Pacific", commenced in early 2019. The participating countries are Tonga, Tuvalu, Niue and the Marshall Islands (RMI). Tonga and Niue were part of the first BID project. The 5 year GEF project provides a critical pathway for institutionalizing data management, sharing and analysis practices introduced by the first BID project. SPREP Team managing the GEF project will look to bring RMI and Tuvalu up to speed with data management practices during Phase 2 and beyond. This is an example of how projects are leveraged against one another to advance development in all aspects of invasive species management in the Pacific. Projects are not implemented as stand-alone exercises. The Phase 2 BID project activities will be no different. Improved data management processes in 3 countries and the advent of 5 new voting participants for GBIF, also represent important steps forwards in terms of sustaining advances made under Phase 2. During Phase 1, we developed a publication to assist Pacific data holders to publish data to GBIF. It is titled "Share Pacific Invasive Species Data using the Global Biodiversity Information Facility" and is available in French also. https://piln.sprep.org/ This resource is will be used to support learning achieved through Phase 2, while providing an opportunity to engage and support future Pacific data publishers.

Please provide a description of how the partners involved will build on the results of this project in their future work. This could include future collaborative activities, such as plans to continue activities initiated during this project and how the future impact of the project will be monitored and/or measured.

The sustainability plan from the project proposal was accurate. RMI and Tuvalu engaged in the BID project and representatives developed new data mobilization skills. Their knowledge of GBIF, data mobilization and data use for decision making was dramatically increased. The links with the GEF6 Regional Invasives Project proved productive and allowed for co financing of activities and travel. We expect that the personnel involved will look to publish the data arising from subsequent

GEF6 RIP. They may need further support to do so, but SPREP will be on hand to assist. This is the same for other aligned projects. Success in this regard is easily demonstrated by the activity on the SPREP IPT.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

Please describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of your project. Highlight the changes you had to implement and the possible impact of the pandemic on your project achievements.

Despite the challenges and uncertainty we managed to get the project activities completed. However, as previously described, the levels of engagement were not what we had anticipated or hoped for. For many Pacific Island communities, the pandemic presented existential challenges with severe economic impacts due to the loss of tourism, travel and commercial activity generally. When the borders finally opened, many of our partner agencies were forced to prioritise engagement and activities in extreme ways.
During the project implementation period, our partner countries faced cyclones, volcanic eruptions, civil unrest, earthquakes, tsunamis, infrastructure failure and a global pandemic.
Due to the travel restrictions, the window for many of the project activities was very limited and the road to recovery for many of the Pacific Islands will be very long.

Response to critical and non-critical issues identified following the assessment of the progress report

This section should be completed only if critical issues have been identified during the assessment of the progress report.

Clearly describe how your revised report addresses the critical issue(s) (both general and specific to data publishing) identified following the assessment of your progress report.

The Completed Activities section has been completed. Furthermore, to address the engagement of Niue, Tuvalu, and RMI and Vanuatu, the SPREP Invasives Team continues to work with these countries to promote GBIF and build awareness and confidence in data sharing and understanding of open data sharing. Consistent engagement is possible due to parallel projects SPREP is conducting in Niue, Tuvalu, RMI, and Vanuatu. For the Solomon Islands, our Project Manager is in contact with key personnel from the Island Oceans and Ecosystems Programme at SPREP who will travel to Solomon in August. This SPREP mission will also provide an opportunity for Kasaqa Tora, a Spatial Analysis Specialist, to follow up with the status of GBIF Voting Participation membership and continue to build awareness of the benefits of GBIF for the Solomon Islands.

Our existing resources, such as the Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility presenting all Pacific biodiversity data on GBIF, are also featured on the SPREP landing page to promote maintaining and sharing Pacific knowledge and resources. https://www.sprep.org/invasive-species-management-in-the-pacific. Another important resource developed and assisting countries' engagement is the Battler Series titled Sharing Pacific Invasive Species Data on GBIF. Recently this document has been updated to provide guidance on using PBIF to access Pacific Biodiversity Data.

If relevant, describe how your revised report addresses the non-critical issue(s)/recommendation(s) received following the assessment of your progress report.

Documents

Please attach any/all relevant documents to the below "Report Attachments" section.

REPORT ATTACHMENTS

Vanuatu National GBIF Workshop Report Template .docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:52 PM on 29 June 2023

Niue National GBIF Workshop Report .docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:51 PM on 29 June 2023

Voting Participation Visits Report.docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:49 PM on 29 June 2023

REGIONAL WORKSHOP.docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:15 PM on 29 June 2023

Solomon Islands National GBIF Workshop Report
09062022VPulekera.pdf

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:15 PM on 29 June 2023

Tonga National GBIF Workshop Report Template.docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:15 PM on 29 June 2023

Tuvalu National GBIF Report 24th of August
2022.docx

Public BID Final Narrative report
Added by David Moverley at 11:14 PM on 29 June 2023

Internal Administration

▶ Tasks Internal review (5 tasks internal reviews)

Internal reviewer:　　　　　　　　　Tim Hirsch

General feedback :

We acknowledge the important impact the COVID-19 pandemic and the many additional challenges and natural disasters have had on the implementation of the project. We understand that, due to these many crises, the project could not be implemented as initially planned.

We recognize the value of the engagement activities led by the project team to increase regional awareness of the benefits of open data sharing and formal membership to GBIF.

We strongly encourage SPREP to continue these engagement activities even after the end of the project and would appreciate receiving additional information on how SPREP suggests continuing these engagement activities, especially with Niue, Tuvalu, RMI, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

The SPREP team is very welcome to contact the GBIF Secretariat to seek detailed information on the benefits of GBIF participation and GBIF alignment with multilateral agreements, receive latest information on GBIF tools and opportunities, and/or seek recommendations on how best they can continue their data mobilization activities after the end of their project.

Lastly, we noted that a section of the report was missing and request you to complete it. We also identified a few data quality issues and encourage you to address these to improve the overall quality of the data.

Further note on resubmission of the report: Thank you for addressing the critical issues. As noted in evaluation of the other SPREP projects, we look forward to discussions on how GBIF and SPREP can collaborate most effectively on regional capacity programmes in future.

General assessment - critical issues (Y/N):	No
Data publishing - Critical issues (Y/N):	No
General Assessment - Non critical issues (Y/N):	No
Data publishing - non-critical issues (Y/N):	No

Key information on project (Internal Only)

Important information for project page update (internal only):

Important information on Data use (internal only):

Replication workshops (internal only):

Comment to reviewer of financial report

Internal reviewer of the narrative report should list below:
- Any approved change in the project implementation that you wish to communicate to the reviewer of the financial report
- Any possible concern you wish to flag to the reviewer of the financial report
- Any area for which you would like to receive input following the review of the financial report

If you have no specific information you wish to communicate to the reviewer of the financial report, please indicate "No comment" in the box below
comments and questions to reviewer of financial report report:

Rather disapointing project. They declared having implemented all their activities, but the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and additional challenges prevented them to produce most of their deliverables.

Comment from reviewer of Financial report

27/06/2023 No Comment

EMAILS SENT TO GRANTEE
Progress reports: APPROVED – All narrative reports / 80% spent + final financial reports
Sent to David Moverley at 11:51 AM on October 2, 2023

INTERNAL ALERT - Progress report requires action

Sent to Anne Mette Nielsen at 8:44 AM on October 2,
2023

INTERNAL ALERT - New report submitted

Sent to Anne Mette Nielsen at 1:49 AM on July 31,
2023

Acknowledgement of receipt for progress report

Sent to David Moverley at 1:49 AM on July 31,
2023

INTERNAL ALERT - Progress report overdue by 14 days

Sent to Kate Frantzen at 2:23 AM on July 14,
2023

INTERNAL ALERT - Progress report overdue by 7 days

Sent to Kate Frantzen at 4:24 PM on July 11,
2023

Progress reports: CRITICAL ISSUES – all reports

Sent to David Moverley at 1:39 PM on July 11,
2023

Acknowledgement of receipt for progress report

Sent to David Moverley at 11:53 PM on June 29,
2023

INTERNAL ALERT - New report submitted

Sent to Anne Mette Nielsen at 11:53 PM on June 29,
2023

REMINDER to Grantee : report due in 7 days

Sent to David Moverley at 2:16 AM on June 23,
2023

Final narrative and financial reports available

Sent to David Moverley at 2:42 PM on May 26,
2023

INTERNAL ALERT - Progress reports available to Grantee (deadline in 35 days)

Sent to Anne Mette Nielsen at 2:18 AM on May 26,
2023

Emails

No Emails

Notes and History

NOTES

Pending Approval of Both Reports → Approved
Created by Sanja Novakovikj at 11:48 AM on 2 October 2023

Report Review → Pending Approval of Both Reports
Created by Tim Hirsch at 8:44 AM on 2 October 2023

Report Received → Report Review
Created by Anne Mette Nielsen at 2:37 PM on 1 August 2023

Sent Back to Grantee → Report Received
Created by David Moverley at 1:49 AM on 31 July 2023

Review Critical Issues → Sent Back to Grantee
Created by Sanja Novakovikj at 1:38 PM on 11 July 2023

Report Review → Review Critical Issues
Created by Maheva Bagard Laursen at 11:46 AM on 11 July 2023

Report Received → Report Review
Created by Sanja Novakovikj at 9:17 AM on 30 June 2023

New → Report Received
Created by David Moverley at 11:53 PM on 29 June 2023

HISTORY

Show History