

The role of Zoological Collections Networks to enhance and fill taxonomic and geographic gaps in open access databases

Programme: CESP

Project ID: CESP2021-008

Project lead organization: Brazilian Society of Zoology (Associação Brasileira de Zoologia)

Project implementation period: 1/8/2021 - 31/7/2022

Report approved: 11/3/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Project partners

Instituto Superior de Agronomia

Country: Portugal

GBIF Participant Represented: Node manager

Role in the project: trainer and Node Manager

Centre of Botanic, Agostinho Neto University

Country: Angola

GBIF Participant Represented: Project Partner

Role in the project: Project Partner

Executive Summary

So far practically all the proposed objectives have been achieved. Some activities even had a greater impact than expected, such as the webinars on Specify and the diagnosis of zoological collections. The interaction between curators and researchers from the collections of the Lusophone countries participating in the project (Portugal, Angola, Cabo Verde, Mozambique), is growing and strengthening, and will be consolidated once the Forum is installed. The Webinars reached more collections than expected and after the beginning of the project, more than 27 biological collections have been registered in the SiBBr Biological Collections Catalogue. Monitoring and evaluating the progress of the project are being carried out by monitoring the activities listed in the DOCUMENT 01 - Detailed Schedule (in English) that is attached to this form. So far, the only change made to the schedule is the transfer of the webinar that would take place in January to February. The change was decided by the fact that January is the month (Summer) in which Brazilians take vacations and, after an analysis, we concluded that the audience would be better in the following month and that no negative impact would happen to the project. The progress of the project of the activities and the complete schedule can be checked at the Document 01. All the information about the Project can be found in <https://sibbr.gov.br/page/cesp.html#s>.

Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report

Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report:

1. Kick-off virtual meeting with project partners held.
2. Brazilian Zoological collections Network planning, organization and mobilization complete.
3. Webinars 1-5 held.
4. Mid-term report submitted.

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

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

The programmed activities are being developed according to the initial schedule. As previously

mentioned, the only change made was the postponement of the webinar from January to February due to the Brazilian holidays that occur in that month. After an analysis, we concluded that it would be more interesting for the scope and for a greater number of viewers for the webinar to be postponed. There will be no negative impact on the project. Webinar number 5 will take place on February 11th.

Completed activities

Activity name: Kick-off virtual meeting with project partners

Description: 1. Kick-off virtual meeting with project partners

Meeting held on August 27, 2021 at 10:00 am EDT. In addition to the members from Brazil, Rui Figueira from GBIF Portugal; Abnilde Lima, Representative of São Tomé and Príncipe; Salomão Bandeira, Representative of Mozambique and Evandro Pires Lopes Representative - Cape Verde. There was a round of presentations so that all the participants could get to know each other, especially the representatives of each Portuguese-speaking country (Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe, Mozambique and Cabo Verde). the integration of curators of biological collections from Portuguese-speaking countries for the discussion and exchange of experience on management, computerization and availability of information; - Train curators and technicians at Specify through virtual Webinars; - Encourage the qualification of available data. At the end, there was a dialogue about the expectations of the partner members and discussion of the project in order to create better strategies to address the issues raised by the different countries.

Start Date - End Date: 27/8/2021 - 27/8/2021

Verification Sources: DOCUMENT 02 - Minutes of the Kick off meeting - in Portuguese

Activity name: Brazilian Zoological collections Network planning, organization and mobilization

Description: During the first six months of the project, a survey of Brazilian zoological collections was carried out in order to better know them and diagnose their situation. As the area of zoology is a very diverse area and trying to reach greater fidelity of data in the diagnosis, we invited representatives of scientific societies in Brazil to participate in the process. We organized a Working Group (WG) with representatives of scientific societies that work with zoological collections and taxonomy to prepare the questionnaire. Twelve scientific societies compose the GT: Brazilian Society of Zoology, Brazilian Society of Carcinology, Brazilian Society of Entomology, Brazilian Society of Herpetology, Brazilian Society of Ichthyology, Brazilian Society of Malacology, Brazilian Society of Mastozoology, Brazilian Society of Ornithology, Brazilian Society of Primatology, Brazilian Society for the Study of Elasmobranchs, Brazilian Society for the Study of Chiroptera and Entomological Society of Brazil. There were several meetings during the months of October/2021 and November/2021 to prepare a questionnaire with questions covering the topics: IDENTIFICATION, CHARACTERIZATION, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, STAFF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION, DIGITALIZATION, COLLECTION QUALITY, MANAGEMENT, and for Finally, the PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS - DOCUMENT 03 - Questionnaire Zoology - in Portuguese. The questionnaire was then validated by some curators who responded randomly and was sent to all curators of zoological collections on January 28th. The curators will keep the questionnaire for a month when they will return it completed so that we can do the analysis.

Start Date - End Date: 2/8/2021 - 30/12/2021

Verification Sources: DOCUMENT 03 - Questionnaire Zoology - in Portuguese

Activity name: Webinars

Description: The monthly webinars have been done according to the schedule. Only the webinar 5 was postponed and will be held on February 11th. In the next section - Deliverables - details of each webinar is are presented.

Start Date - End Date: 27/8/2021 - 15/12/2021

Verification Sources: <https://www.gbif.org/project/CESP2021-008/filling-taxonomic-and-geographic-gaps-in-open-data-by-strengthening-skills-of-the-brazilian-zoological-collections-network#news>

Webinar 1

<https://youtu.be/AtXAOGZbaoo>

Webinar 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lstA02yTkHI&t=55s>

Webinar 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y78e9PD6RfM>

Webinar 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXv78JyIK9I&t=314s>

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

The main products of the project so far are the webinars and the questionnaire to carry out the diagnosis of Brazilian zoological collections (DOCUMENT 03 - Questionnaire Zoology - in Portuguese). The success of the webinars can be measured by the number of people who attended them or by the institutions that attended and actively participated. Below, each of the webinars lists such institutions. The range of the project has been huge and the feedback excellent. In addition to the great interest of Brazilian curators in the subject, it is considered that the communication work has been very well done. Also as an important result is the data collected before each webinar. For the proper preparation of each of the webinars, a questionnaire was created to understand the real need and interest of the curators. The questionnaires and their responses are also attached to this report. In this way, there was a very important interaction between the community and the Project, which resulted and will still result in products of great quality. The same approach is going to be used for Webinar 5.

Completed deliverables

Title: Minute of the Kick-off meeting

Type: Documentation

Description: Meeting held on August 27, 2021. The following representatives, in addition to the members from Brazil, participated: Rui Figueira from GBIF Portugal; Abnilde Lima, from São Tomé and Príncipe; Salomão Bandeira, from Mozambique and Evandro Pires Lopes from Cabo Verde.

Sources of verification: DOCUMENT 02 - Minutes of the Kick off meeting - in Portuguese

Title: Survey of state-of-the-art of zoological collections

Type: Documentation

Description: A questionnaire was studied and set up covering the topics: IDENTIFICATION, CHARACTERIZATION, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, STAFF INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION, DIGITALIZATION, COLLECTION QUALITY, MANAGEMENT, PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS.

Sources of verification: DOCUMENT 03 - Questionnaire Zoology - in Portuguese.

Title: Webinar 01

Type: Documentation

Description: Webinar with the presentation of the Project, introduction to GBIF and activity of national nodes (Angola, Brazil and Portugal). Presented by Luciane Marinoni, Rui Figueira, Keila Macfaden, Salomão Bandeira (Mozambique), Manuela Pedro (Angola). Abnilde Lima (San Tome and Prince).

Sources of verification: <https://www.gbif.org/event/2jdd8l8q4JwpAcJETyQdzp/webinar-1-introducao-gbif-in-portuguese-only> DOCUMENT 04 - Webinar 1 information

Title: Webinar 02

Type: Documentation

Description: Webinar with the presentation about the Introduction to Specify features - presented by Luciane Marinoni, Rui Figueira and Cleverson Santos. Also we present the questionnaire and the answers about the curators expectations. The webinar was set up considering the demand.

Sources of verification: DOCUMENT 05 - Webinar 02 information DOCUMENT 06 - QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 2 DOCUMENT 07 - RESULTS QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 2

Title: Webinar 03

Type: Documentation

Description: Webinar with the presentation about Use of Specify 6 and IT infrastructure requirements - presented by Luciane Marinoni, Rui Figueira and Cleverson Santos. Also we present the questionnaire and the answers about the curators expectations. The webinar was set up considering the demand.

Sources of verification: DOCUMENT 08 - Webinar 03 information DOCUMENT 09 - QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 3 and 4 DOCUMENT 10 - RESULTS QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 3 and 4

Title: Webinar 04

Type: Documentation

Description: Webinar with the presentation about Use of Specify 6 and IT infrastructure requirements

- presented by Luciane Marinoni, Rui Figueira and Cleverson Santos. Also we present the questionnaire and the answers about the curators expectations. The webinar was set up considering the demand.

Sources of verification: Sources of verification: DOCUMENT 11 - Webinar 04 information DOCUMENT 09 - QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 3 and 4 DOCUMENT 10 - RESULTS QUESTIONNAIRE - Webinar 3 and 4

Communications and visibility

Periodic meetings before each webinar are being held with the CESP project management team. In these meetings, the schedule of each webinar is discussed, the speakers, guests and the questionnaire to be answered before the event is defined. The questionnaires have been of great help in the organization, as they give an idea of the interest and expectations of each participant. In addition, supplementary material is discussed in the meetings. Once the schedule and program is defined, this information, flyer and other materials are published on the SiBBR project page (<https://sibbr.gov.br/page/cesp.html>) and also on the GBIF events page. After the webinar, the information on the SiBBR website is updated with supplementary material as well as all videos are edited and made available through SiBBR YouTube channel.

This way of organization and planning has contributed satisfactorily to the implementation of the project, where all partners have a defined role for the success of the project.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

The Webinars reached more collections than expected. Engagement exceeded expectations and although some collections may not have sufficient technical capacity to use Specify, they became better informed about the relation between SiBBR and GBIF. After the beginning of the project, more than 27 biological collections have been registered in the SiBBR Biological Collections Catalogue. Most also started the process of structuring, standardizing and publishing data in the IPT, in the SiBBR and subsequent registration in GBIF. It should be noted that for some practical webinars on specify, we prepared a virtual machine with specify installed for download, along with the instruction manual. This demo program available on the SiBBR website allows users to download the program and install specify to practice and become familiar with its use. Furthermore, with the support of GBIF Portugal, in February, we will hold technical meetings with some Brazilian institutions with more experience in using the program to automate the process of consuming specify data for the IPT.

We are carrying out a survey of possible tools for the implementation of a forum for questions and comments on specify. We contacted GBIF about the possibility of opening an independent channel about specify. As the GBIF forum appears to be the most suitable and sustainable tool for this purpose, we request more support from the GBIF secretariat for its implementation.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

So far all the activities have been done without any impact of COVID-19. The only planned change is for the workshop to be held in Brazil that was scheduled for June/22 and we are thinking of moving it to August/22, when there will probably not be so many problems related to the transmission of COVID-19. We are still planning and as soon as we have that date set, we will request an extension of the project deadline.

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