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Data is the currency of the information age, and biodiversity data must provide the foundation for evidence-based decision-making in the conservation, sustainable use, and management of natural resources and the mitigation of their threats. Critical data deficits impair decision-making and the ability to mainstream biodiversity data into sustainable development. We require relevant, reliable biodiversity information to be available to researchers, educators, natural resource users and managers, and policymakers in appropriate forms. We can only achieve this through regional cooperation and collaboration that can spur coordinated action to pool resources, share expertise and best practices, and enhance capacity.

We the participants of the BID Pacific regional meeting, held at The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji from 6 to 9 August 2019, agree that the BID programme has, to date, made significant achievements in the region in:

- Making 100 locally-acquired, conservation-relevant biodiversity checklist and occurrence datasets available— which include 180,000 occurrence records comprising nearly 2,900 taxa, the majority from new distinct locations—from a region underrepresented in the GBIF network
- Mobilizing a new and diverse community of 21 biodiversity data publishers in a region not previously active in the GBIF global network through capacity enhancement actions and shared experience between regional, national and local levels
- Increasing GBIF participation through the membership of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the establishment of a node and infrastructure to support regional data publishing
- Demonstrating the potential value of the BID approach with initial examples of the use of such data through research citation and conservation policy application
- Improving data management processes to ensure long-term data preservation
- Increasing recognition of the benefits of open access to biodiversity data through greater collaboration in the region and strengthened relationships with the GBIF mentor community

However, recognizing the lag between data mobilization and the use of the data, and that these efforts represent the first engagement with data-holding institutions in the region, there is still an urgent need to:

- Promote incentives for and benefits of sharing open access data to a broader range of institutions, for example, by engaging natural history collections, civil society, educators, and government through regional networks and institutions, and local champions
- Engage with ongoing and future biodiversity initiatives and projects to support data management planning for the publication of open data
- Expand the user base through, for example, increasing links with local knowledge, integrating biodiversity informatics—including the use of data and tools from the GBIF network—into teaching and training at all levels, providing easily reusable materials and targeted communications
- Transmit relevant evidence-based information to decision makers at regional, national and local levels, for example, through presence at regional meetings, integration with regional information platforms and initiatives, and national biodiversity planning, operational and reporting processes, including those for the CBD

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- Leverage capacity developed in the first phase of the BID programme to sustain training and knowledge transfer in key technical and project management skills adapted to regional needs, for example, by mentoring and training of trainers, regional workshops, particularly building on the existing strong collaboration facilitated through key regional bodies (i.e. SPREP, USP and SPC) and national partners
- Ensure sustainability through increased GBIF membership, establishment and ongoing support for new nodes, facilitated access to IT infrastructure through international collaboration, capitalizing on resources within regional organizations, and institutionalizing data mobilization into ongoing projects and activities

We hereby declare our commitment to supporting existing and future activities that address these needs and ensure that biodiversity information contributes fully to the conservation, sustainable use, and management of natural resources in the Pacific.

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