

## Progress towards a regional data platform of West and Central African Herbaria (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Togo, and Cameroon)

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**Programme:** BID

**Project ID:** BID-AF2020-040-REG

**Project lead organization:** GBIF TOGO, University of Lome

**Project implementation period:** 1/4/2021 - 31/3/2023

**Report approved:** 15/3/2022

### Narrative Midterm report

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#### Executive Summary

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The project objective is to establish an IT network of African herbaria and a multimedia information system on West and Central African plant biodiversity. Up to now, the main activities must be focused on establishing and strengthening the African Herbaria Network to support long-term data mobilization and data sharing among institutions (25%). For that, Herbarium staff capacity enhancement on the project approaches must be done. Five virtual meetings were conducted between partners and the advisor node. A WhatsApp platform created by the coordinator has been accepted by the partners to facilitate daily communication and exchange between the project partners.

Documentation on the specifications of the regional platform, updating and validation (correcting inconsistencies) of RIHA data in the partner herbaria are on way (33%) by the technical team committed.

The regional workshop planned for July 2021 to enhance herbarium staff capacity on the project approaches and postponed due to Covid19 and GBIF secretariat recommendations, was done from 1-5 February 2022.

Verification links are available on the project web page.

During the meeting, each partner had made a presentation regarding the identification and selection of priority botanical families done in its country for scanning (specimens, illustrations, images), and commonly, participants agree to work on the specimens that have medicinal uses.

The prototype of the regional platform was presented and amended by the staff.

Copy of databases produced by partners in the project was sent to the technical team for harmonization (100%).

A regional checklist planned will be published shortly.

During this meeting, a training workshop was planned for handling the regional platform (15-29 May 2022).

#### Progress against milestones

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**Has your project published at least one dataset through GBIF.org?: No**

**Dataset published:**

Dataset	DOI

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

**Name of the workshop participant:** Mondjonesso Gomina

## Report on Activities

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### Activity progress summary

Since the signature protocol, 2 main activities were done: 1. Establish and strengthen the African Herbaria Network to support long-term data mobilization and data sharing among institutions (April to December 2021). In fact, documentation on the regional platform's specifications, correcting inconsistencies of RIHA and BRAHMS data in the partner herbaria were done from April to December 2021.

2. Regional Workshop that brings together Herbarium staff on capacity enhancement and harmonization on the project approaches was done from 1 to 5 February 2022. During this meeting, the identification and selection of priority botanical families were validated.

2. Biodiversity data mobilization for sustainable development: During the first staff meeting, the consortium agrees to work on specimens used in a medicinal context. Progress is on its way and the first checklist is published this 10 March 2022 with the following ID:

GBIF UUID13e7190a-2767-4a25-8529-f4d7032b850c

### Completed activities

#### Activity: First regional meeting

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**Description:** This meeting brings together all partners of the project to exchange and agree on the approaches of the project.

**Start Date - End Date:** 1/2/2022 - 5/2/2022

**Verification Sources:** Links of the opening ceremony

- TV news (National Television) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUPTblneJIU&t=432s>
- Private online newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/>
- Private newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/>
- University of Lomé Communication Service: <https://univ-lome.tg/science-les-responsables-dherbiers-en-concertation-lome>

#### Activity: Data Publishing

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**Description:** Publication of the first dataset: checklist of medicinal plants. Specimens are from Cameroon, Guinea and Togo Herbaria.

**Start Date - End Date:** 1/1/2022 - 10/3/2022

**Verification Sources:** <http://ipt.african-herbaria.org>

with GBIF UUID: 13e7190a-2767-4a25-8529-f4d7032b850c

## Report on Deliverables

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### Deliverables progress summary

\* IT regional data mobilization platform: the prototype under development was presented, tested, and amended by participants during the first physical meeting held in Togo from 1 to 5 February.

\* Checklist of African medicinal plants is published this March 10, 2022, on the regional IPT <http://ipt.african-herbaria.org> with GBIF UUID: 13e7190a-2767-4a25-8529-f4d7032b850c

\* Certification following the BID capacity enhancement workshop was received by 2 members of the project team.

For the regional platform, as planned in Lomé's meeting, the domain name is bought: [african-herbaria.org](http://african-herbaria.org).

About the regional IPT, 2 installations have been done:

1) test version (UAT), in order to do our tests (internal one) - the datasets are published on [gbif-uat.org](http://gbif-uat.org), and thus do not "dirty" the official [gbif.org](http://gbif.org) URL is: <http://ipt-uat.african-herbaria.org/>

2) production version that is functional: <http://ipt.african-herbaria.org/>

For the production version, each participating country will have permission to fill in as the "GBIF

publishers"

## Progress towards deliverables

### Dataset deliverables

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#### Regional checklist

**Dataset type:** Checklist

**Dataset scope:** Checklist of African Medicinal Plants as indicated on the sheets coming from the African Herbaria. This first version is provided by Cameroon, Guinea and Togo.

**Number of records:** 579

**Data holder:** GBIF Togo

**Data host institution:** GBIF Togo

**% complete:** 50%

**Status update:** Monthly

**DOI:**

**Expected date of publication:**

### Other deliverables

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#### Regional IPT

**Description:** Regional IPT functional

**% complete:** 33%

**Status update:** Draft of the checklist is planned to be published by March 15, 2022 and update every month.

**Sources of verification:** <http://ipt.african-herbaria.org>

#### First physical meeting

**Description:** Meeting that bring together the staff of the regional consortium.

**% complete:** 100%

**Status update:** -

**Sources of verification:** - TV news (National Television) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUPTblneJIU&t=432s> - Private online newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/> - Private newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/> - University of Lomé Communication Service: <https://univ-lome.tg/science-les-responsables-dherbiers-en-concertation-lome>

#### Capacity enhancement workshop certification

**Description:** Two members (from 3) of the regional project team have received certification following the BID capacity enhancement workshop.

**% complete:** 100%

**Status update:** -

**Sources of verification:** \* Email from GBIF secretariat

\*file:///C:/Users/admin/Downloads/badge\_422850\_all-Anglais.pdf

### Events

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#### First regional meeting

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**Dates:** 2022-02-01 - 2022-02-05

**Organizing institution:** GBIF Togo

**Country:** Togo

**Number of participants:** 10

**Comments:** First regional meeting that will bring together the head of herbarium participating on the project.

Links of the opening ceremony

- TV news (National Television) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUPTblneJIU&t=432s>

- Private online newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/>

- Private newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/>

- University of Lomé Communication Service: <https://univ-lome.tg/science-les-responsables-dherbiers-en-concertation-lome>

**Website or sources of verification:** <https://gbif.univ-lome.tg:8086>

## Communications and visibility

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Project document, project page on GBIF site (<https://www.gbif.org/project/BID-AF2020-040-REG/progress-towards-a-regional-data-platform-of-west-and-central-african-herbaria#about>), Event announcement are visible and linked on [www.https://gbif.univ-lome.tg:8086](https://gbif.univ-lome.tg:8086) (GBIF Togo web site) Event (like First regional workshop) bringing partners together is also published on [www.gbif.fr](http://www.gbif.fr)

Links of the opening ceremony

- TV news (National Television) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUpTbIneJIU&t=432s>
- Private online newspaper : <https://togotopnews.com/2022/02/02/togo-les-specialistes-des-herbiers-de-lafrique-de-louest-et-du-centre-reunis-a-lome/>
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- University of Lomé Communication Service: <https://univ-lome.tg/science-les-responsables-dherbiers-en-concertation-lome>

Updated Project webpage

<https://www.gbif.org/project/BID-AF2020-040-REG/progress-towards-a-regional-data-platform-of-west-and-central-african-herbaria>

## Monitoring and evaluation

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### Monitoring and evaluation findings

Due to Covid19, the project has started with a virtual meeting, and the physical one planned as a capacity building workshop for partners was postponed from July 2021 to February 2022. Contact within coordinator, partners, and advisor partner is permanent through email and WhatsApp social media. Documents are shared through Google docs.

The weakness since the project starts concerns the financial issue.

The coordination was not able to make the funding received available to the partner herbaria for the documentation activities planned for the period of April to December 2021. Nevertheless, the understanding and willingness of the partners allowed sending the copies of the databases of partner herbaria to the technical team (based in France).

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

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1. Launching meeting planned in October was postponed supplied by virtual meeting (to the understanding of all partners and advisors)
2. The regional training workshop is postponed and scheduled for March 2022
3. Delay (accused by the technical team requested) in the presentation of the first prototype of the regional platform
4. Delay (accused by the technical team requested) in the presentation of the first prototype of the regional platform
5. Financial issue: not available for partners since international travel is canceled by GBIFS and bank fees are not eligible by BID Fund.

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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.

