

Participants' views on the data mobilisation training

At the closing, the participants were invited to reflect on what insights they had obtained through their participation in the training. They were also asked to share their opinions on the importance of data standardization and publishing. Following are what some participants had to say:

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'The workshop was very useful such that we questioned and evaluated our performances, perception, prejudices of our databasing work at our collections, and to put our differences aside and work together for the common good of our institution, and the natural history collections which house the biodiversity and the natural heritage of Papua New Guinea at large'

'We have learnt useful skills and tools from the workshop. GBIF provided us incredibly valuable tools, skills and practices for organization of our database, and eventually get to publish them. The workshop was made possible by the Forest Research Institute, our national collaborating institution. The workshop motivated and inspired us to progress forward despite numerous obstacles faced in the beginning of the project'

'We realise the importance of data sharing and the lack of central repository and management for PNG's biodiversity data.'

'Suspicion and fear due to lack of knowledge in the importance of data sharing stops us from sharing our data'

'We were just entering data and did not know what to do with the data, particularly cleaning and standardizing the data in the database'

'For 3 years I was trying to figure out what to do with my data, but from these few days workshop, I was able to publish my data, using the trial publishing toolkit provided by GBIF'

'Collections at academic institutions like ours are quite important for research and publication but they have been neglected due to teaching responsibilities by staff with no proper curation of specimens. This has resulted in deterioration of specimens due to lack of funding to maintain the collection, with limited enthusiasm from staff to work on specimens'

'Management of funds in local institutions if not done properly results in trust issues. But with no funding at all or limited resources to do research and manage the collections at the same time, also results in challenges. For instance, lack of publicity due to lack of research, results in lack of visibility for the facility such as the CBNP. If the centre has the resources we need, we can organize ourselves better and maintain our collections (both in terms of

equipment and human capacities)

'Prejudices in projects are common. But for better outcome of our GBIF project, and deliverance in its output, we need transparency, honesty, commitment and sharing of ideas to help each other progress forward to successful completion'

'If we mobilize our resources, and organize ourselves for the project, we will produce quality results that benefit all. A good team effort is required at all levels of the project'

'With the CBNP data mobilisation project, we need to honor our commitment, so we do not fall behind our schedule in order to deliver results to the GBIF as required'

'It is important to understand the well being of the project team members, and whether there is justice in the process'

'If there is conflict or disagreement in the project, we must try to solve as professionally as we can, and acknowledge those conflict lessons for future projects'

'Entering data into database (transcribing information from catalogue or specimen labels into computers) is what we have been doing all along, without a proper standardization protocol. With the training we are able to access sites and platforms that provide standard protocols for our biological collections. For example, the Darwin Core Standard (DwC)'

'To be involved in data management is a personal commitment and perseverance besides your core functions at the university that takes majority of your time to assist in teaching activities'

'A broader perspective of how other natural history collections and museums are operating on a daily basis is crucial for quality curational work and research in our institution'

'In order to successfully complete the data mobilisation project, a well-structured activity plan is necessary from the start with regular reviews along the way'

'It is important to specify a task for a team member, and the objective to pursue'

'One of the major inconveniences that prevents projects from commencing as planned is unavoidable constraints, such as Covid-19.'

'As in all projects, there is no prior roadmap; each project requires a workable roadmap that is specific to that project and specific to its needs'

'A project comes with different challenges. But the project team members have the potential to make it work and succeed. The persons responsible at all levels of the project must be conscious of the needs of the project and must facilitate the dialogue that is necessary for effective communication. That way the whole project will excel in the development and completion'

'When all project staff are united, challenges in the projects will be handled well to successful completion of the project'

'A good collaboration must exist between the members and partners of the project. It is necessary to uphold the common interests in all projects'

'Individual project team member interests must also be clarified in the management of the project from the beginning'

'In the case of conflict, and dealing with difficult non-cooperative individuals in the project, we must communicate with them in the most productive and professional manner'

'In future trainings, participants from other museums, and research and academic institutions from within PNG must be included'

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Impact statement

If we understand the following in our data mobilisation project, we will complete the project successfully.

Purpose: *Why* is data mobilisation and digitisation important in natural history museums, academic and research institutions?

People: *Who* needs to be a part of this project and the process?

Process: *How* will we accomplish our goals in the project?

Product: *What* (results) do we hope to achieve?