University of Abomey-Calavi

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Laboratory of Forest Sciences

Capacity Enhancement Support Programme

Information and training workshop on the publication of biodiversity data on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) website

Abomey-Calavi, Sainte Anouarite Conference Center, September 25, 2018

Workshop Report

September 2018

Content

1. Introduction

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is working on biodiversity data mobilization and publication, in order to make them available to users (students, researchers, decision makers, etc.) to support their actions.

GBIF-Benin enables the country to participate actively to biodiversity data mobilization and publication, sensitizing and training on the importance of these data, and their use. In the purpose of increasing the capacity of various national partners involved in biodiversity data mobilization, GBIF-Benin organized an information and training workshop on the publication of biodiversity data on GBIF's website. The workshop took place on September 25, 2018 at Sainte Anouarite Conference Center, Abomey-Calavi. The objective of the workshop was to support GBIF-Benin's partners in achieving greater visibility at international level through their registration as data publishers on GBIF's website and the publication of their data.

A total of 20 participants attended the workshop. The program of the workshop is presented in appendix 1.

Before this workshop, the team of GBIF Benin was invited by CREDI NGO to present GBIF and GBIF Benin to the participants to a workshop of NGOs working in the field of natural resource management. The presentation was made on 13th July in the framework of the workshop.

The workshop went through the following steps: (i) welcome address of the node manager of GBIF-Benin, (ii) presentation of GBIF « Global Biodiversity Information Facility », (iii) presentation of GBIF-Benin and its achievements, (iv) interest of biodiversity data publishing, (v) data publishers, registration process and advantages, and (vi) Closing address of the node manager of GBIF-Benin. This report summarizes the outcomes of the various steps of the workshop.

2. Welcome address of the node manager of GBIF-Benin

In his opening address, Professor Jean C. Ganglo, node manager of GBIF-Benin welcomed all participants. He then briefly presented the history of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and its objectives, as well as the status of Benin as full member. As a key achievement of GBIF Benin, the country has become a key stakeholder in the field of Biodiversity Informatics in Africa. These achievements were possible with the institutional support of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Abomey-Calavi (FSA-

UAC) and the National Forest Service of Benin. Finally, he warmly thanked GBIF for funding the workshop through the Capacity Enhancement Support Programme.

Figure 1: Officials during the opening ceremony.

3. Presentation of GBIF « Global Biodiversity Information Facility »

At the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Sunday Kakpo reminded the purpose of GBIF creation, i.e., ensuring the availability of all known information on biodiversity. GBIF was created in 2001. The international data portal of GBIF was unveiled in 2013. To date, it provides free access to more than one billion observations. The debates at the end of the presentation focused on the conditions for data publication and the quality assurance of published data.

4. Presentation of GBIF-Benin and its achievements

Professor Jean C. Ganglo began the communication with the definition of "biodiversity". Then he presented the context of the creation of GBIF, and its objectives. Benin subscribed to GBIF network since December 2004, and has gained voting member status since October 2011. The main GBIF-Benin's achievements were summarized:

- the availability of more than 410,000 occurrence data from Benin on the GBIF portal; more than 80% of these data have been published by GBIF-Benin (http://www.gbif.org/country/BJ/summary);

- the organization of at least one information and training workshop annually for national and regional partners since 2010;

- the unveil from the academic year 2017-2018 of a Master program in Biodiversity Informatics;

- the publication of several scientific papers based on the biodiversity data available on GBIF portal concerning Benin;

- the registration of 12 institutions as data publishers on the GBIF's website.

Some participants suggested the organization of training workshops at the level of municipalities, for increased participation of field staff of the Forest service who also hold biodiversity data.

Figure 2: Presentation of GBIF-Benin and its achievements by Prof. Jean C. Ganglo.

5. Interest of biodiversity data publishing

This communication was done by Doctor Jaures Gbetoho. Three types of data can be published on GBIF portal: occurrence data, checklists, and metadata. Occurrence data are related to specimens and samples from natural history or herbarium, field record, survey protocols, or observation data on plants or animals during explorations and also remote sensing data from satellite images. Checklist are lists of taxon of interest at geographic, taxonomic, and or thematic scales. Metadata are related to the description of the structure of a dataset. They provide essential information such as the geographic and taxonomic extent of the data.

The importance of biodiversity data publishing was highlighted. Occurrence data are useful to know the distribution (current and future) of species and their history. Besides, they can be helpful to the selection species for reforestation programs, the conservation of endemic species, and the elaboration of maps for the management of epidemic diseases. Last, thanks to publication of biodiversity data, it is possible to limit the duplication of efforts, to determine data gaps for specific taxa, and more importantly to ensure the visibility of publishing organizations.

Participants' concerns were related to the verifications done to ensure the quality of published data, and the possibility to publish genetic data. It was answered that when a data provider makes his datasets available for publication, the team of GBIF Benin that is already quite skilled, help for data cleaning and data publication

6. Registration process and advantages for data publishers

In this communication, Professor Jean C. Ganglo outlined the benefits of registration of institutions on the GBIF website as data publishers. He then described the registration process. When publishing biodiversity data, the supplier is asked whether he belongs to an institution already registered. Otherwise, another institution will endorse the publication and the provider's home institution will lose the opportunity to gain more international visibility. To register, the heads of the institutions are invited to send by email a request to helpdesk@gbif.org, and to follow the various steps of registration.

This communication ended with the practice of the various stages of registration by participants.

7. Presentation of GBIF and GBIF Benin in the framework of a previous workshop

Before this workshop, the team of GBIF Benin was invited by CREDI NGO to present GBIF and GBIF Benin to the participants to a workshop of NGOs working in the field of natural resource management. The presentation was made on 13th July in the framework of the workshop. The presentation of GBIF, the context of its creation, its vision and mission were presented by Professor GANGLO C. Jean. GBIF Benin was presented by Dr. KOURA Kourouma. She highlighted the objectives and main achievements of the nation session of GBIF.

Figure 4: Participants during the Prof. Jean C. GANGLO's presentation during the workshop of NGOs working in the field of natural resource management.

Figure 5: Family photo at the workshop of NGOs working in the field of natural resource management.

8. Closing address of the node manager of GBIF-Benin

Professor Jean C. Ganglo, node manager of GBIF-Benin, in his closing address thanked all the participants for their interest in the workshop. Also, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the secretariat of GBIF which funded the workshop activities through the Capacity Enhancement Support Programme. Finally, he requested the availability and daily support of participants to GBIF-Benin's activities.

9. Conclusion

The objectives of the information and training workshop on the publication of biodiversity data on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) website were achieved. Participants were informed on the GBIF-Benin activities and the importance of biodiversity data publishing. They were also trained on how to register their institutions as data publishers on the GBIF's website. Participants were invited to keep supporting GBIF-Benin in its activities.

Annex 1: Program of the workshop

Time	Activities	Responsible
Session 1	**Opening**	
08:30–9:00	Welcome and installation of participants	Kourouma Koura Smith Dossou
09:00–09:15	Welcome address of the node manager of GBIF-Benin	Facilitator
09:15–09:30	Presentation of participants	Facilitator
09:30–10:00	Presentation of GBIF	Jean Ganglo/Jaures Gbetoho/Sunday Kakpo
10:00–10:30	**Family photo + Coffee break**	**Organizing Committee**
10:30–11:00	Presentation of GBIF-Benin and its achievements	Jean Ganglo
11:00–11:30	Interest of biodiversity data publishing	Jean Ganglo/Jaures Gbetoho
11:30–12:30	Data publishers, registration process and advantages	Jean Ganglo
12:30–14:00	**Lunch break**	**Organizing Committee**
14:00–17:00	Practical session on the registration of institution on GBIF site as data publishers	Jean Ganglo