

GBIF Africa Regional Nodes Meeting & Africa Engagement Meeting for the Biodiversity Information for Development Programme

27-29 November, 2024, Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa

Background

GBIF—the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#)—is an international network and data infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth.

The [Biodiversity Information for Development](#) (BID) programme is an initiative led by GBIF aiming to significantly improve the availability and accessibility of data, information, and knowledge for decision makers in developing countries, to enable effective implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF).

The BID programme is entering a new phase (August, 2024 to July, 2029) that will include actions in the Africa region, such as capacity development workshops and calls for project proposals, aimed at standardizing and publishing biodiversity data via GBIF. The programme seeks to build a strong regional community of practice engaged in the sharing and reuse of biodiversity data, supporting scientific research, and mainstreaming biodiversity information into decision-making processes.

Meeting aims

The *GBIF Africa Regional Nodes Meeting and the Africa Engagement Meeting for the Biodiversity Information for Development Programme* will convene representatives from GBIF nodes, biodiversity data-holding institutions, the biodiversity research community, CBD regional support centres, and other initiatives dedicated to collecting, sharing and use of biodiversity data in the region.

The aims of these meetings are to:

- Discuss approaches to strengthening the GBIF Africa community with those currently engaged in activities related to open biodiversity data.
- Share regional progress updates and best-practices.
- Identify key regional capacity and information needs to inform the development of the upcoming BID call for data mobilization proposals in the region.
- Identify opportunities for synergies between existing and upcoming regional initiatives and the BID programme, such as supporting or participating in related training efforts, encouraging data sharing through regional programmes, and identifying potential data flows to enhance the use of data mobilized through BID.
- Encourage broad participation in the calls for proposals, including applicants, reviewers, mentors, trainers, and partners.



GBIF Africa Regional Nodes Meeting Agenda

Holiday Inn, Harare, 27 November 2024

This meeting is open to representatives of GBIF Participant Nodes in Africa and invited observers.

Link to register for online participation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqce2rpz8uH93BCMeQW18-JVhOuhlCMNrJ>

8.30 - 9.00	Arrival
9.00 - 9.15	Welcome remarks
9.15 - 09.35	Brief introduction to the agenda and status of GBIF in Africa
09.35 - 10.15	Updates from the GBIF Secretariat on regional support initiatives: Regional support teams, Capacity programmes BID/CESP, Training, Hosted services
10.15 - 10.30	Updates from GBIF regional support team
10.30- 11.00	Tea / Coffee
11.00 - 11.30	GBIF data model update
11.45 - 12.30	Nodes updates
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30- 15.00	Nodes updates continued
15.00 - 15.30	Tea / Coffee
15.30 - 15.50	Africa Coordination Mechanism - future directions
15.50 - 16.30	Group discussions: Regional Needs, Issues and Priorities
16.30 - 16.45	Wrap up: Summary of key points and introduction of agenda for BID Africa engagement meeting
16.45 - 16.50	Introduction of agenda for BID Africa engagement meeting
16.50 - 17.00	Group Photo
17.00	Meeting Close

BID Africa Engagement Meeting Day 1 Agenda

Holiday Inn, Harare, 28 November, 2024

This meeting is open to representatives from GBIF nodes, biodiversity data-holding institutions, the biodiversity research community, CBD regional support centres, and other initiatives dedicated to collecting, sharing and use of biodiversity data in the region.

Link to register to attend the event online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEldemgpjggGtTfT0IHvAr2VBO7mNv20Wkz>

8.30 - 9.00	Arrival
Welcome session	
9.00 - 9.20	Introduction to the BID programme and objectives of the meeting
9.00 - 10.00	Opening remarks and keynote address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Eddie Mwenje, Vice-Chancellor - Bindura University of Science Education- Liam Lysaght, Chair of the GBIF network- Minister, Hon. Sithembiso G. G. Nyoni, M.P., Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
10.00- 10.30	Welcome refreshments
Session 1: Setting the scene	
10.30 - 11.30	The BID programme from the perspective of previous grantees, invited speakers and panel discussion
11.30 - 11.45	Outlining the new phase of the BID programme and key objectives
11.45 - 12.00	Update from the GBIF Africa Nodes Regional Representatives on status and priorities
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch
Session 2: Regional perspectives on biodiversity information needs	
13.00 - 13.20	Overview of regional data availability in GBIF
13.20 - 14.30	Lightning talks and video presentations from regional experts
14.30- 15.00	Tea / Coffee
Session 3: Identifying regional priorities for biodiversity data mobilisation	
15.00 - 15.20	Panel 1: Mobilization of data sources

15.20 - 15.40	Panel 2: Addressing capacity needs for effective biodiversity data management and sharing
15.40 - 16.00	Panel 3: Delivering biodiversity data for use
16.00 - 16.30	Conclusions from the day and next steps
16.30	End of meeting for online participants
16:30 - 17.00	Practical information for excursion, Group photo
17.00	Meeting close

BID Africa Engagement Meeting Day 2 Agenda

Holiday Inn, Harare, 29 November 2024

The second day of the meeting will be run as a workshop for on site participants in Harare. The results will be circulated to all participants after the meeting.

9.00	Meeting start
Session 4: Recommendations for implementing the BID programme in the region	
9.00 - 9.15	Reminder on the objectives for the day
9.15 - 10.30	Group exercise: Formulating suggestions for the implementation of the programme's key activities to ensure their relevance to the region
10.30 - 11.00	Tea/ Coffee
11.00 - 12.00	Plenary discussion on results of group exercise
12.00 - 12.25	Round of take home messages from participants
12.25 - 12.35	Next steps from GBIF Secretariat: documenting the results of this meeting and ongoing opportunities for engagement
12.35 - 12.45	Concluding remarks from meeting hosts and GBIF Chair
13.00	Lunch
13.45 - 17.00	Excursion and BioBlitz: Mukuvisi Woodlands
17.00	Meeting Close