



BID Africa 2017 – National Grant Template

Early Progress narrative report

Instructions

- Fill the template below with relevant information. If no result has been achieved on a specific point, please indicate it as “no result achieved yet” and **indicate expected date of completion**
- Use the information included in your project Full proposal (reproduced in annex III of your BID contract) as a baseline from which to complete this template
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report
- Sources of verification are for example direct links to relevant digital documents, news/newsletters, brochures, copies of agreements with data holding institutions, workshop related documents, pictures, etc. **Please provide access to all mentioned sources of verification** by either providing direct link or sending a copy of the documents.
- This report must first be sent as a **Word document** to GBIF@BID.org and be pre-approved by GBIFS
- Once this report is pre-approved in writing by GBIFS, it must be signed by the BID project coordinator and sent by post to:

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat (GBIFS)
 Universitetsparken 15
 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
 Denmark

Template

1. Table of Contents

1.	Table of Contents	1
2.	Project Information	2
3.	Overview of results	3
4.	Updated calendar for the BID project implementation and evaluation period	11
5.	Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other cooperation	17
6.	Visibility	18



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2. Project Information

2.1. Project Coordinator: Institution/network/agency name:

Dr Miasa Eustache: University of Toamasina, Institut Supérieur de Sciences, Environnement & Développement Durable (ISSEDD), together with

Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie: GroundTruth (GT)

2.2. Main contact person and role:

Dr Miasa Eustache, Project management/ co-ordinator. Assistance with organising a venue for AFRESH.IO, guidance and supervision to university students for projects focussed on freshwater ecosystems (especially those focused on diatoms EPT taxa and WQ), acting as a central repository for all collected samples, supervision of students to assist in digitising/mobilising existing data, assistance with coordinated sampling efforts across Madagascar and providing support to a long term monitoring project to be established with TBA

Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie, Project coordination and support to all project partners, facilitating and organising AFRESH.IO workshop, training delegates to use citizen science tools, development of diatom ecological bands, miniSASS data management/uploading

2.3. BID proposal identifier:

BID-AF2017-0306-NAC

2.4. Project title:

The Forgotten African Islands - Addressing the gap in freshwater biodiversity knowledge for the Indian Ocean Islands.

2.5. Start date and end date of the reporting period:

November 2017 – January 2018

2.6. Country in which the activities take place:

South Africa

Madagascar



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3. Overview of results

3.1. Executive summary

Give a short summary of the activities implemented and the outcomes of the project for the reporting period (500 words maximum)

The primary focus of this early progress report is on the proposed revision of the project objectives, timeframes and budget following the BID Capacity Enhancement Workshop. After much discussion among project management the original submitted proposal was deemed to be rather ambitious and we as a project team felt it needed to be restructured (along with the budget) with more realistic/achievable aims given the timeframe, whilst also being closely aligned to GBIF's expectations around the mobilisation of existing data.

Since the project commencement new contacts have been established with additional institutions (Natural History Museum London, Paris Natural History Museum, Texas A&M) where EPT taxa (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera) specimens exist for Madagascar but in some cases have not been yet been captured/digitised. Capturing data from these additional institutions was an expense that was not initially budgeted for and actually the original budget allocation to mobilising existing data was relatively small. Budget has been reallocated for an intern/post doc to assist in capturing this useful information from these institutions which could then be published as part of historic diatom and EPT datasets (existing specimens). Literature searches for information regarding species occurrence data have already commenced for certain taxa (Ephemeroptera and Diatoms) and literature repositories as well as online templates are being prepared for data capture using the Darwin Core Archive format.

The emphasis on the mobilisation of newly collected data has been reduced to an "added extra" – part of the project. Delegates who attend the workshop will still be trained in the collection of EPT taxa and diatoms and a co-ordinated voluntary sampling effort to collect new data for the Indian Ocean Region and Madagascar in particular will still be facilitated – but this data will not be a main focus of the project.

The funding allocation for the AFRESH workshop (renamed to AFRESH.IO) has also been revised based on the difficulties in finding a suitable venue in Madagascar and the cost of flights. The decision has since also been made to hold, and not spend any of, the first installment of the allocated funding before the second installment is released from GBIF, this owing to large upcoming expenses around the workshop in Madagascar.

The workshop was initially scheduled for around early 2018, however, it has been decided that the workshop should rather be held three months later in July 2018. This is due to the fact that February and or April 2018 would not have given project partners enough time to prepare and obtain additional co-funding from their various institutions to attend. A venue has subsequently been identified through links with another GBIF BID project (African Insect Atlas) and dates are being finalised based on availability of the venue. Much progress with planning of the workshop has been made.

Deliverables originally associated with the project (namely, a report on the development of a diatom tool and a report on the water and aquatic ecosystem health) have been removed and elements incorporated instead into a more focused development of a long term research monitoring proposal – a deliverable originally planned but not specifically budgeted for.



Progress against expected milestones:

Expected milestones/activities	Completed? Yes/No	Explanatory notes	Sources of verification
<p>Completed capacity self-assessment questionnaire for national biodiversity information facilities https://www.gbif.org/document/82277/capacity-self-assessment-guidelines-for-national-biodiversity-information-facilities (EN) https://www.gbif.org/document/82782/evaluation-des-capacites-pour-les-systemes-nationaux-dinformation-sur-la-biodiversite (FR)</p>	YES	<p>The questionnaire was completed by GroundTruth in conjunction with the project lead ISSEDD and MadBIF</p>	<p>Receipt of capacity self assessment acknowledged by GBIF secretariat via e-mail (Maheva)</p>
<p>At least one national data publishing institutions are registered with GBIF.org Guidelines to become a publisher: https://www.gbif.org/become-a-publisher</p>	YES	<p>We have three data publishing institutions registered as part of the project. BOKU University of Austria which is linked to the FIP platform and hosts data that can be harvested by GBIF ISSEDD (the project lead's institution) is also registered as a data publishing institution with GBIF CNRE - a project partner based in Madagascar is linked to MadBIF We will also initiate the process of getting GroundTruth registered with SANBI as a data publishing institution.</p>	<p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/876b1d7c-de82-4b7f-81a1-d663101784b2#registration https://www.gbif.org/publisher/c51031f4-69df-4b81-b296-5fdd72e7e693 https://www.gbif.org/publisher/c8ce072d-9c61-4ec8-b8e7-0c36a8122791</p>
<p>At least one person from the project team has completed the certification process following the BID Capacity Enhancement workshop on Data Mobilization organized as a part of the BID programme Africa 2015 or the BID programme Africa 2017</p>	YES	<p>Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie attended the BID Capacity Enhancement Workshop on behalf of the project management team. All post workshop activities were completed and have been submitted for evaluation. Evaluation results have not yet been provided by GBIF BID.</p>	<p>Participant list for GBIF BID Capacity Enhancement Workshop 1 Cape Town</p>
<p>Knowledge dissemination activities have been scheduled following the first BID Capacity Enhancement workshop</p>	YES	<p>The first knowledge dissemination activity will take place at the GroundTruth offices with key GroundTruth staff The second will take place over skype and the third will take place at the AFRESH.IO workshop planned for project</p>	<p>Link to GroundTruth website with project information and planned knowledge dissemination dates: http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands</p>

3.2. Project deliverables and activities

Refer to the table in section 2.2 "Deliverables, activities and reporting criteria" of your BID full proposal. Provide updates on the status of each of planned deliverables. In the event of unexpected delay, please provide detailed explanatory notes and indicate planned completion date. Add as many rows as needed.



Deliverable	Related activity	Completed ? Yes/No	Explanatory notes	Sources of verification
Conference and networking meeting for freshwater aquatic scientists and students working in Africa to share knowledge; and to gather information related to the Indian Ocean Islands which is vital to this project.	AFRESH.IO Conference/workshop	No - change in proposed dates – See section 4. Planned completion date July 2018	Name change to AFRESH.IO. Number of attendees will be around 25-30, will include project partners, key personnel and some keen students. Focus will be on networking with key personnel that can be trained to train others as well as training keen students that can be involved with AFRESH moving forward as well as long term monitoring research projects. Reporting criteria will remain the same	http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands
Training of project partners, TBA alumni, students, researchers and conference delegates from the Indian Ocean Islands in the various indices and citizen science tools available to assess river health and aquatic ecosystems.	Training at AFRESH.IO	No - change in proposed dates – See section 4. Planned completion date July 2018	Will take place at the AFRESH workshop to be held in Madagascar and change in proposed dates - see section 4. Reporting criteria will remain the same though will include estimated number of persons trained in total. People to be trained from the region is estimated to be around 16, with an additional 9 international delegates to be trained Training materials will be included in the reporting criteria	
Training and assistance with the collation, digitisation and uploading of data that is mobilised over the course of the project to GBIF and an additional online information platform - the Freshwater Information Platform (FIP).	Upload Indian Ocean Island data to FIP/GBIF	No - Planned completion date March 2019 but will commence from March 2018 as data made available	Reporting criteria will stay the same	
Verification and quality control of all data mobilised during the course of the project.	Quality control of data	No- Planned completion date March 2019 but will commence from March 2018 as data made available	Will take place as data sets are compiled, collated and reporting criteria will remain the same	
Collate, digitise and upload existing EPT and diatom data	Mobilisation of existing data	No - Planned completion	Reporting criteria will remain the same and will be covered in the	





housed in museums for the region		date March 2019 but has commenced already	metadata produced for the data sets	
Collect, collate, assess, digitise and upload new EPT and diatom data for the Indian Ocean Islands	Mobilisation of new data	No - Planned completion date March 2019 but has commenced already	Less of an emphasis will be placed on this deliverable with more time and budget being allocated to the mobilisation of existing data during the project. See section 4 Reporting criteria will remain the same	
Use data generated during the GBIF project to establish the basis for a long-term monitoring project with TBA and the University of Toamasina that can be used to generate research articles or inform policy - This is in line with the national priority of preservation of the environment.	Long-term monitoring project	No- Planned completion date February 2019 but planning has commenced and will largely be formalised in July 2018	A proposal for the long term monitoring research project will formalised at the AFRESH.IO workshop together with project partners and will be completed following the workshop Reporting criteria will remain the same	
Addressing Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing awareness, training & education in citizen science tools and biotic indices for use in Freshwater Ecosystems whilst providing high resolution data for species conservation, assessment of ecological condition and informing freshwater policy	Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessment	No – see section 4. Will be incorporated into long term monitoring research proposal	Emphasis reduced – see section 4. This deliverable and the reporting criteria initially stipulated will fall away. Instead the component will be included in the formulation of a long term monitoring research proposal which will draw on data mobilised during the GBIF project. A separate report/paper for this deliverable will not be produced. Budget has been reallocated	
Development of a tool for the assessment of aquatic ecosystems using diatoms	Diatom Tool	No – see section 4. Will be incorporated into long term monitoring research proposal	Emphasis reduced – see section 4. This deliverable, and the reporting criteria initially stipulated, will fall away. Instead this component will be included in the formulation of a long term monitoring research proposal which will draw on data mobilised during the GBIF project. A separate report/paper for this deliverable will not be produced. If sufficient data are mobilised/or are available then preliminary analyses will be conducted using the original methodology stipulated. A session will still be dedicated to discussing this topic at the AFRESH.IO workshop	





			Budget has been reallocated	
Ensuring that data generated for the Indian Ocean Islands is made freely available, accessible and usable by the public - in line with the national priority of open data.	Open Data	Ongoing	No changes apart from this activity applying to the entire project duration	

3.3. Datasets published on GBIF.org

Refer to the table in section 2.4 “Biodiversity data mobilization plan” of your BID full proposal. If the dataset is not yet published, please indicate the name of the institution that is expected to host the data when published in the column “DOI or URL/Planned hosting institution”. Add as many rows as needed.

Dataset title	Publishing institution	DOI or URL/Planned hosting institution	Date/expected date of publication	Explanatory notes
<p>IO-Historic Freshwater EPT taxa: Existing data for Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera (and possibly Odonata) taxa for the Indian Ocean region contained currently in key institutions and Museums</p>	GroundTruth/ISSEDD /BOKU to be confirmed	BOKU / FIP	First data set comprising information from the Swiss Cantonal Museum of Zoology Lausanne, regarding Ephemeroptera in March (2018)	<p>Several sources of data in museums/institutions have been identified (NHM, CMZL, Paris NHM, A&M) & the status/quantity etc. of the data are being evaluated.</p> <p>Literature searches are in the process of being conducted and data gleaned accordingly</p> <p>Data will be uploaded as it is made available from these institutions over the course of the project. Data may also be further split into several databases (this is yet to be confirmed).</p> <p>Templates for capture are in the process of being added to Google Spreadsheets for all partners to access and contribute to</p> <p>Data citations will be changed to include main data providing institutions as well as GroundTruth and ISSEDD</p>
<p>IO-Historic Diatom Data Existing data for Diatom taxa for the Indian Ocean region contained currently in key institutions and Museums</p>	GroundTruth/ISSEDD /BOKU to be confirmed	BOKU / FIP	To be confirmed	<p>Several institutions possibly housing data have been identified (NHM, Paris, SAIAB). Literature searches are in the process of being conducted and data gleaned accordingly</p> <p>Templates for capture are in the process of being added to Google Spreadsheets for all partners to</p>





				access and contribute to
IO-Recent Freshwater EPT taxa: Newly collected data that will be captured/digitised as a result of the project	GroundTruth/ISSEDD /BOKU to be confirmed	BOKU / FIP	Dec 2018/Jan 2019 – with modifications /additions to extend beyond life of GBIF project	Following co-ordinated voluntary sampling efforts in the region collected data will be identified and verified before being captured and uploaded to a central database in Darwin Core format. Initially this data set will comprise only a few occurrence records but with time and contributions from long term monitoring projects it will expand Data will continue to be added to this data set even after the GBIF project has terminated – this will be achieved through long term monitoring research projects to be established with TBA, linkages to other research projects (African Insect Atlas), citizen science involvement and other projects in the region
IO-Recent Diatom Data	GroundTruth/ISSEDD /BOKU to be confirmed	BOKU / FIP	Dec 2018/Jan 2019 – with modifications /additions to extend beyond life of project	Diatom data will be collected during and following the AFRESH IO workshop as part of training but also as part of citizen science, voluntary sampling efforts and inclusion in long term monitoring research projects

3.4. Examples of use of biodiversity data available through GBIF

Use the table to document use or planned use of data available through GBIF as part of your project. You may want to refer to the section 2.5 “Plan to support the integration of biodiversity information into policy and decision-making processes” of your BID full proposal. Please provide the DOI for datasets published on GBIF or data downloaded from GBIF in the “Dataset” column. Briefly describe how the data have been used or are planned to be used in the “Data use” column (ca. 50 words). Provide the date or approximate time frame in months for the use or planned use in the “Date/time frame” column. Please provide links to any documents or webpages documenting the use in the “Sources of verification” column. Add as many rows as needed.

Dataset	Data user	Data use	Date/time frame	Sources of verification	Notes
IO-Historic Freshwater EPT taxa IO-Historic Diatom Data	University of Toamasina and University of Antananarivo North West University GroundTruth/ISSEDD Local consultancies Researchers (International; and Local)	The collation of historical data contained in museums and institutions will allow for a gaps analysis to be performed. To a large degree the identified knowledge gaps can also be quantified based on existing records that have been collated.	Expected date/ timeframe of completion of first data set March 2018 in line with GBIF milestones and completion by March 2019		
IO-Historic Freshwater EPT taxa	University of Toamasina and University of Antananarivo	Long-term monitoring research project proposal to lay the	Expected date/ timeframe of completion of		



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<p>IO-Recent Freshwater EPT taxa</p> <p>IO-Historic Diatom Data</p> <p>IO-Recent Diatom Data</p>	<p>North West University Researchers (International; and Local)</p> <p>CNRE - Centre National de Recherche sur l'Environnement - http://cnre.recherches.gov.mg</p> <p>LRSAE - Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Systèmes Aquatiques et leur Environnement</p> <p>IRD - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement http://www.madagascar.ird.fr</p> <p>Government</p>	<p>foundation for future projects and freshwater research priorities in the region. The research proposal will include elements related to citizen science, the use of diatoms and the development of a diatom tool for data interpretation and also the use of mobilised data (diatoms and EPTO taxa) to conduct a water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessments.</p> <p>This proposal will be underpinned by a gaps analysis based on data mobilised during the GBIF project</p>	<p>first version March 2019 and then ongoing</p>		
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3.5. Events organized as part of the project

List all the events that have been organized as part of your project. Please provide links to any documents or webpages documenting the use in the “Sources of verification” column. Add as many rows as needed.

Full title	Organizing institution	Dates	Number of participants	Sources of verification
Internal Meeting and knowledge dissemination session with GroundTruth Staff	GroundTruth	February 2018	5	http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands - full details to be added to the GBIF and GroundTruth websites shortly
Project Partner Skype Teleconference	GroundTruth	February 2018	Approx. 10	
AFRESH.IO – Main Training workshop	GroundTruth	July 2018 (still to be confirmed)	Approx. 30	http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands - full details to be added to the GBIF and GroundTruth websites shortly
AFRESH.IO BID Knowledge Dissemination Sessions (data mobilisation and data analysis)	GroundTruth, ISSEDD	July 2018 (still to be confirmed)	Approx. 30	http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands - full details to be added to the GBIF and GroundTruth websites shortly
Possible Training Session to be held during Tropical Biology Association Course	TBA, GroundTruth, ISSEDD	2019 (still to be confirmed)	Approx. 25	To be arranged





4. Updated calendar for the BID project implementation and evaluation period

The calendar should be completed in the same way as in the Full Project Proposal, but should include any expected changes. Provide reasons for any expected changes in section 4.1 'Explanatory Notes'.

Implementation period start date (01/10/17) and end date (31/12/18)																
Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Notes
Planning	X	X	X	X	X				X					X		Extended
Mobilisation of existing data		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Extended to cover entire project duration and emphasis increased. More budget reallocated to this activity
BID Capacity Enhancement workshop – Data mobilization and publication (Participation is mandatory)			X													Completed
Early Progress evaluation & Reporting			X	X												Completed - This document
BID Capacity Enhancement workshop – Data use (Participation is mandatory)					X											A motivation letter for a Madagascan participant to attend has been sent to GBIF. An additional member of the project team may also attend the workshop but in the capacity of a mentor – details are still being finalised
Mid-term evaluation & reporting								X	X							Will be completed prior to the AFRESH workshop as funds will need to be released in order to cover costs of the workshop
AFRESH.IO Workshop										X						Moved to July 2018 to accommodate partners, better time of year, venue availability and to ensure budget is available
Training										X						Training will coincide with the workshop
Collection / Mobilisation of new data										X	X	X	X	X	X	Shifted to coincide with the date of the AFRESH I.O workshop and extended after workshop
Quality control						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Extended for the duration of the year following planning
Long-term monitoring research project proposal					X	X				X	X			X	X	Slight extensions



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Upload data to FIP/GBIF						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Extended slightly earlier in the year
Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessment										X	X				X	Emphasis / budget reduced – will be incorporated into long term monitoring research proposal.
Diatom Tool										X	X	X	X	X	X	Emphasis / budget reduced – time frame extended to allow for any preliminary analyses to be conducted
Open Data		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Extended to cover entire project duration.



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Evaluation period start date (01/01/2019) and end date (31/03/2019)				
Activity	1	2	3	Notes
Final financial and narrative reporting		X	X	
Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessment	X			Reduced emphasis – will not be produced as a separate report/deliverable but will be incorporated and outlined as a planned objective in the long term monitoring research proposal
Diatom Tool	X			Reduced emphasis – will not be produced as a separate report/deliverable but will be incorporated and outlined as a planned objective in the long term monitoring research proposal. If suitable data exists preliminary analyses can be conducted towards developing the tool as a beta version based on genus level occurrence
Long-term monitoring research project proposal	X	X		Increased emphasis – will incorporate the thinking behind the diatom tool and the regional water quality and ecosystem health assessment. It will outline a regional strategy going forward, will include the research objectives/memorandum identified by project partners workshopped at AFRESH.IO, will highlight major knowledge gaps and will attempt to quantify those gaps, it will also outline the role that citizen science can play in data generation/monitoring and will build on all data mobilised during the GBIF project. It will also provide a critical stepping stone to obtain continued support and funding for freshwater research in the IO region

4.1. Explanatory notes:

We feel that our original submitted proposal was perhaps very ambitious (it’s a good thing to have the vision, but we also need to be realistic in terms of what is achievable). Seeing what is needed just to get data published to GBIF – the project management team have realised we need to reassess our proposed project objectives, deliverable and outcomes. As such, after reviewing some of our goals/aims for the project we would like to propose that certain objectives/deliverables be changed and that budget be reallocated.

We have restructured the project budget and reallocated funds to better meet the expectations from GBIF in terms of mobilising existing data



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- a. We have made contact with somebody at the Natural History Museum of London (Dr Ben Price) who has alerted us to the fact that many EPT taxa specimens exist for Madagascar in the museum which have not been captured/digitised. We would like to try and allocate some funding to have a post-doctoral student help use to capture this useful information – this was an expense we had initially not budgeted for but we feel we could allocate more funds to mobilising existing data to support this.
- b. Re-look at funding required for the workshop (especially given the difficulties in finding a suitable venue, accommodation, catering in Madagascar) we have allocated a little more funding up front to cater for flights of project partners/delegates but it is anticipated that delegates will also be able to acquire institutional in-kind funding to offset these costs. If/when that occurs, budget allocated to travel would be freed up and can be reallocated to mobilising existing data.
- c. Reallocate funding for certain deliverables. We would like to reduce the emphasis placed on the National aquatic ecosystem health assessment and the diatom tool as well as reallocate budget to these activities.

A revised budget has been submitted together with this early progress report for the consideration of GBIF.

Changes to other activities are detailed below

Planning - Much planning has already taken place but this phase has also been extended given the time/effort required and spent already to make changes to the proposal/budget. We realise too that additional planning will be required for the workshop, post workshop deliverables and towards the project termination date

Mobilisation of existing data – We realise now the impetus placed on mobilising existing datasets by GBIF and not trying to collect new data to be mobilised. We had elements of both in our original budget but probably less of a focus on mobilising existing data (as we were unsure of what data was actually in existence) and more of a focus on collecting new data (achieved through volunteer collection efforts, co funding and training at the workshop). We would like to shift the focus more to mobilising existing data (such as the collections in the NHM, Swiss Cantonal museum, Paris, A&M and elsewhere), and keep mobilisation of newly collected data to an added extra as part of the project. An initial data set will be published earlier in the year as per the milestones required by GBIF but data will be added to the initial data set over the course of the project/year.

Mid-term evaluation & reporting –Our expenses for the AFRESH.IO workshop are estimated to be around 18000 euros (with a chance that this will be reduced if co-funding is provided for certain delegates flight costs). Given the costs involved, it is proposed that the date of the conference be shifted to ensure that the 3rd payment instalment from GBIF can be received (with all supporting reports required submitted) before the AFRESH.IO workshop occurs.



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AFRESH.IO Workshop – The name of the workshop has been changed from AFRESH 2 to AFRESH.IO. Initially we had planned to have the workshop in April 2018. As mentioned above one of the reasons for shifting it later in the year is related to cash flow and to ensure that the 3rd payment instalment is received from GBIF before the workshop is hosted in order to cover costs. Furthermore, finding/organising a suitable and cost effective venue location for the workshop has proven difficult. In order to reduce logistical problems associated with accomodating delegates and in order to reduce costs for flights of attending delegates, a venue near to Antananarivo has been identified. The availability of the venue has had to be considered and July/August has been identified. After much discussion, we feel that if the workshop was to be hosted in April it wouldn't give some our partners enough time to prepare and to organize co-funding from their various institutions to attend. Furthermore, July will be a better time of year to conduct outdoor training exercises/fieldwork than April. As such we have proposed to move the planned workshop 3 months later to July 2018. Dates are busy being finalized taking into consideration the availability of the venue and key project partners.

Training – No change apart from the shifted date of the AFRESH.IO workshop. Training will coincide with the workshop.

Collection / Mobilisation of new data - The collection and mobilisation of new data has been shifted to coincide with the date of the AFRESH.IO workshop when training on collection will be offered but it has also been extended following the workshop. It is envisaged that the collection and mobilisation of new data will extend beyond the life of the GBIF project. The intention is that during the GBIF project a data set of newly collected organisms is commenced but that the real value of this data set will come with time as project partners continue to contribute through citizen science efforts, but also the through long term monitoring research proposal and additional funding/future years. Importantly, less of a focus has been placed on this activity than was originally envisaged in the initial proposal. We still intend to train delegates who attend our workshop in the collection of EPT taxa and Diatoms and also to hold a co-ordinated voluntary sampling effort to collected new data for the Indian Ocean Region and Madagascar in particular – but these newly collected would be compiled into a separate data set to be uploaded to GBIF /initiated through our project but also to be grown and added to in the future through additional funding. We realise now it is overly ambitious to have newly collected data, identified, digitised, transcribed, captured and compiled into a data set in time such that would be published and form the main focus of the study. It will be viewed as an added extra to the project.

Quality control – The quality control period has been extended to cover the revision of mobilised data for the duration of the year and as data is collated and made available for publishing.

Long-term monitoring research proposal - Preliminary planning for this activity has already commenced, but the AFRESH I.O workshop will be used to formalise this activity with all project partners together and will be finalised at the project termination date once all data mobilised during the course of the GBIF project have been assessed (The GBIF project in itself will elucidate where additional and specific knowledge gaps exist and will be used to quantify these gaps). This activity will incorporate elements and thinking behind that of the Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessment activity as well as the Diatom tool activity.

Upload data to FIP/GBIF – Extended slightly earlier in the year to allow for initial data sets to be uploaded as part of GBIF requirements/milestones This activity will occur as data are made available for upload.



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Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health assessment - Emphasis on this activity has been reduced as there remains too much uncertainty around the data (quantity & quality) that exists and which will be generated in order to successfully complete/achieve this activity. Instead this component and thinking behind it will be carefully incorporated into the development and formalisation of a long term monitoring research proposal which will chart the way forward for a national assessment to be undertaken. It will highlight/quantify gaps and will draw on all data that has been mobilized during the GBIF project. Budget allocations to this activity have been reallocated accordingly – see attached budget.

Diatom Tool - Emphasis on this activity has also been reduced as there remains too much uncertainty around the data (quantity & quality) that exists and which will be generated in order to successfully complete/achieve this activity. Instead this component and thinking behind it will be carefully incorporated into the development and formalisation of a long term monitoring research proposal. Budget allocations to this activity have also been reallocated accordingly. If suitable data exists/or is mobilised preliminary analyses can be conducted towards developing the tool as a beta version based on genus level occurrence

Open Data - The provision of open access and free to use data will remain a priority throughout the project and will apply as soon as data are made available for publishing.

We would also like to point out that the co-funding offered by ISSEDD has been reduced to 2000 Euros from 3000 euros, this is largely because the workshop will not be held in Toamasina. Part of the in-kind co-funding was taking into consideration the use of University of Toamasina/ISSEDD facilities for free. As the workshop venue has been moved this in-kind cofounding has been reduced. It now largely reflects in-kind cofounding for man hours.



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5. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other cooperation

5.1. Relationship with project partners

Please describe the relationship between your project coordinating team/institution and your project partners, and with any other organisations involved in implementing your BID project.

A good relationship has been established with the GBIF secretariat training team (Maheva and co) and Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie. Our project mentor Andry Jean Marc Rakotomanjaka – GBIF BID project mentor has met both Dr Miasa Eustache and Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie (Project management/Coordination) in person both in Madagascar and Cape Town respectively. The relationship between the project management institution and coordination team (GT, ISSEDD, CNRE and the GBIF project mentor Andry) is good and despite language differences being tricky (French and English), communication is being facilitated through translations with Andry (via Skype and separate phone calls) and also via google translate.

Skype teleconferences have been held with project management/coordination and specific partners/affiliations (BOKU, NHM – London, Albany Museum) while e-mails have been circulated via project management to all partners. The coordination team (GT) has a good working relationship (and a personal friendship with members of the Swiss Cantonal Museum, Albany museum, TBA, University of North West) while project management ISSEDD has personal friendship with members of CNRE and the project mentor Andry. Project partners on the ground (REEF and Diospyros have not yet been personally introduced to other project partners – this will be achieved through skype and then the AFRESH.IO workshop in Madagascar).

The relationship between the project coordination/management team with the other partners can be described as being good, but has been largely limited to e-mail communication up to this point. A full skype teleconference has been planned to relay items discussed/presented in this first progress report, as agreed upon by project management.

5.2. Links to other projects and actions

Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions, e.g. GBIF nodes, other BID funded projects, etc. If your organization has received previous grants in view of strengthening the same target group, to what extent has your BID project been able to build upon/complement the previous project(s) ?

We have established a link with Brian Fisher and the African Insect Atlas Project and also other freshwater entomology experts Dr Helen Barber James (Albany Museum) and KD Dijkstra from the Naturalis Foundation (Netherlands). Both Helen and KD are visiting Brian in Jan/Feb 2018 and will be closely associated to the AFRESH.IO workshop we plan on hosting in Madagascar. Our workshop is planned to be hosted at the Madagascar Biodiversity Centre (where Brian Fisher’s team is located), thanks to Brian’s generosity and enthusiasm. We hope to reciprocate the same enthusiasm for entomology and we intend to contribute some freshwater knowledge to the Insect Atlas Project over the long term. Our project lead in Madagascar Dr Miasa Eustache will be meeting Brian Fisher in person in the next week or so, so further ties and networking opportunities can be cemented in place for the future. Miasa is negotiating other meetings (next Friday) with some entomologist teams from Ankatso University (Antananarivo), from Mahajanga University (West of Madagascar) and from Toliara IHSM University (South of Madagascar) to expand our field actions in the future and in the long term.



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Dr Miasa Eustache (project lead) has also established personal communication with Mr Herinaina Ramanankierana at CNRE (the host institute for the MadBIF node). It is planned that Mr Herinaina attends the AFRESH.IO workshop together with Andry Jean-Marc Rakotomanjaka – if possible

Links have been established with the Natural History Museum London NHM Curator Dr Benjamin Price and Post-Doctoral Student Dr Lyndall Pereira-Da-Conceicao. Both Ben and Lyndall were involved in AFRESH 1 and are colleagues of staff at GroundTruth, Albany Museum and certain other project partners. While NHM were not originally included as partners of the original proposal, budget has been shuffled and more has been allocated to the mobilization of existing data which can now be directed to Lyndall and Ben who will contribute greatly to improving the datasets (by providing data held by NHM that is previously unpublished). Further links with Texas A&M and the natural history museum in Paris are in the process of being established.

6. Visibility

Please refer to the [BID guidelines](#).

6.1. Visibility of the BID project

How is the visibility of your BID project being ensured?

Short summary

The start of the project has been slow and we are reshuffling some of our original objectives and budget. We will ensure that project activities (with due warning) will be posted on the GBIF website with our project.

The GroundTruth website has been updated to host a separate linked page to the GBIF project and a brief blurb of the project and details of the AFRESH workshop and planned knowledge dissemination activities

Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and ISSEDD will produce a similar page on the FIP platform website and ISSEDD institution website respectively. Several researches and PhD students will visit these sites.

Sources of verification

Link to GroundTruth Website with new article regarding GBIF Project - <http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands>

Update to GBIF Website (regarding project information & events) will be provided shortly with new article regarding GBIF Project

Link to FIP website with new article regarding GBIF Project – will be provided shortly

6.2. Visibility of the EU contribution

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured within your project implementation?

Short summary



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All activities within the project especially knowledge dissemination sessions and workshops/conferences (e.g. AFRESH.IO) will specify that the project has received European Union funding. Additionally any publication or document (including training materials, workshop notes/agendas) compiled by the project team in whatever form and by whatever medium, including the internet shall include the following statement: “This project is funded by the European Union”. The words “European Union” will be hyperlinked to <http://europa.eu>. That attribution will also be accompanied by the EU flag. Both GBIF and the BID programme will also be acknowledged.

A website page and link to the GBIF project – indicating all project partners and funding sources has been added on the GroundTruth company website and will be added to the Freshwater Information Platform website shortly.

Sources of verification

Link to GroundTruth Website with new article regarding GBIF Project - <http://www.groundtruth.co.za/research-projects/2018/1/29/the-forgotten-african-islands>

Link to FIP website showing EU contribution in relation to the GBIF project – will be provided shortly

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Signature _____

Name of the contact person for the BID Project: Dr Miasa Eustache and Dr Vere Ross-Gillespie

Date report sent by email in Word format to bid@gbif.org for pre-approval: 31 January 2018

Date report sent by post to GBIF Secretariat: _____



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