



BID Africa 2017 – Small Grant Template

Midterm 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 a direct link or sending a copy of the documents.
- This report must first be sent as a **Word document** to GBIF@GBIF.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

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2. Project Information

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

Department of Forestry
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus

2.2. Main contact person and role:

Prof. John T. Woods
Lead Partner

2.3. BID proposal identifier:

BID AF2017-0168-SMA

2.4. Project title:

Building Capacity for Biodiversity Data Mobilization and Conservation in Liberia

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

November 1, 2017 to October 30 2018

2.6. Country in which the activities take place:

Republic of Liberia

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)

This project commenced on November 1, 2017, with elaborate preparation and organization of a Stakeholders Workshop of 40 participants, awareness and encouragement to recognize the need to mobilization biodiversity data and resources. The workshop was held at the University of Liberia on January 10, 2018. Following this workshop, participants consented to share biodiversity data. About eight institutions proceeded immediately to sign data-sharing agreements with the project, while others promised to sign after authorization from their authorities.

The next phase of the project was a campaign to gather data and information from those who have signed our data-sharing agreements as well as those who promised to do so. Letters of introduction and email messages were sent to those institutions, informing them of our project technicians visit, to collect biodiversity data. So far, we have collected over 20 datasets on Liberian biodiversity. These data sets range from survey reports, independent research, and environmental impact assessments. These datasets are being collated, cleaned, and formatted for publication by the project team. Further hands-on training will be carried out in July for stakeholders (about 30 participants) and project partners on the core topics in biodiversity informatics, including, data mobilization, cleaning and formatting, publishing, and analysis for decision making.

During this mid-term period, we achieved the following deliverables: (1) completed stakeholders workshop, (2) started and making extensive progress in data collection and mobilization (3) registered two data publishing institutions (4) mobilized, cleaned and formatted 6 datasets for publication (5) fostered collaboration with SANBI, South Africa to



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host Liberian biodiversity data (6) IPT account for Liberia has been set up on SANBI server, (7) participated in the two BID capacity enhancement workshops and online webinars. (8) Published six datasets on the GBIF network. We have also been soliciting technical support from the BID Secretariat and successfully submitted Early Narrative Report with three Financial Reports (FR); this report is accompanied by similar FR's.

In spite of these laudable outcomes, the projected had some setbacks as outlined below:

1. The contract for this project was signed on November 1, 2017, during the same month of general elections for president and members of legislatures in Liberia. Issues raised during the elections were not resolved in the country until late December 2017, bringing activities to a halt.
2. This stalemate in the country was further exacerbated by the inauguration of the President in January bringing to close the old order of business and transitioning a new order of business, which is taking some time to be sorted out. Most of the project collaborating institutions were affected by this transition of power. We are still awaiting signatures of communications to most of the major stakeholders from the government collaborator.
3. Funds transferred in Euros for the implementation of the project could not be easily assessed due to fiscal and monetary policies affecting banks during the transition period. This has however been resolved.
4. The project is, therefore, two months behind its original timetable.
5. The political governance cloud over the country is clearing up and there is light down the tunnel.



3.2. Progress against expected milestones:

Give an overview of all the expected milestones for your project from the beginning until now (see Annex IV of your contract)

Expected milestones/activities	Completed? Yes/No	Explanatory notes	Sources of verification
<p>Completed capacity self-assessment questionnaire for data holding institutions</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/document/82785/self-assessment-guidelines-for-data-holding-institutions (EN)</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/document/82813/modele-dauto-evaluation-pour-les-institutions-detentrices-de-donnees (FR)</p> <p>(Early Progress report milestone)</p>	Yes	<p>This activity helped us to identify priority areas for our training workshop that will be held in July 2018. Training topics have been identified based on feedback from the needs assessment.</p>	NA
<p>At least one national data publishing institutions are registered with GBIF.org</p> <p>Guidelines to become a publisher:</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/become-a-publisher</p> <p>(Early Progress report milestone)</p>	Yes	<p>Two data publishing institutions (the Forestry Development Authority and the University of Liberia) have been registered and endorsed.</p>	<p>https://www.gbif.org/publisher/ffa16949-1a2d-45c7-a3af-726e6d227d18</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/publisher/57c9be37-aeac-410c-8cea-2aea1a472f07</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> <p>(Early Progress report milestone)</p>	Yes	<p>One project team member (Ben Freeman), has participated in the two BID workshops held in South Africa and attained an Advanced Badge from the courses.</p>	<p>http://elearning.gbif.es/courses/BIDDUAFRIC A2018/index.php?id_session=0</p>
<p>Knowledge dissemination activities have been scheduled following the first BID Capacity Enhancement workshop</p> <p>(Early Progress report milestone)</p>	Yes	<p>A stakeholders workshop was held following the first BID workshop. At this workshop, the project was introduced to relevant data holding stakeholders in the country. Eight data sharing agreements were signed following the workshop.</p>	<p>See copies of data sharing agreements.</p>



<p><i>milestone)</i></p> <p>At least one dataset has been published to GBIF.org (Midterm report milestone)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Six datasets gathered by the project have been published on the GBIF network.</p>	<p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/3187332f-77d0-4d34-9840-f26bcd98a82</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/43f9dcb0-80e1-40ec-906f-93a186e993b2</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/0b394791-e0c5-4f94-bc8e-bbfe5c32920d</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/34f447ee-6521-4e05-b7d5-f18540a9648d</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/7afcfc1d-b370-4b00-823c-e9308f1fb5ca</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/2f0f6f6b-b7dc-4cf0-9ede-107627044722</p>
<p>The data users identified in the full proposal have documented their intended use of the mobilized data and provided early feedback (Midterm report milestone)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There is extensive progress being made in Liberia in line with this activity and we are still engaging stakeholders to encourage the use of our datasets. So far one project has used our datasets to answer questions about endangered species distributions, habitat connectivity, and species vulnerability to climate change. A research article entitled 'Reconstructing endangered mammal species distributions and forest connectivity across the humid Upper Guinea lowland rainforest of West Africa' has been submitted to the journal Biodiversity and Conservation using data from Liberia.</p> <p>Also, our capacity needs assessment showed that many data users identified in this project have limited capacity in analyzing biodiversity data to be used for decision making. Our just ended workshop on biodiversity data mobilization and usage has trained over 20 people in addressing these limitations. We are confident this will motivate more data use.</p>	<p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/3187332f-77d0-4d34-9840-f26bcd98a82</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/43f9dcb0-80e1-40ec-906f-93a186e993b2</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/7afcfc1d-b370-4b00-823c-e9308f1fb5ca</p> <p>https://www.gbif.org/dataset/2f0f6f6b-b7dc-4cf0-9ede-107627044722</p>



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 an 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
Data sharing Agreement signed	Stakeholders Workshop	Yes	8 data sharing agreements have been signed by major biodiversity data holding institutions in the country.	See Early progress report attachments
Mobilized Data for threatened specie 13 bird species 39 mammals species 51 plants species.,	Literature Reviewed	Yes	This process is ongoing and we have made incredible gains. We have gathered over 20 datasets covering a wide range of species (plants, mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles) from stakeholders, representing different research projects across the country. These datasets are being cleaned, digitized where necessary, and formatted into Simple Darwin Core for publication. Six of these	See data catalog attached. See section 3.2.



			have been published on the GBIF network.	
Bibliography of data collectors, sources, databases	Literature review	Yes	This is also ongoing. We are keeping a catalog of data collected, sources, and databases.	See data catalog attached.
Distributions of well-threatened species identified and published	Data mobilization, processing, and publication	No	Ongoing. Data are being mobilized for this activity. Six datasets have already been published.	See data catalog attached. See section 3.2.
Occurrence and sample-based data of threatened species produced and published	Data mobilization, processing, and publication	No	Ongoing. Data are being mobilized and formatted for publication. Six datasets have been published.	See data catalog attached. See section 3.2.
Biodiversity database setup at the FDA	Establish facility for data management	Yes	An IPT account has been set up for Liberia. Four people have been trained at a recent workshop to help manage this account. A high-speed laptop was purchased to be used for data mobilization and management. Above all, the Liberian stakeholders are	http://197.189.235.147:8080/iptliberia/manage/



			considering joining GBIF as a member.	
Capacity need for data collector /user identified	Capacity needs assessment	Yes	Stakeholders needs have been identified and a training workshop has been conducted to fill some of the gaps identified. Over 20 participants from over five institutions were trained.	See workshop documents attached.
Biodiversity data communicated to data user and collectors	Stakeholder Seminar	No	This will be carried out at the latter stage of the project.	NA

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
Biomonitoring data on threatened species of Sapo National Park	Forestry Development Authority	43f9dcb0-80e1-40ec-906f-93a186e993b2	2018-08-10	Occurrence data
Biomonitoring data on threatened species of Gola National Park	Forestry Development Authority	3187332f-77d0-4d34-9840-f26bcd98a82	2018-08-11	Occurrence data
National Elephant data	Forestry Development Authority	2f0f6f6b-b7dc-4cf0-9ede-107627044722	2018-08-11	Occurrence data
National Pygmy Hippo data	Forestry Development Authority	7afcfc1d-b370-4b00-823c-e9308f1fb5ca	2018-08-11	Occurrence data
EIA report of plants and birds of Firestone	Univerisity of Liberia	0b394791-e0c5-4f94-bc8e-bbfe5c32920d	2018-07-31	Occurrence data



Plantation, Harbel (2016)				
EIA report of birds of Grand Kru	Univerisity of Liberia	34f447ee-6521-4e05-b7d5-f18540a9648d	2018-07-31	Occurrence data

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 downloaded from GBIF in the "Contributing dataset(s)" column. Briefly describe how the data contribute or are planned to contribute to the "targeted application" column (ca. 50 words). Provide the date or approximate timeframe in months for the completion of activity in the "Date/time frame" column. Timeframe indicated may be after the completion of the project unless targeted application is one of the deliverables 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.

Targeted application	Data user	Contributing dataset(s)	Date/time frame	Sources of verification	Notes
Reconstructing endangered mammal species distributions and forest connectivity across the humid Upper Guinea lowland rainforest of West Africa	Student	Biomonitoring data on threatened species of Sapo National Park; Biomonitoring data on threatened species of Gola National Forest; National Pygmy Hippo data; National Elephant data.	2010 - 2016	https://www.gbif.org/dataset/3187332f-77d0-4d34-9840-f26bcd98a82 https://www.gbif.org/dataset/43f9dcb0-80e1-40ec-906f-93a186e993b2 https://www.gbif.org/dataset/7afcf1d-b370-4b00-823c-e9308f1fb5ca https://www.gbif.org/dataset/2f0f6f6b-b7dc-4cf0-9ede-107627044722	This project modelled the distributions of African Forest Elephant, Pygmy Hippo and Western Chimpanzee across West Africa.



3.4. 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
Stakeholders Workshop	Department of Forestry University of Liberia	January 30, 2018	40	Early progress Report and attachments
Data mobilization training workshop	University of Liberia	July 16 - 20	30	Done





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 and end date (dd/mm/yy) 01 – 06– 18 to 31 – 12 – 18																
Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Notes
Training workshop									X							Scheduled for July 16 – 20, 2018
Data mobilization, processing and publication								X	X	X	X	x				Data processing and publication
Establish facility for data management										X	X	X				
Stakeholder seminar												X				These seminars will be used to communicate project results to stakeholders.
Final report													x	x	x	





Evaluation period start date and end date (dd/mm/yy) 01 – 11– 18 to 01 – 02 – 19				
Activity	1	2	3	Notes
Final financial and narrative reporting		X	X	
Literature review (Bibliography of data collectors, sources, databases, and users; mobilized data)	X	X		
Training workshop (capacity enhancement)	X	X		
Establish facility for data management		X		
Data mobilization, processing and publication (checklist, distribution maps, etc)	x	x		

4.1. Explanatory notes:

4.2. Evaluation results of the first half of the project has been impressive. Despite the dealys, on the overall, the project has achieved over 80% of its initial activites and we are confident that all project activities will be completed within the required time frame.



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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 organizations involved in implementing your BID project.

The project partners consist of 4 collaborators, the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), University of Liberia (UL), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and University of Kansas (KU). Each of these collaborators is represented in the Project Secretariat. UL is represented by the Coordinator, Prof. John T. Woods, a senior technician, Dr. Johnson Geply. FDA is represented by a senior technician, Lormie Menlade, and Rex Henry. FFI has recently designated a representative, and KU is represented by a Ph.D. candidate, Ben Freeman who is in constant contact with the Liberian team by phone, Skype, and email. Cooperation among the staff of the Secretariat is excellent meeting at least twice a week to review the status of the project.

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) ?

(The Liberian project has established relationships with SANBI in South Africa, TroPEG in Cameroon, and Prof. Alex Asase in Ghana. As part of this collaboration, SANBI has accepted to host the Liberian project data on its IPT platform. They have just created an IPT account for Liberia to be managed by the Liberia team. Similarly, we have been exchanging ideas with sister projects mentioned above in Cameroon and Ghana. Our team member (Ben Freeman) helped facilitate the BID TroPEG workshop in Cameroon in March 2018.)

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?

The visibility of this project is developing slowly. All of our communication are on visible Logo. However we need to print stickers for office door, vehicles and other open public spaces. There is a room for improvements

Short summary

All project communications and publications the BID visibility guidelines. We use templates provided by the project.

Sources of verification

See attached documents.

6.2. Visibility of the EU contribution

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

The EU is providing very little support for this project. Maybe we need to increase their awareness of the project.

Short summary

EU logo is bold and visible as required on all project communications and publications.

Sources of verification

See attached documents.



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Signature _____

Name of the contact person for the BID Project: _____

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

Date report sent by post to GBIF Secretariat: _____

