

HERBARIUM STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP REPORT

Introduction

Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) was established by the Tanzanian government in 1980 to conduct and coordinate all forestry related research activities. Among the primary roles of TAFORI are; to develop appropriate silvicultural practices for various tree species in Tanzania, and to improve and strengthen existing Herbarium and Arboretum. Currently the institute hosts a Herbarium located in Lushoto Tanga, established by the Tanganyika government in the late 1940s. To date this Herbarium hosts more than 70,000 undigitized plant specimens and is regarded as an important institution facility. Despite its importance, there has been limited efforts in making herbarium data accessible to a wider community due to financial constraints. Apparently, limited accessibility of specimen data is one of the major roadblocks for research and conservation in Tanzania. Thus, the Herbarium potentiality as a vital source of information in decision making has been undermined.

Training purpose

To enhance digitization of this collection, staff working in this herbarium were trained various process involved in data digitization.

Training description

A training on “**BIODIVERSITY DATA MOBILISATION AND DIGITISATION WORKSHOP**” was conducted at Lushoto in Tanga from 22nd – 25th June 2021 where by 13 people participated. Among them, 7 were herbarium staff, 3 project members, 2 interns and 1 IT personnel. Project and training opening remarks were given by Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) Director general on the first day of the workshop. The training was facilitated by GBI node manager from Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH), GBIF head of delegation from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and Curator from Tropical Pest and Research Institute (TPRI) herbarium. On the first day of the training the project PI gave an overview of the project to training participants, in addition GBIF head of delegation gave 30 min talk on “Global and national gateways for Biodiversity Data”. In the following days the following topics were covered by the facilitators;

- I. Biodiversity data standards
- II. Biodiversity data transformation
- III. Darwin core data standards
- IV. Data mapping
- V. Data publishing using IPT
- VI. Preparation of meta data
- VII. Data uploading and publishing