Livingstone Museum

LIVINGSTONE MUSEUM
GBIF-BID Project BID-AF2017-0301-NAC

TRAINING REPORT
DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY DATA MOBILISATION
Livingstone Museum, Zambia – 10-12 JANUARY 2018

After attending the BID Capacity Enhancement Workshop on Biodiversity Data Mobilisation in Cape Town, South Africa, from 4-7 December 2017, the Project Lead, Clare Mateke, conducted a workshop to disseminate the knowledge gained to the BID project core team, other members of staff from the Project Co-ordinating Institution and one Project Partner institution.

The BID Programme is organised by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and funded by the European Union.

Aim

The aim of the workshop was to disseminate knowledge gained at the BID Workshop on Biodiversity Data Mobilisation held in Cape Town, South Africa to other members of the project team.

Trainers

The training for the workshop was provided by Clare Mateke, Project Lead and Keeper of Mammalogy at Livingstone Museum, Livingstone, Zambia.

Participants

The workshop had six participants as follows: Sande Mulwanda (Research Assistant – Project Core Team, Livingstone Museum), Debra Nachinga (Research Assistant – Project Core Team, Livingstone Museum), Maggie Mwale (Assistant Keeper of Ornithology, Livingstone Museum), Martha Imakando (Assistant Keeper of Entomology, Livingstone Museum), Choolwe Shalwindi (Keeper of Botany, Livingstone Museum), Ronke Oke (Planning Officer, Department of National Parks and Wildlife).

Topics covered

The workshop ran for three days, during which the following topics were covered:

1. Key concepts in biodiversity data mobilisation
2. Biodiversity data standards
3. Digitisation project planning
4. Data types
5. Data quality and management
6. Basic concepts of data cleaning
7. Use of OpenRefine
8. Other data management tools
9. Basic concepts of data publishing
10. IPT data publishing
11. Advanced data publishing

Presentations were largely based on the presentations used at the BID workshop in Cape Town. Practical exercises were also given on certain topics.

Soft copies of the workshop materials were shared with participants.

Challenges

Limited internet supply during the period of the workshop due to poor service by the internet provider proved to be a challenge during the workshop. It led to delays in viewing and using websites and difficulties with some of the demonstrations and exercises.

Challenges in installing OpenRefine on participants' computers, possibly also due to the poor internet supply. This resulted in some participants having to share computers for the practical exercises.

Limited funding for the workshop was also a challenge, since it was not originally included in the project budget, so had to be funded out of institutional funds. This meant that the workshop had to be held locally at the venue of the Project Co-ordinating Institution and only a limited number of local participants could attend.

Application

The project core team and other participants now have basic training in biodiversity data mobilisation. This will greatly assist in the process of digitisation, cleaning, curation, transformation and publishing of the biodiversity data that is to be mobilised during the project.

CMateke

Clare Mateke
Keeper of Mammalogy
January 2017

The BID Programme is funded by the European Union