

Mentoring GBIF Cameroon – GBIF Benin – GBIF France

Programme: CESP

Project ID: CESP2021-002

Project lead organization: Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (GBIF Cameroon)

Project implementation period: 1/8/2021 - 31/7/2022

Report approved: 22/2/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Project partners

National Museum of Natural History

Country: France

GBIF Participant Represented: GBIF France

Role in the project: - hosting of the IPT ; - helps as a trainer on activity 4 and also for remote data connection

University of ABOMEY-CALAVI, Benin

Country: Benin

GBIF Participant Represented: GBIF Benin

Role in the project: train members of GBIF-Cameroon and their partners in data digitization, data formatting using the spreadsheet of GBIF, and data publication on GBIF site

Executive Summary

To identify and mobilize data holders at the national level, the GBIF Cameroon team conducted missions in some institutions (University of Maroua, University of Ngaoundere, University of Buea, RASTOMA and the Millennium Ecological Museum). This visit allowed GBIF Cameroon to register four (04) new institutions on the GBIF portal. From January 10 to 14, 2022, a capacity building workshop was organized in Yaoundé for members of the GBIF Cameroon network on the use of GBIF tools and standards. As a prelude to this workshop, two banners (French and English) and two flyers (French and English) were produced to inform and sensitize the public and data holders on the GBIF portal.

For the enrolment of new institutions on the GBIF portal, the GBIF Cameroon team sent letters to the heads of these institutions and followed up with emails and phone calls to ensure the process was completed. Regarding the training workshop, the team sensitized the participants for at least a month on the holding of this workshop. However, the COVID 19 pandemic did not allow the physical participation of the two mentors from France and Benin. When the budget was modified and approved by the CESP, the funds for transportation and accommodation for these mentors were redirected to other expenses (internet connection and organization of a second feedback workshop at the University of Maroua).

Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report

Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report:

1. National data holders mobilized.
2. New data providers connected to GBIF: at least three new organizations have joined the GBIF network as data publishers.
3. Conception, multiplication and diffusion of communication supports carried out.
4. Completion of Capacity building of stakeholders (Node staff, data holders, primary data users): at least twenty data holders and collection managers are trained.
5. Project mid-term report produced.

Information on progress against milestones is provided in the activities and deliverables sections.

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

Mobilization of national data holders: field missions took place in five (05) institutions in order to raise awareness on the importance of publishing on the GBIF portal;

New data providers connected to GBIF: four (04) new institutions are enrolled on the GBIF portal and visible at <https://www.gbif.org/publisher/search?country=CM> ;

Design, multiplication and dissemination of communication materials: two (02) banners and two (02) professional flyers were produced to raise awareness among the public and participants in the training workshop on GBIF;

Capacity building of stakeholders (node staff, data holders, primary data users): The workshop took place from January 10 to 15, 2022 in Yaoundé. Twenty-two (22) participants took part in this training;

Collection, processing, validation and dissemination of data on the Cameroon Biodiversity Information System and the GBIF Portal: new data sources have been identified and the collection process is underway;

Restitution of the training in an institution (University of Yaoundé I): the first contacts are made with this institution for the organization of the workshop;

Restitution of the training in an institution (University of Maroua): This new activity was made possible by the remaining non-participation of the mentors. The first contact with the institution took place during the training workshop in Yaoundé.

Completed activities

Activity name: Mobilization of national data holders

Description: Before the workshop on the reinforcement of capacity of members of national network, GBIF Cameroon team will mobilize the national data holders through meetings and email communication.

This activity will be carried out by GBIF Cameroon with the technical support of mentors from GBIF France and GBIF Benin

Start Date - End Date: 1/8/2021 - 15/10/2021

Verification Sources: Mission report (attached)

Activity name: New data providers connected to GBIF

Description: During the project period, new data publishers may be identified and join GBIF, as well as new data sources. Stakeholders needs will also be evaluated through documentation.

This activity will be carried out by GBIF Cameroon with the technical support of mentors from GBIF France and GBIF Benin.

Start Date - End Date: 16/10/2021 - 14/1/2022

Verification Sources: GBIF Portal

<https://www.gbif.org/publisher/search?country=CM>

Activity name: Conception, multiplication and diffusion of communication supports

Description: This activity includes the conception and multiplication of communication supports, and their diffusion during the several activities planned in this project.

This activity will be carried out by GBIF Cameroon with the technical support of mentors from GBIF France and GBIF Benin.

Start Date - End Date: 1/12/2021 - 31/12/2021

Verification Sources: Invoice and digital files of banners and flyers (attached)

Activity name: Capacity building of stakeholders (Node staff, data holders, primary data users)

Description: Training workshop organized to reinforce: 1- data holders' capacities on GBIF data publishing standards; 2- GBIF Cameroon node staff capacities on data management and data publishing; 3- workshop participant's capacities on GBIF tools use; 4- data users' capacities on

primary GBIF-accessed biodiversity data use.

During this activity, the GBIF Benin mentor assisted by the GBIF France mentor will be responsible for training of the members of the GBIF Cameroon network in formatting, digitizing and uploading of data online. GBIF France will put online a training IPT for the practical work of the participants.

Start Date - End Date: 10/1/2022 - 14/1/2022

Verification Sources: Participant attendance sheets and workshop report (attached)

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

Four communication materials produced and used at the national workshop: two professional flyers and two banners designed and produced in both official languages (French and English);

Twenty-two (22) data holders and collection managers are trained: Twenty-two teachers and researchers linked to the GBIF Cameroon node have been trained on the use of GBIF standards and tools by GBIF France and GBIF Benin mentors;

Fifteen (15) teachers and researchers are trained in one institution (University of Yaoundé 1): preparations underway (contact made with the institution);

Fifteen (15) teachers and researchers are trained in one institution (University of Maroua): new activity under preparation (contact made with the institution);

At least two datasets and 7000 hits are published on GBIF.org (4000 hits related to the Cameroonian flora dataset and 3000 hits from the Cameroonian fauna datasets): Ongoing (about 1000 hits of plant data collected during the training workshop);

At least three new organizations register on the GBIF network as data publishers: four (04) new institutions have been enrolled on the GBIF portal;

A report of meetings with data holders is produced: a report of field missions was produced.

Completed deliverables

Title: Four communication supports produced and used during the national workshop

Type: Documentation

Description: Two professional flyers (A0 format) and two streamers are produced and used during the national workshop organized from 10 to 14 January 2022 in Cameroon.

Sources of verification: Invoice and digital files of available communication materials (attached)

Title: Twenty two (22) data holders and collection managers are trained

Type: Training Workshop

Description: Training workshop organized to reinforce: 1- data holders' capacities on GBIF data publishing standards; 2- GBIF Cameroon node staff ; 3- workshop participant's capacities on GBIF tools use; 4- data users' capacities on primary GBIF-accessed biodiversity data use.

Sources of verification: Participant attendance sheet and workshop report available (attached)

Title: At least three new organizations register on the GBIF network as data publishers.

Type: Documentation

Description: Considering the amount of solicitation GBIF Cameroon received for data publishers endorsement, the number of data publishers will increase by at least three new organizations from Cameroon.

Sources of verification: List of new institutions available on the GBIF portal at <https://www.gbif.org/publisher/search?country=CM>

Title: A report of the meetings with the data holders is produced.

Type: Documentation

Description: The GBIF Cameroon team will mobilize national data holders through meetings and email communications.

Sources of verification: Report of field missions in the institutions holding biodiversity data available (attached)

Events

Training workshop for members of the GBIF Cameroon network on the use of GBIF standards and tools

Dates: 2022-01-10 - 2022-01-14

Organizing institution: GBIF Cameroon

Country: Cameroon

Number of participants: 25

Comments: 22 participants from the GBIF Cameroon network, two trainers from France and one from Benin

Website or sources of verification: Workshop Report

Communications and visibility

During field missions, the GBIF Cameroon team sensitized some institutions on the services offered by GBIF through its web portal. It also sensitized them on the importance of sharing data on the GBIF portal. During the workshop for the launch of the AME reporting tool (DaRT) in Cameroon, the services offered by GBIF were presented to the participants. The training workshop on the use of GBIF standards and tools allowed for the training of some key biodiversity actors in Cameroon. This training has attracted the support of some institutions such as the University of Buea in Cameroon. Other institutions that participated in the workshop are exploring ways to join the GBIF network. The two flyers produced during this workshop will be used as visual communication tools during the different events organized by GBIF Cameroon. It should be noted here that the organization of the face-to-face workshop helped to strengthen the links between the members of the GBIF Cameroon node.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

We will answer this question by activity:

Activity 1 Mobilization of data holders: activity carried out with the result of enrolling four new institutions on the GBIF portal. Insufficient financial resources did not allow us to meet with all the identified actors. Funds will be sought to continue the activity.

Activity 2 Enrollment of new institutions in GBIF: four new institutions enrolled and several others identified. Letters of invitation to enroll will be sent to some institutions. GBIF Cameroon will continue to sensitize local actors.

Activity 3 Design, multiplication and distribution of communication materials: four materials produced. These materials are intended for indoor communication, thus limiting their reach. GBIF Cameroon plans to produce and distribute the communication materials on digital platforms.

Activity 4 Capacity building of GBIF Cameroon network members: twenty-five people trained instead of twenty-two initially invited. This training allowed for capacity building of the node and the mobilization of a number of data sets. GBIF Cameroon will seek funding to replicate these activities in academic institutions to expand the community of users and publishers of biodiversity data.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

Initially in the project, it was a question of bringing to Cameroon trainers from France and Benin for capacity building of members of the GBIF Cameroon node on the use of standards and publishing tools of GBIF. The occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic did not allow the displacement of the latter and led to the establishment of a network infrastructure to facilitate the intervention of the latter at a distance. This had an impact on the training of participants. The assistance of remote participants made the practical sessions difficult. This shortcoming was remedied by distributing digital media to the participants, which will allow them to continue the manipulations in private.

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