

PROMOTE GBIF IN THE AFRICAN PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES THROUGH DOCUMENTATION AND SEMINARS

FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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1. Executive summary

To become global, GBIF needs to establish the network of connections to support the community of different regions. The support of different languages helps to overcome possible barriers. This project aimed and achieved the goal of ensuring that the fundamental set of documents for the establishment of a national biodiversity information facility become available in portuguese. Additionally, and building on this goal, the project also aimed at promoting GBIF among the community of portuguese speaking countries, namely the african ones. This was achieved by promoting workshops or seminars, in the full involvement of national organisers and institutions, in three of the PALOP countries: Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

A total of twelve documents (six manuals and six promotional materials) was translated to portuguese. These are or will become available soon for the international community through GBIF.org.

Three workshops or seminars were held, one in each of the selected countries, with the involvement of national partners as local organisers, the GBIF Secretariat and GBIF Portugal. A total of 99 participants attended to the workshops, from 50 different institutions, including government departments, administration, universities, museums and ONGs.

Also with the involvement of the GBIF Secretariat, the project also facilitated high level meetings with government officials of Angola and Mozambique, triggering the process of future adhesion of these countries to GBIF. For Guinea-Bissau, the possible participation of the country will become the subject of near-future conversations between the Secretariat and the guinean organisation IBAP.

2. Contact information

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Contacts of project partners and local workshop organisers

Angola

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Guinea-Bissau

<p>Alfredo Simão da Silva Director do Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas (IBAP) Avenida Dom Settimio Arturo Ferrazzetta Caixa Postal N° 70 Bissau. Guiné-Bissau alfredodasilva.ibap@gmail.com</p>	<p>Udimila Kadija Queta Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas (IBAP) Responsavel da Comunicação Avenida Dom Settimio Arturo Ferrazzetta Caixa Postal N° 70 Bissau. Guiné-Bissau udimilaqueta@hotmail.com</p>
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Mozambique

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3. Project summary

In order to GBIF efficiently support, as an international organisation, different countries and regions, it is needed to be ensured that the language is not a barrier to the use of the infrastructure and resources. For portuguese speaking communities, the support of portuguese is a need, not only for the countries already members of GBIF (Brazil and Portugal), but also for other countries that are particularly relevant in the regional context for biodiversity representativeness, like Angola and Mozambique. The use of portuguese in communication and documentation is likely to facilitate not only the support to capacity actions, but also the first contact of national communities with the organisation and its resources. Ultimately, it helps GBIF to demonstrate its inclusiveness and global mission.

The GBIF nodes, as members of the network, could be a valuable help in ensuring that, at least, the basic set of documentation and functionalities are available in the main languages, for nodes and communities of these countries. This project aims at producing the set of translated documents in portuguese that is needed to support the establishment of a node, and to provide some important manuals for biodiversity informatics practitioners. But nodes, in its privileged position to promote contacts and connections with the national communities, can facilitate the engagement with GBIF, not only in its national countries, but internationally, through its relations with institutions of those countries, again, using common languages and cultural factors as basis. Therefore, nodes can greatly promote the enlargement of GBIF's network through advocacy actions.

This project allowed to explore these two vectors of documentation and advocacy, with the following goals:

- produce portuguese versions of a the set of essential documentation and promotional materials in support of the establishment of GBIF node;
- promote GBIF in the community of the Lusophone African Countries through workshops or seminars.

The execution of the project was very much aligned with the initial plan, in terms of tasks, timeline and finance. Almost all documents selected for translation are already in final portuguese versions, although many are still waiting for final production and publication by GBIFS. In what concerns the workshops, these took place with full involvement of national organisers, and with good representation of national institutions. The collaboration of local partners was key to the success of the meetings. Two of the workshops exceeded the initial goal for the advocacy seminars, by contributing, through presentations of the national institutions, for the assessment of the national landscape of institutions with biological collections and biodiversity projects, and for reporting of the state of the art in terms of biodiversity informatics. It also contributed for a preliminary assessment of the national installed capacity.

Additionally, the project generated the opportunity for achieving more ambitious goals, namely in terms of the engagement of new countries with GBIF. With the full involvement of GBIFS, represented by its deputy Director, Tim Hirsch, two high level governmental

meetings took place in Angola and Mozambique, in parallel to the workshops. These had the full involvement of local partners of the project, and contributed to trigger of further develop the process of future adhesion of these countries to GBIF. In Guinea-Bissau, the case of the adhesion of the country to GBIF will be brought to high level governmental officials by the local partner, also possibly triggering the process for this country in the near future, also.

3.1. Activities completed

The project activities divided in two main activity types: Documentation and Advocacy.

DOCUMENTATION

All planned documents, less one, were translated to portuguese and sent to the GBIF Secretariat for final template editing and publication. Some of the documents are already publicly available through GBIF.org portal.

The following table summarizes the current status:

Dates	Item	Status	Resource
July 2015	Document - Portuguese translation of all promotional posters (items 6-12 of deliverables)	concluded - Published and available at www.gbif.org	www.gbif.org/resource/82252 http://www.gbif.org/resource/82217
September 2015	Document - Portuguese translation of <i>Principles and Methods of Data Cleaning – Primary Species and Species-Occurrence Data</i> (item 1)	in production - Translation sent to GBIF secretariat for final production and publishing	http://community.gbif.org/pg/file/read/49994/verso-final-da-traduo-quotdata-cleaningquot
April 2016	Document - Portuguese translation of <i>Best practice guide for compiling, maintaining, disseminating national species checklists</i> (item 2)	in production - Translation sent to GBIF secretariat for final production and publishing	http://community.gbif.org/pg/file/read/51067/traduo-para-portugus-do-ampquotguia-de-boas-prticas-para-a-compilao-manutenoe-disseminao-de-checklists-de-espcies-nacionaisampquot
July 2016	Document - Portuguese translation of <i>Initiating a Collection Digitisation Project</i> (item 3)	delayed - version 0.1 of translation done and being reviewed by the project coordinator	
July 2016	Document - Portuguese translation of GBIF Capacity Enhancement Framework and GBIF Communications Strategy – Draft (items 4)	in production - Translation sent to GBIF secretariat for final production and publishing	http://community.gbif.org/pg/file/read/52327/traduo-para-portugus-do-quotgbifcapacityenhancementframeworkquot
July 2016	Document - Portuguese translation of GBIF Communications Strategy (items 5)	in production - Translation sent to GBIF secretariat for	http://community.gbif.org/pg/file/read/52330/reviso-final-da-

		final production and publishing	traduo-para-portugus-do-quotgbifcommunicati-onstrategyquot
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ADVOCACY ACTIONS

Three workshops or seminars were done during the project, as planned:

ANGOLA

Title: Workshop sobre a Partilha de Dados Científicos sobre Biodiversidade de Angola, side event of the 4th National Conference on Science and Technology

Date: 10-09-2015

Venue: Talatona Conference Centre, Luanda.

Organization: Ministério de Ciência e Tecnologia de Angola and Portuguese Node of GBIF

Agenda:

http://www.gbif.pt/sites/default/files/background/Programa_GBIF_workshop_Luanda_FINAL.pdf

News item: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/286>

File repository: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/286>

Nº of participants: 30

Nº of institutions: 7

Nº of communications: 9

GUINEA-BISSAU

Title: O Sistema Global de Informação sobre Biodiversidade (GBIF) e a Disponibilização de Dados de Biodiversidade da Guiné-Bissau

Date: 14-07-2016

Venue: Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Sala A7, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo

Organization: IBAP and Portuguese Node of GBIF

Agenda:

http://www.gbif.pt/sites/default/files/background/GBIF_seminarioBissau_agenda.pdf

News item: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/342>

File repository: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/342>

Nº of participants: 30

Nº of institutions: 16

Nº of communications: 5

MOZAMBIQUE

Title: Importância da Participação de Moçambique no Sistema Global de Informação sobre Biodiversidade (GBIF)

Date: 26-05-2016

Venue: Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Sala A7, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo

Organization: Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and Portuguese Node of GBIF

Agenda:

http://www.gbif.pt/sites/default/files/background/Programa_GBIF_workshop_final.pdf

News item: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/338>

File repository: <http://www.gbif.pt/node/338>

Nº of participants: 42

Nº of institutions: 18

Nº of communications: 9

MEETINGS

ANGOLA

Meeting with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Angola

Date: 10-09-2015

Venue: Centro de Convenções do Talatona, Luanda

Participants: Maria Candida Pereira Teixeira (Minister of Science and Technology), Maria do Rosário Sambo (Rector of the University Agostinho Neto), Rector of the University Mandume, Tim Hirsch (GBIF), Rui Figueira (GBIF Portugal)

Summary of the meeting: It was made a brief presentation of GBIF, its goals and the results of the workshop on biodiversity data sharing held in the same day. It was also briefly explained the form of participation of one country in the organisation. Comments by the rectors of the universities expressed in favour of the participation of Angola, considering it is important to promote sharing and access to data, and that the university can play an important role in promoting this by young students and researchers.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Meeting with the Director of IBAP

Date: 15-07-2016

Venue: IBAP, Bissau

Participants: Alfredo Simão da Silva (Director-General of IBAP), Justino Biai (Responsible for the Programme of IBAP) Leonildo Cardoso (IBAP)

Summary of the meeting: It was briefly reviewed the results of the seminar held in the previous day, and the process of involvement of Guinea-Bissau in GBIF. The fundamental documentation was delivered – MoU (EN and PT), of the Letter of Intent, and of the manual Establishing an effective participant node (in PT). Alfredo Silva mentioned that in its next meeting with the Secretary of State of Environment, the week after the seminar, he would pass information about GBIF and the opinion that Guinea-Bissau should become a participant.

MOZAMBIQUE

Meeting with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Angola

Date: 27-05-2016

Venue: MITADER, Maputo

Participants: Ivete Maibaze (National Director for Environment/MITADER), Guilhermina Amurane (MITADER), Ana Paula (MITADER), Tim Hirsch (GBIF), Rui Figueira (GBIF Portugal), Salomão Bandeira (UEM)

Summary of the meeting: A brief presentation of GBIF, its mission and organisation was presented, as well as the form of participation of a country in the organisation. The National Director for Environment expressed its favourable opinion about the participation of Mozambique in GBIF, and asked for more information and documentation to support making the case at the government level.

3.2. Ongoing and post-project activities

- final revision of the translation of the document *Initiating a Collection Digitisation Project* ongoing, GBIF Portugal). Date for conclusion: September 2016;
- final production and publication of portuguese translations in production listed in the table of section 3.1 (ongoing, GBIF Secretariat)- Date of conclusion: December 2016;
- follow up contacts of the post-workshop activities in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, concerning the future participation of those countries in GBIF, and creation of National nodes (ongoing, GBIF Secretariat and GBIF Portugal). Open-ended.

4. Project objectives

Ensure that the fundamental documentation for node establishment and data mobilisation is available in Portuguese

Promote GBIF in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau, in order to facilitate the future increase the number of GBIF participants.

5. Project deliverables

- Documents translated to Portuguese:

- Chapman, A. 2005. Principles and Methods of Data Cleaning, version 1.0. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. 77 pp. ISBN: 87-92020-04-6;
- Hamer, M., Victor, J., Smith, G.F. (2012). Best Practice Guide for Compiling, Maintaining and Disseminating National Species Checklists, version 1.0, released in October 2012. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility, 40 pp, ISBN: 87-92020-48-8;
- Frazier, C.K., Wall, J., and S. Grant. 2008. Initiating a Natural History Collection Digitisation Project, version 1.0. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. 75 pp. (**on-going**);
- GBIF Capacity Enhancement Framework (<http://www.gbif.org/resource/80954>)

- GBIF Communications Strategy – Draft (<http://www.gbif.org/resource/80926>)
 - GBIF (2010). GBIF poster: Making biodiversity data freely available to benefit science and society. Released on 12 October 2010. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Accessible online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=2930 (poster and metadata)
 - GBIF (2013). Poster: GBIF - informing global action to end biodiversity loss. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=5510. GBIF (2013).
 - Poster: GBIF meeting national information needs. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=5511.
 - GBIF (2013). Poster: GBIF - serving data for online applications. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=5512.
 - GBIF (2013). Poster: GBIF- supporting data publishers. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=5513.
 - GBIF (2013). Poster: GBIF - enabling unparalleled data access for research. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available online at http://www.gbif.org/orc/?doc_id=5509.
 - Template for GBIF Secretariat (2015). GBIF monthly slides - [month year]. 20 slides. Copenhagen: GBIF Secretariat. Available online at <http://www.gbif.org/resource/81771>.
- Contact mailing list of the Luanda, Maputo and Bissau workshop participants.
- Presentations on the workshops
- Luanda
 - [A criação de um Nó Nacional GBIF e cooperação nacional e internacional](#)
 - [Partilha de informações sobre Biodiversidade em Angola: contributo do GBIF como plataforma Global](#)
 - Maputo
 - [Participação nacional e guia para o estabelecimento de um Nó Nacional GBIF](#)
 - [Auto-avaliação da capacidade de um nó nacional](#)
 - Bissau
 - [O Sistema Global de Informação sobre Biodiversidade \(GBIF\)](#)
 - [Demo GBIF Portal - GB](#)
 - [Ferramentas de bases de dados de colecções biológicas e dados de observações](#)
- Articles on GBIF Portuguese portal, bilingual (PT, EN):

- Project entry page: Promote GBIF in the African Portuguese speaking countries through documentation and seminars, <http://www.gbif.pt/node/274>
- [Seminar in Bissau on biodiversity information presents GBIF to institutions and organizations of Guinea-Bissau](#)
- [Seminar about GBIF in Guinea-Bissau takes place by next July 14, hosted by IBAP](#)
- [Workshop in Maputo discusses the participation of Mozambique on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#)
- [Workshop in Maputo on the importance of the participation of Mozambique in GBIF](#)
- [Workshop in Luanda on sharing of biodiversity data discusses participation of Angola in GBIF](#)
- [Workshop sobre a Partilha de Dados Científicos sobre Biodiversidade em Angola](#)
- [GBIF supports GBIF Portugal to promote capacity enhancement and mobilization of biodiversity data in African Portuguese-speaking Countries](#)

- Press and news

- Interview on the radio show Científica Mente of the national radio RTP, channel RTP Africa, about GBIF and the promotion of capacity on biodiversity information use on the Lusophone community, May 21, 2016, <http://www.rtp.pt/play/p401/e236879/cientifica-mente>.
- News item on the national Mozambican newspaper Notícias, May 6, 2016, with the title 'Biodiversidade junta especialistas na UEM'

6. Evaluation: findings and conclusions

The feedback from the participants in the workshops in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique revealed a great interest in GBIF, and how the participation in this organisation might help these countries to fully participate in the international community, and to fulfill its commitments in biodiversity, environment, and also promote better resources to improve scientific research.

The project was successfully run and produced results better than expected. This was possible, because of the commitment and effort of all the partners and GBIFS, through non-foreseen resources at the time of the proposal.

There is a delay in the making available of the final production documents of the translated resources, by the GBIFS. While this did not affect the running of the project, it might have a negative impact, namely in the BID projects with participants from Angola or Mozambique.

7. Recommendations and lessons learned

- The participation in GBIF represents a great value for the countries, as a way of becoming active members and express commitment in the collaboration with the international community;
- The interest in GBIF in the three African countries clearly exceeded best expectations, either at the institutional level or at the governmental level;

- Local organisers clearly reflected this interest, conducting to workshop agendas that promoted fully participation of national organisation. Workshops become, in this way, as initial starting points of the future establishment on a national biodiversity facility;
- The success of the project was possible only because of the tight collaboration of GBIFS with the Portuguese Node; this experience should be reproduced in other occasions;
- The available budget was a limitation! Other advocacy actions would be justifiable and easily achievable for other countries like Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. Also other co-funding sources, not all accounted in the financial report, contributed for the success of the seminars:
 - staff time of the local organisers in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique;
 - venue, coffee-breaks and meals of participants on the Angola workshop, by MINCT, not accountable;
 - coffee-breaks and meals in the Mozambique workshop, with a contribution of 1000,00 EUR by CiBIO-Portual, and contribution by the UEM (not accounted).
- The time needed for the revision of the documents translated to portuguese was underestimated, as well as the time/effort needed for final production by GBIFS;
- The delay in the final publication of the translated documents in portuguese by GBIFS might have a negative impact in the BID projects that involve participants from african portuguese speaking countries. An effort should be made to make these available at the shortest time possible.
- Dates of the seminars needed to be adjusted, to adapt to organisation requirements and better dates concerning local communities. The flexibility of the GBIFS greatly facilitated and is really appreciated in this process;
- The follow-up of the results achieved is essential to ensure that the full potential of the project results are achieved.

8. Future plans

- Follow up of the established contacts with Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, on the joining process of these countries to GBFI, in coordination with GBIFS;
- Maintain contact with GBIFS to follow up the final production and publication of the resources translated to portuguese;
- Promotion of the use of the portuguese versions of the documentation in capacity training and workshops, either in activities in Portugal or any of the CPLP countries;
- provide testimonials of the experience of this project to others, in order to promote the enlargement of the country participation in GBIF.

9. Signature of the project main contact point

Signed on behalf of the project partners

Date

Rui Figueira

31-07-2016