

Table: GBIF-Africa Regional Action Plan (2018-2020) and some past achievements

Objective 1: Strengthen capacity to mobilize foundational data to fill the data and knowledge gaps in support of education, research and analysis that is necessary for decision making for sustainable development (Alignment to GBIF Strategic Plan: SO1, SO3 & SO4)

Specific objectives

1.1-Fill the Data Gaps in African Priority Thematic Areas

1.2-Promote Data Mobilization

1.3-Implement Data Quality Tools

1.4-Expand the Mobilization of Data Types

- With the support of GBIF Spain, GBIF Zimbabwe plans training workshops.
- GBIF Zimbabwe a workshop on how to access data from the GBIF portal, for the stakeholders in Zimbabwe
- GBIF-Benin organizes at least two workshops per year to train national and regional partners in data mobilization, data publication, and data use.
- The EWT through CESP grants develops courses and train university staff and students, in **data capture, management skills**, data paper writing and publishing and ENM.
The Nigeria Node organized workshops to train national partners on **“Biodiversity data Management and Usage”**
- GBIF-South Sudan had data mobilization training in collaboration with the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) as well as the Rift Valley Institute, Nairobi Kenya.
- SANBI-GBIF – Is part of the task team to develop curriculum for training workshops in Node Management. This includes strategic development of Nodes.
SANBI-GBIF hosted a course on Data Fitness for Use, with training conducted by Arthur Chapman.
- In Togo Data gaps analysis is on track.

- In Benin, data gap analysis is taught to students who are applying it to their thematic research areas.
- The team of GBIF Benin, is always performing data cleaning prior to any new datasets publications
- Togo- Data quality improvement : in progress (as data are received from holders for publication)

Objective 2: Build capacity to deliver relevant data across the data-science-policy interface, to support biodiversity research, assessments, and scenario modelling and planning for decision-making (Alignment to GBIF Strategic Plan: S01, S05)

Specific objectives

2.1-Promote data use to deliver relevant products

2.2-Deliver Communication and Outreach for Decision and Policy making

2.3-Deliver Relevant Data

GBIF Benin is daily achieving capacity to deliver relevant data through the research works of students in the master program in biodiversity informatics

Data use in Benin, is mainly achieved in the master program in biodiversity informatics

SANBI-GBIF through the ABC project engages with 4 countries to grow networks and capacity in data mobilisation for decision making. ABC is also engaging with UNEP-WCMC to drive data mobilisation efforts towards effective decision support outcomes

Objective 3: Build institutional capacity in Biodiversity Information Management through empowering stakeholders to produce, make accessible and use accurate biodiversity data, information and knowledge in support of sustainable development (Alignment to GBIF Strategic Plan: S01)

Specific objectives

3.1-Address capacity Enhancement

3.2-Build in depth capacity in BI (Academic) - strengthen skills

3.3-Enhance Biodiversity Information Infrastructure

3.4-Equip Data Publishers

GBIF Benin is contributing to NBSAP and CBD national report through collaboration with the national focal point of CBD who is also the Head of delegation of GBIF Benin

South Sudan-Awareness creation Workshops on Biodiversity data mobilization was held to streamline National Biodiversity Database System (NBDS), Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs).

Assessment of node and data holders capacity is needed

In Togo the workshop in data use was conducted in February 2019 (CESP2018) especially on data paper: GBIF training course used.

Togo conducted a national data use survey: completed (Feb '19)

GBIF Togo is closely working with Togo IPBES focal point and WABES focal point.

GBIF Benin is implementing since October 2017, a regional master program in biodiversity informatics

SANBI-GBIF hosted the annual biodiversity information management and Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme Forum, bringing together more than 120 participants nationally and hosted a geo-referencing training alongside the event.

Objective 4: Strengthen regional engagement

(Alignment to GBIF Strategic Plan S01)

Specific objectives

4.1-Reinforce advocacy and awareness in the community

4.2-Enhancing GBIF – Africa’s role in supporting regional strategies (eg. Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024)

4.3-Provide support to national, regional and international agreements and conventions including CBD, UNFCCC, CITES, UNCCD, IPBES and RAMSAR)

Niger, Togo, Benin, Guinea etc. Endorsed of a CESP Programme from France and Belgium node managers on **activities relating to the CBD Clearing House Mechanism and the development of national data publication and access platforms through GBIF nodes.**

Togo-Outreach done in Feb'19 with CBD, CITES, IPBES, WABES and UNDP in Togo as partners; effective partnership with Ministry of environment and national focal points (BIOPAMA, CBD, IPBES, CHM, WABES, CITES)

GBIF Benin node manager who is also the master program coordinator did a very successful presentation on the master program and activities of GBIF Benin on the national Golf TV on 26th May 2019.

SANBI-GBIF is engaging with AAS, IPBES, BIOPAMA,TDWG and CBD

SANBI-GBIF has been leading an initiative to establish the GBIF-Africa African Coordinating Mechanism for biodiversity informatics. A business case and funding proposal has been presented to the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa in Aug '18, and in principal support has been provided for the funding proposal. Further decisions are still to be provided.

SANBI-GBIF and GBIF Benin contribute to GBIF-Africa nodes steering as regional representative and deputy regional representative respectively. TanBIF currently supports the GBIF executive as a Vice Chair on the NSG.

SANBI-GBIF is actively engaging with Partners from the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic to setup an iNaturalist Southern African Node. The membership agreement is in the process.