

# Introduction to BIFA

Marina Samejima

Ministry of the Environment of Japan

# What is BIFA?

## **BIFA is:**

Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia, a contribution from Ministry of the Environment of Japan (approx. €140,000 annually).

## **Objectives**

1. Increasing the availability of data relating to Asian region biodiversity to support science-policy needs
2. Establishing or strengthening national biodiversity information facilities in Asian countries as networks to support the long-term mobilization, management and use of biodiversity information
3. Expanding the GBIF network in the Asian region



# How is BIFA operated?

## Steering committee

MoE-J, GBIFS, the Asia regional group of GBIF Nodes

## Allocation of funds

1. Partial support for Asia regional meetings
2. Support for activities aimed at enhancing biodiversity knowledge at the regional level
3. Support for capacity-related activities in Asia, such as mentoring and training workshops
4. Support for GBIF-related activities potentially contributing to the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



# BIFA 1 (2015-2016)

## Funding for regional meetings

- ✓ 2015 Asia nodes meeting (Taiwan)
- ✓ 2016 Asia nodes meeting (the Philippines)

## 4 Projects

- ✓ Biodiversity database system in Vietnam
- ✓ Strengthening GBIF Philippines
- ✓ Mobilizing biodiversity data from ASEAN protected areas
- ✓ Biodiversity informatics cookbook and regional training

## GBIF Coordination



# BIFA 2 (2016-)

## Expected outcomes

Particularly contribute to Priority 1 of the GBIF Strategic Plan 2017-2021– “Empower Global Network”, as well as regional needs for Priority 3 – “Fill Data Gaps”.

## Focus: addressing regionally-specific challenges

Challenge A: Capacity building

Challenge B: Language barriers

Challenge C: Outreach

Challenge D: Taxonomic and geographic data gaps



# BIFA 2 (2016-)

## Funding for regional meeting

- ✓ 2017 Expanded Asia regional meeting (C)

## 3 Projects (Capacity enhancement (A, B), Data mobilization (D))

- ❑ Checklist of mammals in the South-western Mongolian-Manchurian Grassland Ecosystem
- ❑ Filling a long-standing data gap for birds: the Central High lands of India
- ❑ Compiling a Multilanguage gazeteer of occurrence distribution in Asia

## GBIF Coordination and others

**Thank you**