National portals addressing national challenges

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Project ID: CESP2023-010
Project page: https://www.gbif.org/project/CESP2023-010/national-portals-addressing-national-challenges
Project lead organization: Real Jardín Botánico - CSIC
GBIF Participant Represented: Spain
Project implementation period: 30/10/2023 - 30/9/2024
Report approved: 3/5/2024

Declaration: The information provided in this report has been provided by and is the responsibility of the project lead.

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

At this stage of our project, we've achieved several significant milestones. Since the kickoff virtual meeting, we've held multiple online sessions to coordinate activities and ensure partner alignment. We've successfully developed the Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form, refining it continuously as we gather information. This form serves as a foundational tool for documenting and structuring our project's use cases, with adjustments made based on feedback and insights from the Discovery Workshop. This workshop enabled us to finalize the catalog of use cases, offering a comprehensive overview of how national biodiversity data portals tackle various challenges. This catalog is a valuable resource for understanding the practical applications of these portals and their impact across different domains of biodiversity management and conservation.

We have closely monitored progress and evaluated our activities to ensure effectiveness and alignment with project objectives. Our monitoring efforts have included regular online meetings to discuss project status and share updates. We have also continuously assessed the evolution of the Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form, adapting it as necessary based on feedback from the online meetings and new insights gained during the Discovery Workshop. Currently, no changes are required to ensure the future success of our project. However, the ongoing situation in Ecuador may affect the realization of the Workflow Workshop. We'll closely monitor developments and make any necessary adjustments to ensure the project's successful implementation.

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

All project activities were successfully carried out within the designated timeline. However, there was a slight delay in the scheduling of the Discovery Workshop, which occurred a couple of weeks later than initially planned. This delay was due to the political situation in Ecuador during the early part of the year. While no new activities were added, we enhanced the catalog by incorporating a concise analysis highlighting the distinctions between the "Hosted Portals" and "Living Atlases" portals.

Completed activities

Activity name: Kick-off virtual meeting

Description: Online meeting with project partners to organize the project's roadmap Presentation of teams, review of commitments, calendar, initial decisions and next steps
Start Date - End Date: 12/9/2023 - 12/9/2023
Verification Sources: Minutes of the online meeting and screenshots are attached.

Activity name: Designing the Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form

Description: Regular online sessions by partners to produce this deliverable. Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form.
Start Date - End Date: 3/10/2023 - 12/12/2023
Verification Sources: The Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form is available at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS8_XuGDc-tWf6PAw_ZUB-

Activity name: Producing the national level catalogues of documented national use cases

Description: Partners working internally to compile information to produce National Catalogues of documented national use cases using the "Use case description forms"
Start Date - End Date: 13/12/2023 - 31/1/2024
Verification Sources: Catalog of documented national use cases in the partners' websites: e.g.: https://www.gbif.es/en/proyecto/cesp-project-national-portals-addressing-national-challenges/

Activity name: Discovery workshop

Description: Cases collected in the previous activity will be compiled, collated, and produces a synthesized view of cases. These will also be discussed, complete, and gaps identified and addressed
Start Date - End Date: 28/2/2024 - 2/3/2024
Verification Sources: We attach the photo report of the Discovery workshop.

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

None of the deliverables have experienced significant delays, thus there is no impact on the project timeline or objectives.
The Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form: We have successfully developed the form for documenting biodiversity data use cases. It has been continuously refined based on feedback from all project partner nodes.
Catalog of Documented Use Cases: The catalog compiling documented use cases has been created. It includes an analysis of the characteristics of different types of data portals, tools developed by partner nodes, and various use cases in different national contexts. We may include some additional cases that have been identified recently.
There are no new deliverables beyond those described in the project proposal. However, it is important to note that the following deliverables depend on the Workflow Workshop, scheduled to take place in Ecuador during the last days of May and the first days of June. This aligns with the upcoming dates for the Latin American Node Regional Meeting for this purpose.

Completed deliverables

Title: Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form

Type: Resources
Description: A form that allows project partner nodes to provide detailed information on how they apply biodiversity data in their respective portals to address national biodiversity-related challenges. This form uses Dublin Core for the description of use cases and a controlled vocabulary in Google Forms.
Sources of verification: Available through: https://www.gbif.es/en/proyecto/cesp-project-national-portals-addressing-national-challenges/

Title: Catalog of documented national use cases

Type: Documentation
Description: Catalog of documented use cases where GBIF Nodes are already making an impact or have the potential to make an impact in the national context. We analyze the characteristics of the two types of data portals, the tools developed, and use cases in different national contexts.
Sources of verification: available through: https://www.gbif.es/en/proyecto/cesp-project-national-portals-addressing-national-challenges/

Events

Discovery Workshop

Dates: 2024-02-28 - 2024-03-01
Organizing institution: GBIF Spain & SiB Colombia
Country: Colombia
Number of participants: 10
Comments: The discovery workshop was held as part of the project activities with the participation of project partners to exchange experiences in the use of data portals to address national challenges. Attached is the programme, photographic memory and the catalogue of use cases as outcomes of the workshop.
Website or sources of verification: Documents: Discovery Workshop program and Photographic

Communications and visibility

To date, our project's outcomes have been disseminated through our partners' website. Once the eLearning Modules are finalized, they will be shared with the wider GBIF network, utilizing the same communication channels outlined in our proposal. Additionally, we have utilized social media platforms to amplify the reach of our project updates and findings.

We would like to provide links to the following documents and resources:
- Project URL: https://www.gbif.es/en/proyecto/cesp-project-national-portals-addressing-national-challenges/
- Biodiversity Data Use Case Description Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS8_XuGDc-tWf6PAw_ZUB-tVSwgMYN6cka0uWKOxp_yPwi1Q/viewform)
- Catalog of documented national use cases: https://www.gbif.es/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CATALOGO-DE-CASOS-DE-uso-de-portales-nacionales-para-enfrentar-desafios-nacionales.pdf

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

The project activities and deliverables have been successfully executed, meeting our evaluation criteria. The Discovery Workshop played a pivotal role in gathering feedback and insights, leading to substantial enhancements in both the use case collection form and the examples featured in the catalog. Conducting the Discovery Workshop in Colombia has allowed for increased participation from this node, which is essential for gathering more feedback to enhance both the form and the catalog. As we continue with the project, we remain receptive to ongoing feedback, ensuring that the presented cases continue to evolve and improve.

Currently, the catalog presents valuable examples illustrating how GBIF national nodes actively contribute to national strategies in science, management, and policy. The differences and similarities between the competencies and relevancies of the project partner nodes enable a wide range of cases in which data portals serve as the foundation for building robust and flexible tools. These tools, designed by project partners, facilitate access to key biological and environmental information and address national challenges in science, management, conservation, and environmental policy.

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