

## Improving biodiversity data quality: a regional need from digitization to data repatriation

---

**Programme:** CESP

**Project ID:** CESP2020-018

**Project lead organization:** Sistema de Información sobre Biodiversidad de Colombia

**Project implementation period:** 30/11/2020 - 30/6/2022

**Report approved:** 3/8/2021

### Narrative Midterm report

---

#### Project partners

---

##### VertNet

---

**Country:** Argentina

**GBIF Participant Represented:** VertNet

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### VertNet

---

**Country:** Argentina

**GBIF Participant Represented:** VertNet

**Role in the project:** Collaborator

##### VertNet

---

**Country:** USA

**GBIF Participant Represented:** VertNet

**Role in the project:** Collaborator

##### GBIF Argentina

---

**Country:** Argentina

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Argentina

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### SiB Colombia

---

**Country:** Colombia

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Colombia

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### CONABIO

---

**Country:** México

**GBIF Participant Represented:** México

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### CONABIO

---

**Country:** Mexico

**GBIF Participant Represented:** México

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### CONABIO

---

**Country:** Mexico

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Mexico

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

##### CONABIO

---

**Country:** Mexico

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Mexico

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

---

## **Ministerio del Medio Ambiente**

**Country:** Chile

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Chile

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

---

## **Ministerio del Medio Ambiente**

**Country:** Chile

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Chile

**Role in the project:** Co-organizer / Participant

---

## **SiB Colombia**

**Country:** Colombia

**GBIF Participant Represented:** Colombia

**Role in the project:** Participant

---

## **Executive Summary**

By the time we write this report, the project partners have held four online meetings to set the roadmap and plan the details of the activities for the first half of the project (dates and responsibilities) .

All partners have created an inventory with existing materials related to data quality from international and local sources, including key details for use in the development of the main document of this project. This inventory has been consolidated using Zotero.

Based on this compilation we built a table of contents for the document “Mejores Prácticas en Calidad de Datos para Digitalización, Publicación y Repatriación de Datos de Biodiversidad” that addresses all the needs identified in the biodiversity data quality processes,

On the other hand, and based on the themes defined for the previous document, we have started the planning of the central workshop of this project (contents, draft agenda, format, dates, mentors, etc.)

We should continue to keep close communication to ensure that all partners are aligned and working on time in order to fulfill all goals and deliver all products, as it is a project with several expected deliverables. To help achieve this, we are using a Trello board as a collaborative web tool to track the progress of the project.

So far, we consider that no changes in the proposed activities are necessary, considering that in their design we have taken into account great risks such as those imposed by the pandemic.

---

## **Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report**

Mandatory milestones attached to the midterm report:

1. Kick-off virtual meeting held.
2. Existing materials gathered and assessed.

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

---

## **Report on Activities**

### **Activity progress summary**

During the first months of the project, four virtual meetings were held with project partners that have resulted in asynchronous individual commitments to advance in the activities.

The first meeting held in December (2020-12-18) was to kick-off the project and set the roadmap. Here we agreed on the use of some basic elements for communication with all project partners, and the tools to document and monitor the progress of the project.

The second meeting held in February (2021-02-19) was to evaluate the progress in the gathering and evaluation of existing materials, using the Zotero platform, for the construction of the main project document called: “Mejores Prácticas en Calidad de Datos para Digitalización, Publicación y Repatriación de Datos de Biodiversidad”. It was necessary to specify some additional agreements on how to standardize and categorize the bibliography in Zotero, so that it can be easily used.

The last two meetings were held in April (2021-04-08 & 2021-04-19) to define the draft table of contents of the document “Mejores Prácticas en Calidad de Datos para Digitalización, Publicación y Repatriación de Datos de Biodiversidad”, set the scope of each chapter and assign leader developers of each one. Additionally, first agreements were made to plan the workshop and start preparing its materials.

Each meeting has derived in specific tasks to develop asynchronously, such as the review and analysis of previous documentation, and the preparation of the inputs for the main document and the first workshop.

### Completed activities

---

#### **Activity name: Kick-off virtual meeting**

**Description:** Online meeting with project partners to set the roadmap.

**Start Date - End Date:** 18/12/2020 - 18/12/2020

**Verification Sources:** Minutes of the Kick-off meeting <http://bit.ly/minutesGBIF-CESP-2020-018>

---

#### **Activity name: Gathering and assessment of existing materials**

**Description:** Data Quality related materials were gathered from international and local sources and key information was extracted.

**Start Date - End Date:** 19/2/2021 - 30/4/2021

**Verification Sources:** [https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp\\_2020-018/library](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp_2020-018/library)

---

#### **Activity name: (in progress) Documentation development in Spanish**

**Description:** Draft table of contents to documentation in Spanish that will be developed through remote meetings and a virtual workshop.

**Start Date - End Date:** 8/4/2021 - 30/11/2021

**Verification Sources:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j6s5cXdPtj\\_o3znnrF248imowyzkfh4js1LeYa4uvQY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j6s5cXdPtj_o3znnrF248imowyzkfh4js1LeYa4uvQY/edit?usp=sharing)

---

#### **Activity name: (in progress) First Workshop material preparation**

**Description:** Planning of the central workshop of this project (contents, draft agenda, format, dates, mentors, etc.). Online meetings are being held to gather and organise the first workshop materials.

**Start Date - End Date:** 19/4/2021 - 31/8/2021

**Verification Sources:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PXE-ZgR1kGFWUP9YAU6FUbus8kw1BDtKeGLsilCw3Sg/edit?usp=sharing>

---

### Report on Deliverables

#### Deliverables progress summary

Kick-off virtual meeting (Dec 2020): See the details in <http://bit.ly/minutesGBIF-CESP-2020-018>

Existing materials gathered and assessed: 31 items were consolidated in a Zotero group library as the initial bibliography for the construction of the documentation.

[https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp\\_2020-018/library](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp_2020-018/library)

Regarding the other deliverables, which are not part of the scope of this report, we have made progress in the outline of the document that will focus on best practice protocols for data quality. Besides, progress was made on the draft agenda of the first workshop, to be held online to train relevant stakeholders in the use of the data quality best practices developed.

### Completed deliverables

---

#### **Title: Minutes of the Kick-off meeting**

**Type:** Documentation

**Description:**

**Sources of verification:** <http://bit.ly/minutesGBIF-CESP-2020-018>

---

#### **Title: Existing materials gathered and assessed**

**Type:** Resources

**Description:**

**Sources of verification:** [https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp\\_2020-018/library](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2764305/cesp_2020-018/library)

## Communications and visibility

---

Once we have the results that we want to share with the public, we will use different options:

We will send emails to all the GBIF Latin American community with the call to participate in the first workshop. The social networks and web pages of the project partners will also serve as platforms to launch the call to participate.

All materials related to the workshop (documents, presentations, reports, etc.) will be uploaded to and openly available from a GitHub repository that was created for the project.  
<https://github.com/SIB-Colombia/CESP2020-018>

The project webpage available at GBIF was translated into Spanish in order to promote the project in the LA community:  
<https://www.gbif.org/es/project/5JJH6ZKCjztKrQT500AadQ/mejorando-la-calidad-de-datos-sobre-biodiversidad-en-latinoamerica-documentacion-de-buenas-practicas-para-los-flujos-de-trabajo-y-ciclos-de-vida-de-los-datos>

The documentation on “Data Quality Best Practices for Digitization, Publication and Biodiversity Data Repatriation” and the English version will be widely promoted with the global community.

## Monitoring and evaluation

---

### Monitoring and evaluation findings

The initial evaluation was completed documenting the current status of data quality within each participant node. In this evaluation we identified challenges to data quality assessment and enhancement in three different dimensions: where (location), what (taxonomy) and when (dates).

Finally, to monitor the progress of project activities, we use a Trello board that is shared with all project partners. <https://trello.com/b/XXCt4Xf3>

## Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

---

The COVID-19 pandemic has been previously considered as one of the risks for the proper development of the activities. For this reason, all committed activities were proposed to be developed virtually.

The project partners are doing their best to move forward with the commitments made. However, it has been challenging to find virtual spaces in which we all converge. This occurs mainly due to an explosion of multiple different commitments that must be attended to in the same way, causing overbooking and evident fatigue in everyone.

The main workshop, which will be virtual, is originally planned to be held in a single week. However, we are considering that it may be too intense and we should distribute the agenda over two weeks, to ensure an active participation of the attendees to this training event. In the virtual world it is very challenging to guarantee having 100% availability for a whole week.

---

The Capacity Support Enhancement Programme (CESP) is funded by GBIF

