



**LIVINGSTONE MUSEUM**  
**GBIF-BID Project BID-AF2017-0301-NAC**

**REPORT OF TRIP TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA TO ATTEND DATA USE FOR DECISION  
MAKING TRAINING WORKSHOP FROM 9-13 APRIL 2018**

The Keeper of Mammalogy, Clare Mateke, travelled to Cape Town, South Africa on 8<sup>th</sup> April to attend a capacity enhancement workshop on Data Use for Decision Making from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The workshop was organised by Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) Programme led by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town. This workshop was one of the requirements for BID project funding recipients. The Keeper of Mammalogy is the Project Leader for this project at the Livingstone Museum. The BID projects are being funded by the European Union.

**Aim**

The aim of the workshop was to contribute to enhancing the capacity of the BID and African Biodiversity Challenge (ABC) and Connect project teams by demonstrating how mobilised primary biodiversity data can be integrated into national policy-making process.

**Participants**

Seventy-eight (78) delegates from 35 countries attended the workshop. These included trainees from BID, ABC and Connect projects across Africa, as well as facilitators, trainers and mentors from around the world.

**Requirements**

Participants were required to possess the following basic skills:

- have at least a university-level education in ecology or conservation ;
- have some understanding of computer-based geographical and statistical analysis tools e.g. GIS and R, and may have already run analyses using these tools;
- have an understanding of national and/or international biodiversity policy e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity, Sustainable Development Goals, CITES etc.

**Training components**

The event had online and onsite components. This complete training programme was divided in three sections:

1. **Preparatory activities** – approximately 10 hours of online instruction paired with exercises to be completed using an online eLearning portal from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018
2. **Data Use for Decision-making Workshop** – four days of instruction and exercises paired with one full day of practice in the areas of mainstreaming biodiversity data, data curation and transformation, ecological niche modelling and Red List assessment from 9-13 April 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa.
3. **Post-workshop Activities** – One extensive assignment covering all skills acquired during the workshop to be conducted and submitted between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The online learning before the workshop comprised the following topics:

1. Introduction to the course and eLearning platform
2. Data access via GBIF.org
3. Introduction to data quality in biodiversity data
4. Workshop sessions preliminary work

### **Trainers/Facilitators**

Training was provided by the following trainers: Andrew Rodrigues (GBIF), Hannah Owens (Florida Museum of Natural History, John Tayleur (UNEP-WCMC) and Abisha Mapendembe ((UNEP-WCMC). Facilitators from GBIF and SANBI were also on hand to assist with any queries. The participants were also supported by 11 mentors.

### **Topics covered**

At the onsite workshop the following themes were covered:

1. Mainstreaming Biodiversity Data
2. Data Curation, Formatting and Transformation
3. Ecological Niche Modelling
4. Assessing the Conservation Status of a Species
5. Developing a Mainstreaming Plan

For the duration of the workshop, trainees were divided into fixed groups, each with a mentor available for guidance throughout the workshop. Presentations were given on each topic, followed by practical exercises done either in groups or individually. One full day was reserved for practical work, to revise the sample exercises covered or repeat it with one's on data. This was particularly focussed on ecological niche modelling.

### **Networking**

During lunch and tea-breaks, there was a chance to network with participants outside the groups – to find out about other projects, discuss activities of various biodiversity institutions, ask further questions of trainers and mentors and generally create links for future benefit to all concerned. The trainers encouraged trainees to make use of the links made during the workshop for helping to solve problems during the implementation of the project.

The Keeper of Mammalogy was also able to meet with key people in SANBI to follow up the data hosting agreement, to meet with GBIF facilitators to discuss problems faced during the data publishing exercise from the previous workshop, and to discuss issues relating to georeferencing biodiversity data. She was also able to make contacts with a few members of staff from other museums that hold or may hold collections of Zambian bats with a view to later collecting such information as part of the project.

### **Follow-up activities**

The workshop was followed by online post-workshop activities comprising an assignment made up of a number of parts that will make use of all the skills learned during the workshop. The assignment must be completed and submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

### **Certification**

A digital certification (Mozilla badge) will be awarded to participants that successfully complete the course at either a basic or advanced level. This certification is a required part of the project.

### **Knowledge dissemination and application**

The Keeper of Mammalogy hopes to impart the knowledge learned to other members of the project team at the Livingstone Museum at a later stage in the project to help enable completion of certain components of the project, particularly, creation of an Atlas of Zambian Bats.

*C Mateke*

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