

Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia (BIFA)

































Expanding the value and reach of plant data mobilization in Pakistan

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To convince Pakistan's botanists that data mobilization practices will aid them in pursuing their career goals and enable them to conduct more significant research.
- To guide for preparation of high-quality occurrence records starts in the field and requires documenting specimens and observations, at the time of collection, in accordance with international standards plus appropriate selection and preparation of biological material.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES: (Continue-----)

- To learn how they can use the data becoming available to address research and management questions that previously could not be investigated without an inordinate commitment of time and resources.
- To Highlight the importance of data mobilization; collection and documentation of specimens; and data use



DATA SOURCES

Title of dataset	Estimat ed number of records	Data holding institution (name of the institution that holds the data)	Taxonomic/geogra phic/ temporal scope	Current format (digitized/undigitized)
ISL	12000	Herbarium of Pakistan (ISL), Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad	Vascular plants Pakistan Extant	16000 plants databased; 3000 georeferenced; all available via OpenHerbarium 164,000 undigitized
AKASH	1500	University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad	Vascular plants Pakistan	6,000 undigitized
Sargodha University Herbarium	500	Sargodha University Herbarium, University of Sargodha, University Road, Sargodha, Punjab 40100	Vascular plants Pakistan Extant	1,000 undigitized
Governmen t College University	500	Government College University Lahore (GCU)	Vascular plants Pakistan	1000 undigitized

PROJECT TIMELINE_ CONTINUE

Activity	2019									2020				
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	
Data capture workshop				X										
Submit data paper to Taxon	X													
Data capture at all participating institutions		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Mandatory attendance of a project team member to the BIFA Capacity Enhancement Workshop (expenses for attending the workshop are covered by the BIFA programme)			X											
Georeferencing workshop, emphasizing collaborative georeferencing of records from Pakistan						X								
Georeferencing at all participating institutions.						X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

PROJECT TIMELINE

Activity		2019									2020				
		J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M		
Presentation at Symposium at				X											
University of Malakand on															
Biodiversity data mobilization															
in Pakistani herbaria and															
botanic gardens. (Barkworth;															
separately funded).															
Deadline for mid-term report							X								
- 31 October 2019															
Mandatory milestones															
attached to the mid-term															
report:															
- Gain certification at BIFA															
Capacity Enhancement															
Workshop															
•															
- At least one dataset has															
been published to															
GBIF.org						37									
Presentation at TDWG						X									
(Barkworth; separately															

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- There are two aspects to sustainability: persuading collections and botanists to incorporate data mobilization and biodiversity informatics thinking into their work flows and maintaining financial support for the infrastructure that makes data mobilization possible, including provision for accessing funding.
- As part of this project we shall start to address the infrastructure aspect.



PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

CONTINUE----

 Symbiota, the software that runs OpenHerbarium, is currently maintained by research grants for development plus donated time. GBIF is funded via multi-government membership fees and grants. As part of this project, we shall work to persuade Pakistan's federal agencies that Pakistan should join GIBF by providing realistic examples of how mobilized data can benefit both research and education.



PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

CONTINUE----

- We shall incorporate these examples in a pamphlet explaining the benefits Pakistan would derive from supporting mobilization of its natural history collections. Most of the immediate demonstrable benefits are likely to be in the area of education, because of the lack of data density.
- This is not necessarily negative because education quality and the extension of educational opportunities throughout Pakistan are of great concern to the government.

