

Expanding the visibility of the Lagos Herbarium through Digitization and Mobilization of Plant Specimen Data

Programme:BID

Project ID: BID-AF2020-009-INS

Project lead organization:Department of Botany University of Lagos

Project implementation period:5/4/2021 - 31/10/2022

Report approved: 10/3/2022

Narrative Midterm report

Executive Summary

Following the award of the BID grant, the project began with an inception meeting of project partners and relevant institutional stakeholders to kickoff the project and work out modalities for the successful implementation of the project. A member of the project team (Dr. Aramide Igbari) was selected to participate in the training sessions organized by GBIF and she successfully completed the trainings. Thereafter, personnel were employed and trained to assist in the data mobilization and capture activities. Specimens were sorted and a total of 2,500 specimen data records have been mobilized thus far. Some of these have been published on the GBIF IPT while further work is being done. Microsoft Excel package was adopted in the interim for data management and LUCID 4.0 license key was purchased for the development of an electronic key for identification of the samples. An engagement meeting of Stakeholders including data holders within Lagos state, students, policy makers and researchers was held to sensitize them about the project and get their buy-in. Proceedings of the meeting was shared on the University website and other news publishing outlets. As a result of the engagement meeting, the Lagos state Ministry of the Environment and Water resources is partnering with the project team to organize a capacity building training for its member of staff in February. It is hoped that this will increase capacity for specimen data mobilization and use in policy making for the state. Meetings of partners were held every two months to monitor progress of the project usually through WhatsApp or Zoom. It is expected that access to published data will foster the development of management interventions and contribute to developing national conservation priorities.

Progress against milestones

Has your project published at least one dataset through GBIF.org?: Yes

Dataset published:

Dataset	DOI
Higher Plants Collections of LUH - Families A	http://ipt-nigeria.gbif.fr/resource?r=higher_plants_collections_of_luh_families_a&v=1.0

Has at least one member of your project team received certification following the BID capacity

enhancement workshop?: Yes

Name of the workshop participant:Dr. Aramide Dolapo Igbari

Certification obtained: Basic Badge

Report on Activities

Activity progress summary

Project Inception meeting was held in May 2021 where partners and other stakeholders within the institution met and agreed on modalities useful for achieving the set goals for the project. Following the inception meeting, partners agreed to adopt the Microsoft excel package as **data management system** for cataloguing of specimen in the Lagos Herbarium for easy access, sorting and management. **Data Mobilization** activities began thereafter with sorting of specimens for data capture and imaging. This is still on-going.

Stakeholders engagement meeting was held in January 2022 rather than August as earlier planned due to conflicting programmes within the University. Stakeholders buy-in was established and relationships with decision-makers and government ministries was strengthened to develop data sharing framework and build capacity in plant biodiversity data mobilizaion within the state.

Imaging of specimen is yet to start due to delay in the purchase of the scanner. We are however exploring other options with the suppliers and hope to begin this soon. The first set of data has been **published** and we hope to continue this in earnest until the stipulated timeline in the project plan.

Capacity building workshop is scheduled to take place from 8 - 11th March 2022 and planning is in top gear. This schedule is a week earlier than planned because of envisaged conflicting programme within the university. Progress made in the project is **evaluated and monitored** through regular meeting where updates are given on the progress of the project.

License for **development of an electronic key** has been purchased for easy identification of plants by populace while a second **stakeholders meeting** is scheduled to be held towards the end of the project to share the outcomes of the project with relevant stakeholders.

Completed activities

Activity: Project Inception Meeting

Description: Project inception meeting with project partners and other stakeholders to establish agreements on project implementation and data sharing as well as training of team members.

Start Date - End Date: 18/5/2021 - 19/5/2021

Verification Sources: Attendance list attached.

Activity: Develop a database Management System

Description: Adopt a data management system which can be compatible worldwide

Start Date - End Date: 19/5/2021 - 19/5/2021

Verification Sources: Minutes of Meeting attached.

Activity: Stakeholders Meeting

Description: Engagement meeting with relevant stakeholders within Lagos State for possible partnership

Start Date - End Date: 13/1/2022 - 13/1/2022

Verification Sources: <https://unilag.edu.ng/?p=11621>

<https://unilag.edu.ng/?p=11701>

<https://championnews.com.ng/?p=210871>

Attendance list attached.

Report on Deliverables

Deliverables progress summary

The webinar and capacity workshop are scheduled to be held later in the project.

Research article will also be published towards the end of the project after mobilization is completed.

The database and electronic key are currently under development.

About 978 occurrence data has been published via the GBIF IPT.

Progress towards deliverables

Dataset deliverables

Publication of mobilized data

Dataset type: Occurrences

Dataset scope: Higher Plants Collections of LUH - Families A

Number of records: 1,000

Data holder: University of Lagos

Data host institution: LUH

% complete: 10%

Status update: Other mobilized data are being cleaned and will be published accordingly

DOI: http://ipt-nigeria.gbif.fr/resource?r=higher_plants_collections_of_luh_families_a&v=1.0

Expected date of publication:

Other deliverables

Webinar on digitization of herbarium specimen

Description: A webinar presentation on digitization of herbarium specimen is organized and uploaded on youtube for wider audience

% complete: 0%

Status update: The webinar is yet to take place

Sources of verification: N/A

Improved Capacity on Data Mobilization

Description: Workshop on Mobilization, Digitization and Publishing of Specimen data

% complete: 0%

Status update: The workshop is scheduled to take place in March 2022

Sources of verification: N/A

Publication of Research Article

Description: A publication on the useful plants recorded in the project

% complete: 0%

Status update: The compilation of the plants is still on-going

Sources of verification: N/A

Visibility of the Lagos University Herbarium

Description: Creation of database and electronic key for specimen identification at the LUH

% complete: 30%

Status update: The necessary software have been purchased and currently being populated with the relevant information.

Sources of verification: N/A

Events

Stakeholders Meeting

Dates: 2022-01-13 - 2022-01-13

Organizing institution: University of Lagos

Country: Nigeria

Number of participants: 53

Comments: Attendance list and flier are attached.

Website or sources of verification: <https://unilag.edu.ng/?p=11701>

Communications and visibility

Results from the project are being communicated through the university website and other news publishing outlets. Other means of communication will be via conferences, scientific publications, policy briefs and press releases.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation findings

Regular meetings are held to monitor the progress of the project mainly via virtual meetings. So far, the project implementation plan has been effective and feedback from stakeholders reveals a need for further training on the mobilization procedure. This gap should be filled through the planned workshop for the project which is coming up soon. The institutional support for the project has been very good and with continued support, it is expected that the project will be able to deliver on its outcomes without delays. Also, the GBIF support provided has been quite useful and would be further leveraged towards attainment of success for the project.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation

There has been no major impact of covid-19 on the project.

GBIF leads the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID), a programme funded by the European Union. The programme provides supplementary support for activities addressing the needs of regional researchers and policymakers through mobilization and use of biodiversity data.

