

BIODIVERSITY DATA PUBLISHING AND DATA USE TRAINING WORKSHOP

5-8 JULY 2022

Data Publishing and Data Use Workshop: Data quality, Data standards, Checklists, Occurrence, Sampling datasets, Georeferencing, Distributions maps, Data Publishing, Data use

Background

The Data Publishing and Data Use Workshop were held at the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe from 5 July to 8 July 2022. The workshop was to train participants that were drawn from partners and stakeholders involved in the 2021 to 2023 GBIF funded data mobilization BID project in their respective institutions.

Training

This workshop started on recapping on topics on data quality, data standards. Participants had practical sessions on how to compile checklists, occurrence, and sampling datasets. The aim of the workshop was to train participants on how to publish on the Integrated Publishing Toolkit and use data for biodiversity with the same standards as required for the museum national collections.

Dr Moira J. Fitzpatrick gave the background to GBIF and the BID projects. Kudzai Mafuwe and Dorothy Madamba presented on different topics and also availed practical sessions under different training topics as detailed in the attached program.

Participants included our take holder partners and museum staff. Stake holders included the National University of Science and Technology, University of Zimbabwe, Lupane Science University, Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe National Parks. Ms Kudzai Mafuwe (GBIF Mentor) and Miss Dorothy Madamba (GBIF Project Trainee) were the trainers during the course of the workshop.

Objectives

- Clean data using excel and Open Refine
- To enable participants to compile checklists, occurrence and sampling event datasets, check taxonomic and geography verifications.
- Participants were also introduced to Datacamp

- Create species distribution maps
- The workshop was to train participants on how to publish data on the IPT, which is of quality, this meant having data that meets the required standards in the Data Requirements needed by GBIF.

Methods

- The trainers used power point
- Use of GBIF online websites during practical demonstrations
- Trainers attended to questions and also helped those who needed help with some issues with either the practical or verbal presentations.

Activities

Participation of all participants was called for in doing the practical exercises on Taxonomy checks in catalogue of Life, Geo-referencing using Geolocate, cleaning of data using Open refine and also excel, creating checklists, occurrence and sampling event datasets, publishing on the IPT. How to download data from GBIF portal for use in their own research publications was also included.

Results

The participants were satisfied with what they learnt during the workshop reflected in their response to the Training Evaluation form.

Conclusion

The biodiversity data publishing and data use workshop presented participants with the knowledge on how they can publish their data and also how they can benefit from data that other institutions already have uploaded on the GBIF platform for their own research.