2015 CALL FOR PROPOSALS FROM AFRICA
Biodiversity Information for Development

This call is available in English, French and Portuguese, of which the English version is the authoritative version. The call documents, guidelines and support material, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions, are available from www.gbif.org/BID. General questions may be sent to BID@gbif.org.

INTRODUCTION

GBIF, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, is an intergovernmental scientific infrastructure, which provides free and open online access to biodiversity data. GBIF.org provides a single point for accessing more than 570,000,000 biodiversity records from more than 15,000 datasets published by over 700 institutions. These data range from museum specimens collected from the earliest days of natural history exploration to current observations by 'citizen scientists' and monitoring from research expeditions.

GBIF is issuing this call for proposals as part of the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme, with a potential total of €900,000 in funding assigned to this call. Funded by the European Union and led by GBIF, BID is a multi-year programme to increase the availability and use of biodiversity information for research and decision-making in the 'ACP' nations of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The BID programme will include a smaller second call for proposals for Africa expected in 2017.

The overall objective of the BID programme is improved management of natural capital for human well-being, through increased application of biodiversity information to support decision-making. The specific objective is the availability of the information resources required to address key policy needs around biodiversity. The BID programme targets two key outcomes:

1. Enhanced capacity for effective mobilization and use of biodiversity information
2. Enhanced availability of information resources and best practice guidance for mobilization and application of biodiversity information for key policy needs

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL AND TYPES OF GRANTS

This call seeks projects from sub-Saharan Africa that will:

- Mobilize biodiversity data relating to protected areas, threatened species, and invasive alien species
- Use and extend best practices for digitizing natural history collections and mobilizing other biodiversity data
- Apply biodiversity data in support of decision-making and research
- Develop lasting national, regional or thematic networks to support ongoing data sharing and reuse

Proposals are invited for three broad categories of grants.

1. **National biodiversity data mobilization grants**
   Objectives:

   - Establish or strengthen national biodiversity information facilities
   - Increase available biodiversity data, within and beyond the grant period

- Apply biodiversity data in response to national priorities

Project duration: Selected projects may begin their activities in June 2016, with project activity continuing for up to two years, and with a final six-month reporting and evaluation period. All projects must end by 31 December 2018.

Funding available: Up to €60,000 per national grant.

2. **Regional biodiversity data mobilization grants**
   Objectives:

- Establish or strengthen international collaborations to mobilize biodiversity data
- Increase available biodiversity data, within and beyond the grant period
- Apply biodiversity data in response to conservation priorities

Project duration: Selected projects may begin their activities in June 2016, with project activity continuing for up to two years, and with a final six-month reporting and evaluation period. All projects must end by 31 December 2018.

Funding available: A minimum of three partners, each from a different African ACP country, must be involved in a consortium. Each partner may receive up to €20,000, and one consortium coordinator may receive up to €10,000 in additional funding to coordinate the activities of the partners. In line with specific eligibility criteria detailed in the guidelines, an additional consortium partner from a non-ACP country may receive funds up to €10,000.

3. **Small biodiversity data mobilization grants:**
   Objectives:

- Increase available biodiversity data, within and beyond the grant period
- Apply biodiversity data in response to conservation priorities

Project duration: Selected projects may begin their activities in June 2016, with project activity continuing for up to one year, and with a final six-month reporting and evaluation period. All projects must end by 31 December 2017.

Funding available: up to €5,000 per small grant.

During the course of the BID programme, the maximum total project funding that any single applicant can receive is €60,000.

BIODIVERSITY DATA TYPES AND OPEN ACCESS

GBIF promotes open access to biodiversity data. All projects receiving BID grants are expected to publish data through GBIF under a CC BY or CC0 license. Data mobilization refers to all the steps required to make existing biodiversity data available for reuse: digitization; data management, cleaning and mapping; observance of international data standards; and online publication of the data.

The BID programme focuses on mobilizing existing biodiversity data, rather than supporting new data gathering from the field. It will support the work required to mobilize the data, with emphasis on ensuring that the data are of sufficient quality to be published to the GBIF network and to enable their reuse in targeted use cases in research and decision-making. Data mobilized through BID must comprise one of the data types supported through the GBIF network:

- **Occurrences**: records that provide evidence that a particular named organism was found at a specified time and place. An occurrence record can be based on an observation in the field, a specimen in a museum or herbarium, or other evidence.

- **Sample-based data**: records from different kinds of environmental, ecological, and natural resource monitoring and assessment investigations. These events range from one-off surveys to ongoing monitoring and include activities like freshwater and marine sampling, plant cover and vegetation plots, and citizen science bird counts, among others.
- **Checklists**: lists of species recorded within a region. These datasets sometimes include additional information on status, nativeness, abundance, protection, etc.
- **Collection descriptions**: basic details about biological collections that have not yet been digitized. These datasets may include the geographic and taxonomic scope, methods of collection, contact details and citation requirements.

In all cases, data must be associated with metadata explaining the source, ownership and characteristics of the data. Metadata enable users to understand the scope of any dataset and to evaluate its usefulness for their purposes. Metadata also ensure that users can contact the owners of the data and give credit when they use the data for their own research or publications.

Learn more about GBIF's data publishing and endorsement procedures here. GBIF will assist BID grantees to arrange data hosting to support data publication and long-term availability in cases where this cannot be provided by nations and institutions.

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT SUPPORT FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Projects funded through BID will have the opportunity to receive support in developing the skills and expertise needed to achieve the grantees' objectives. All BID grantees will have access to a remote helpdesk service involving experts from the GBIF community, who can offer guidance on:

- Publishing, managing and using biodiversity data
- Establishing and strengthening national biodiversity information facilities and data-sharing networks
- Linking to data users, particularly around the themes of invasive alien species, protected areas and threatened species

In addition, national and regional grantees will take part in two capacity enhancement workshops organized for grant recipients during project implementation. The first workshop will be held soon after selected projects start their activities and will target the specific capacity needs identified in project proposals, with an anticipated focus on the broad topic of data mobilization. The second workshop will be organized in the second half of the project implementation phase with a broad focus on promoting the use of biodiversity data.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TEMPLATES

GBIF is responsible for the delivery of the BID programme, including the results of the funded projects. Applications will be evaluated by a panel of regional and thematic experts and representatives of the funders in a two-stage competitive process.

- Initial concept notes, using the provided templates, must be submitted by 20 November 2015, 9:00am CET / 8:00am UTC/GMT.
- The evaluation panel and GBIF will provide detailed feedback and recommendations to those applicants invited to prepare full proposals. These selected applicants will receive templates for full proposals, which must be submitted for evaluation in February/March 2016.
- The final results of the selection process will be announced in March/April 2016.

Concept note templates and accompanying guidelines are available for each of the three grant types.

1. National biodiversity data mobilization grants

- Concept note template
- Guidelines

2. Regional biodiversity data mobilization grants

- Concept note template
- Guidelines

3. Small biodiversity data mobilization grants

- Concept note template
- Guidelines

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (FOR ALL THREE GRANT TYPES)

1. Complete concept notes and full proposals in English[1] must be received by the stated deadlines.

2. All confirmed project partners must have completed one of the BID surveys[2].

3. Applicants must be legal entities located in an African ACP country (see Annex A, Section 1). Such entities include national government agencies, GBIF Participant nodes, natural history museums and collections, research institutes, universities, and NGOs.

4. Applications involving partners from countries or organizations that already participate in GBIF must include a statement of endorsement from the GBIF Head of Delegation or Node Manager[3].

5. All BID funded activities must be not-for-profit. BID programme funds may be used to support staff time, travel and costs associated with the organization of meetings and workshops, and limited costs for IT services and equipment.

6. Overhead costs may not be charged to BID grants.

7. Applicants must commit cofunding (in-kind or cash) to their projects and provide details of this cofunding in their concept notes and full proposals. Cofunding refers to real costs that are incurred by the applicants while executing the funded project's activities. These could be in-kind contributions that directly contribute to the project activities (like staff salaries, travel costs etc.) or any in-cash contributions to BID activities from other funding sources.

8. All proposed project activities must fall within the stated implementation periods for each grant type.

9. Applicants must provide plans to ensure sustainability of activities after project support from BID concludes. All data mobilized through the BID grants, as well as any other products of the projects, such as training material, must be made available under a CC-BY license or CC0 license.

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[1] If you have particular difficulties with this requirement, please contact BID@gbif.org for support as early as possible and before 6 November 2015.

[2] These surveys are aimed at decision-makers and biodiversity data holders in the African ACP countries and seek to understand biodiversity data needs and resources in the region.

[3] Contact information for representatives of GBIF Participant countries and organizations can be found on the Participant pages linked from the Participant list available at: http://www.gbif.org/participation/participant-list.