

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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Rationale

Context

Background

The mission of Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20, agreed by more than 190 governments in 2010, is to “take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication.”¹

The global community therefore recognizes better management of natural capital and biological resources as essential to our aspirations for sustainable development of human societies, most critically in developing countries.

The Strategic Plan framed its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets within five Strategic Goals, one of which (Strategic Goal E) aims to “enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building”. This goal, incorporating Aichi Target 19 on sharing of information and knowledge, creates the enabling environment for all other targets within the Strategic Plan to be met.

The fourth Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBO4), a mid-term assessment of progress towards the Strategic Plan, carried out by experts for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)², concluded that continuing ‘business as usual’ would not allow us to realize the vision of a world with ecosystems capable of meeting human needs into the future. It identified further development and sharing of information among the actions that would have an especially strong influence on the achievement of the other targets.

In this context, the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) project seeks to improve the information available to developing countries, in turn helping them to monitor and advance progress towards all other goals of the Strategic Plan - including for example reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use (Goal B), improving biodiversity status by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity (Goal C), and enhancing benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services (Goal D).

BID builds upon more than a decade of experience developed through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility³ (GBIF) to identify and meet the capacity needs for mobilization, discovery and use of biodiversity data for research and policy. Under the umbrella of the European Union’s Biodiversity for Life (B4Life) flagship initiative⁴, the project matches funds and expertise with needs identified by developing countries to remove information barriers to better decisions relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

² <http://www.cbd.int/gbo4/>

³ www.gbif.org

⁴ <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/b4life/>

Policies and challenges

The CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD SBSTTA), at its 17th meeting in October 2013, identified key scientific and technical needs related to implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Among those needs was improved data and information, and in particular: "The need for more accessible, affordable, comprehensive and comparable data and information streams through, *inter alia* facilitated access to remote sensing, better application of data standards and interoperability related to data acquisition and management to produce policy-relevant products, including indicators and scenarios to inform decision-making."⁵ The SBSTTA also recommended the CBD undertake, in collaboration with relevant centres of expertise and relevant organizations and networks, including GBIF, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, regional capacity building activities and training related to mobilization, management and analysis of data, information and knowledge suitable for monitoring and managing biodiversity.

In its mid-term review of progress towards implementation of the Strategic Plan, GBO4 identified a number of 'key potential actions' that could accelerate progress towards each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, if more widely applied. With respect to Target 19 on sharing of information and knowledge, these actions included "strengthening and promoting the further mobilization of and access to data by, for example, encouraging the use of common informatics standards and protocols, promoting a culture of data sharing ... investing in digitization of natural history collections and promoting citizen scientists' contributions to the body of biodiversity observations."

The recommendations of GBO4 were accepted by the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP12) held in the Republic of Korea in October 2014. The resulting 'Pyeongchang Roadmap' encouraged countries to make use of the 'key potential actions' needed to implement the Strategic Plan, including further mobilization of and access to data. The activities enabled under the current project thus respond directly to globally-agreed priorities for accelerated action to achieve targets on biodiversity conservation and thus support sustainable development.

Another important context for the current project is the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The platform includes capacity building and the generation of data and knowledge among its four core functions, alongside the development of policy tools and preparation of assessments to enhance the science-policy interface. Improving the availability of data and information on biodiversity will strengthen the ability of developing countries to contribute to and benefit from IPBES activities.

Support for the BID project helps to fulfil commitments made by the European Union in response to the agreement of the Strategic Plan and its associated targets. In 2011 the EU announced its Biodiversity Strategy to 2020⁶, which includes the stepping up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss including through mobilizing additional resources for global biodiversity conservation (Target 19). At the CBD COP12 meeting in Korea, the EU along with other Parties reiterated earlier commitments to an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan from a variety of sources, with a specific target to double total biodiversity-

⁵ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XVII/1,

⁶ Communication from the European Commission: *Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020* (COM(2011) 244)

related financial resource flows to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states, by 2015 from a baseline of average spending 2006-2010, and at least maintain this level to 2020.⁷

The B4Life initiative, administered by EU Development and Cooperation –EuropeAid, has been established through the thematic programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC), under which the EU aims to contribute to the solution of global problems through global development outcomes that will be inclusive and sustainable within planetary boundaries. B4Life emphasizes the strong linkages between biodiversity and livelihoods with a view to contributing to poverty eradication. B4Life's overarching goal is to contribute to halting biodiversity loss and reducing poverty by promoting a cross-cutting and innovative approach to fully integrate biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, together with socio-economic development and poverty eradication. B4Life's objectives and strategy also encompass on-going and future geographical programmes and will therefore provide more coherence to EU biodiversity-related actions with a clear strategic framework and a global platform for dialogue. It will also increase their visibility through clear labelling. Furthermore, B4Life will help integrate biodiversity in the following three priority areas: (i) integrating biodiversity with good governance to support sustainable management of natural capital, (ii) promoting ecosystem conservation for food security and sustainable rural development, and (iii) developing nature-based solutions for a green economy.

Biodiversity Information for Development also advances GBIF's long-standing commitment to enhance the capacity of countries to develop the tools, skills and collaborations for effective mobilization, management and use of biodiversity information. Capacity enhancement within the GBIF network of Participants includes regional collaboration to develop work plans for priority data mobilization, training and mentoring programmes to share skills and best practices.⁸ BID will enable further capacity enhancement both within the existing network of GBIF Participants, and among developing countries not yet participating formally as GBIF members.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is a unique inter-governmental initiative with the mission to make scientific biodiversity information freely and openly accessible on the internet for science and society. GBIF was established in 2001 as a global mega-science initiative to address one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century - harnessing knowledge of the Earth's biological diversity. GBIF arose from a recommendation in 1999 by the Biodiversity Informatics Subgroup of the Megascience Forum, setup by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Specifically, the OECD panel recommended the establishment of a Global Biodiversity Information Facility to "enable users to navigate and put to use vast quantities of biodiversity information, advancing scientific research and serving the economic and quality-of-life interests of society, and providing a basis from which our knowledge of the natural world can grow rapidly and in a manner that avoids duplication of effort and expenditure." Today GBIF enables free, universal access to all available evidence on species in space and time (over 500 million records), by building the collaborations and technical infrastructure to provide cost-effective sharing, discovery and re-use of digital data, in order to drive research not possible before, and promote evidence-based decisions affecting life on Earth and sustainable human development. GBIF executes its mission together with its 53 country Participants (of which 37 Voting Participants), and 39 associate Participant organizations.

⁷ This wording taken from the in-session document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/L.32, reference to be replaced when COP12 decisions are officially posted.

⁸ <http://www.gbif.org/capacityenhancement/summary>

Lessons learnt

GBIF has more than ten years' experience in providing solutions to enable the open access to biodiversity information online. Together with the efforts carried out by its participant countries and organizations, a series of lessons learnt could be drawn up. Those relevant to the implementation of the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project are:

- GBIF has invested for more than ten years in building up a strong community of practice that knows how to mobilize the best quality scientific biodiversity information, and how to develop and deploy international standards and tools for making biodiversity information openly available. This community is accustomed to sharing best practices to enhance capacity and several mechanisms, such as the concept of training the trainers and mentoring have been effective in supporting these community driven efforts.
- The GBIF Secretariat has deployed over the years calls for proposals to stimulate international collaborations on, amongst others, data mobilisation, building strong national implementations of biodiversity systems, and how to establish networks of data publishers. These calls for proposals have been implemented through partial-funding from central GBIF funds, to support projects driven by the countries, institutes and organizations involved. This approach of requesting a certain level of co-funding increases the ownership and commitment of those involved in projects.
- Since 2008, GBIF has actively placed its Participant countries and associate organizations into six regional groups: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and Oceania. Working closely at a regional level, has made it easier to come to shared priorities for the mobilization and use of scientific biodiversity information between countries and associate organizations. This regional approach has led to shared work programmes in the case of the African, Asian, and Latin American regions. So far the regional approach has proven a good solution for strengthening capacity through joint collaboration between countries. Currently, the regional approach is maturing, and the regions in GBIF are more and more capable of contributing permanently to international science-policy initiatives in need of standardized biodiversity information.
- The development of national biodiversity information facilities (systems and human networks) requires national investment and the commitment of policy-makers. Early involvement of policy-makers in the design of national activities to organize the available scientific biodiversity information is essential. This ensures that policy-relevant biodiversity information is mobilized for use in decision-making. For more than ten years GBIF has been a driver for the development of national policies for open-access of scientific biodiversity data.
- Strong national implementations to organize the available scientific biodiversity information are dependent on the active engagement of data holders from the public sector, but also of citizen scientists, NGOs, the private sector, etc. Providing data holders with specific services like support for data management and for developing peer reviewed data papers, is essential to overcoming barriers to publishing data under open access principles.
- The use of international data standards, protocols and tools is essential to ensure that the implementation of the national biodiversity information facilities is compatible with existing initiatives (e.g. IUCN, BIOPAMA, etc.) as well as cost effective (e.g. through reducing software development costs by adopting existing open source tools).
- National facilities support the discovery of and access to original data sources. All information should be stored in permanent storage and archival systems (regionally and globally) to ensure its resilience and reusability over time.

Complementary actions

There are several complementary actions inside and outside the targeted regions with which the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project will seek alignment.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat and the GBIF Secretariat work closely together in strengthening each other's missions. The CBD Secretariat has requested the GBIF Secretariat to coordinate the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership⁹. The GIASIPartnership has come together in order to assist CBD Parties and others in implementing Article 8(h) of the Convention and Target 9 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets - "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment". Biodiversity information on Invasive Alien Species mobilized through the Biodiversity Information for Development project will contribute to the GIASIPartnership. GBIF has also played the role of a writing partner in the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook¹⁰, and is in general contributing to several Aichi targets, in particular Target 19 on the transfer of technical knowledge.

The Biodiversity Information for Development Project will also contribute to capacity building and knowledge generation for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services¹¹ (IPBES). GBIF assists at a number of levels in providing IPBES with the data required to support thematic and sub-global assessments. As the platform develops, projects such as BID will provide important tools to enhance the capacity of developing countries to contribute to and benefit from IPBES activities. In particular, BID will collaborate with IPBES as the platform introduces its capacity building 'match making' facilities including the establishment of the BES-NET web platform linking capacity needs with potential sources of funding and expertise. BID will also complement the IPBES process of identifying and enhancing data and capacity during the scoping and execution of regional assessments, including through regional hubs set up by IPBES.

The GBIF Secretariat is an active member of the Steering Committee of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network - GEO BON¹². Members of the GBIF community contribute to several of the working groups of GEO BON, especially in working group 8 on data integration and inter-operability. The GBIF Secretariat and several European GBIF country Participants are playing an active role in the FP7 programme EUBON¹³, focused on setting up a Biodiversity Observation Network in Europe. The GBIF Secretariat is introducing mechanisms for publishing standardized sampling data through the GBIF open access data infrastructure. This effort is linked with the work of the DataONE¹⁴ consortium and the International Long-Term Ecological Research network (ILTER) and will provide supporting data for the GEO BON led initiative on 'Essential Biodiversity Variables'. In Asia, GBIF country Participants play an important role in the setting up of the Asian-Pacific Biodiversity Observation network¹⁵. Through the EuroGEOSS FP 7 project, GBIF has been a partner in setting up the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas¹⁶ (DOPA) in support of GEO-BON and led by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). IUCN and JRC with support from GIZ are implementing a Biodiversity and Protected Areas

⁹ <http://giasipartnership.myspecies.info/>

¹⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/gbo4/>

¹¹ <http://ipbes.net/>

¹² <https://www.earthobservations.org/geobon.shtm>

¹³ <http://www.eubon.eu/>

¹⁴ <https://www.dataone.org/>

¹⁵ <http://www.esabii.biodic.go.jp/ap-bon/index.html>

¹⁶ <http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

Management Programme¹⁷ (BIOPAMA), which is focused on developing capacity around deploying DOPA at a (sub-)regional level. It is envisioned that the BID project will be implemented in close collaboration with the BIOPAMA consortium.

The African GBIF community has been operating a regional programme focused on 'Mobilizing Africa's policy and decision-making relevant biodiversity data'¹⁸. Achievements of the programme have included establishment of priorities for policy-relevant data in several countries, and the identification of capacity needs for mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity information in a large consortium of African countries. This programme has been funded by the JRS Foundation and led by the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute, which hosts the South African GBIF node (SABIF), and the GBIF Secretariat is on the Steering Committee of the project. In March 2015, the project will have its closing event in Cape Town, where interested parties from African countries and key initiatives will come together. The end event could be an opportunity to discuss broadly how the BID programme could build on the project's achievements.

Through its 'Sud Expert Plant Développement Durable'¹⁹ (SEPDD) programme, the French government has been supporting knowledge management in regard to plants, impacts on plant diversity and interactions with the private sector, with investments in 22 Francophone countries in Africa and Asia. The GBIF Secretariat is an implementing partner in SEPDD and will further ensure close coordination between the implementation of SEPDD and the BID project.

The African GBIF community has benefited from a number of mentoring projects. For example, the National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica provided mentoring support for the setup of the Benin National Biodiversity Information System. Benin has now received funding from the JRS foundation for the further implementation of the National Biodiversity Information System of Benin²⁰. The University of Ghana, which hosts the Ghana Biodiversity Information Facility is implementing a programme on West African Plant Biodiversity Data²¹ with involvement from several West African Countries, including Ghana, Benin, Togo, Cameroon, and Nigeria and with support from several key Natural History Collections in the United States and Europe to repatriate plant biodiversity data to the West African region. This project could serve as a guiding example for the BID project on ways to repatriate data from Natural History Collections in the North to countries in the South ensuring the strengthening of local capacity. ICLEI local governments for sustainability - Cities for Biodiversity Centre is strong partner in GBIF Africa, and is currently implementing a programme called 'URBIS - Urban Biosphere Initiative'²².

There are several other initiatives that are currently under development in relation to the African region that could also be of interest for the BID project. UNEP-WCMC is developing a GEF project that involves 'Mainstreaming biodiversity information into the heart of government decision making' in several African countries. Bioersity International²³ is working to develop programmes with several African countries on in-situ information on agro-biodiversity. In Africa alone there are therefore many opportunities for BID to align with, strengthen and build upon.

¹⁷ <http://www.biopama.org/>

¹⁸ <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/participation/mobilising-africas-biodiversity-data/>

¹⁹ <http://www.sud-expert-plantes.ird.fr/sepDD>

²⁰ <http://jrsbiodiversity.org/grant/faculte-des-sciences-agronomiques-uac/>

²¹ <http://jrsbiodiversity.org/grant/university-of-ghana-herbaria/>

²² <http://www.iclei.org/details/article/urbis-urban-biosphere-initiative.html>

²³ <http://www.bioersityinternational.org/>

The Latin American GBIF region has a strong track record in capacity enhancement activities, with a focus for 2015 on mobilizing species information, improving data quality, and making documents digitally available. From the European region, countries such as France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are engaging with overseas territories and ex-colonies in repatriating biodiversity information and supporting the establishment of biodiversity information systems. For the Caribbean, the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, especially the GEF programme on 'Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem' and the programme under development on 'Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS' are important programmes with which the BID project will seek to align. The Government of Japan is investing in biodiversity information infrastructure in the ASEAN countries, through the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII)²⁴. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is engaging in a GEF project on 'Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands'²⁵. SPREP is also involved in the International Islands Initiative for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on Invasive Alien Species together with IUCN and the CBD Secretariat. In Oceania, the Atlas of Living Australia²⁶ and the GBIF Node of New Zealand at Landcare Research are also regularly engaging with the Pacific region. The BID project will seek to build on these initiatives through partnerships in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Donor coordination

The BID project will rely on and contribute to several initiatives and projects funded by various EU instruments: BIOPAMA (EDF), DOPA and GEO (Research budget), and align with the general objectives of the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretariat of the Inter-governmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), both supported by many countries and donors. GBIF is steered by its Governing Board which involves representatives from the 37 countries which fund GBIF (9 in Africa, 2 in Asia, 17 EU Member States, 6 in Latin America, 1 in North America and 2 in Oceania). The GBIF Board is fully informed about the BID project and will be regularly consulted for guidance and updated on progress.

Several GBIF Participant countries and associate organizations fund international activities to mobilize and use biodiversity information in their respective regions and/or in other regions in the world. For the BID project it is important to work with the French Government (particularly with the l'Agence Française de Développement) to coordinate activity around the SEPDD project,. It is also likely that other partners may provide co-funding for activities implemented within SEPDD and the BID project. The BID project will explore such opportunities other development aid agencies in Europe (e.g. in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries). GBIF already has close ties with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in strengthening biodiversity information infrastructure in the Asian-Pacific region. BID will work closely with donor countries and organizations involved to avoid duplication of effort and maximise the achievements of the BID project.

²⁴ <http://www.esabii.biodic.go.jp/>

²⁵ <https://www.sprep.org/ias>

²⁶ <http://www.ala.org.au/>

Description of the project

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is improved management of natural capital for human well-being, through increased application of biodiversity information as evidence for decision making.

The specific objective is the availability of the information resources required to address key policy needs around biodiversity.

Expected results

The two key outcomes of this project are:

Result 1:

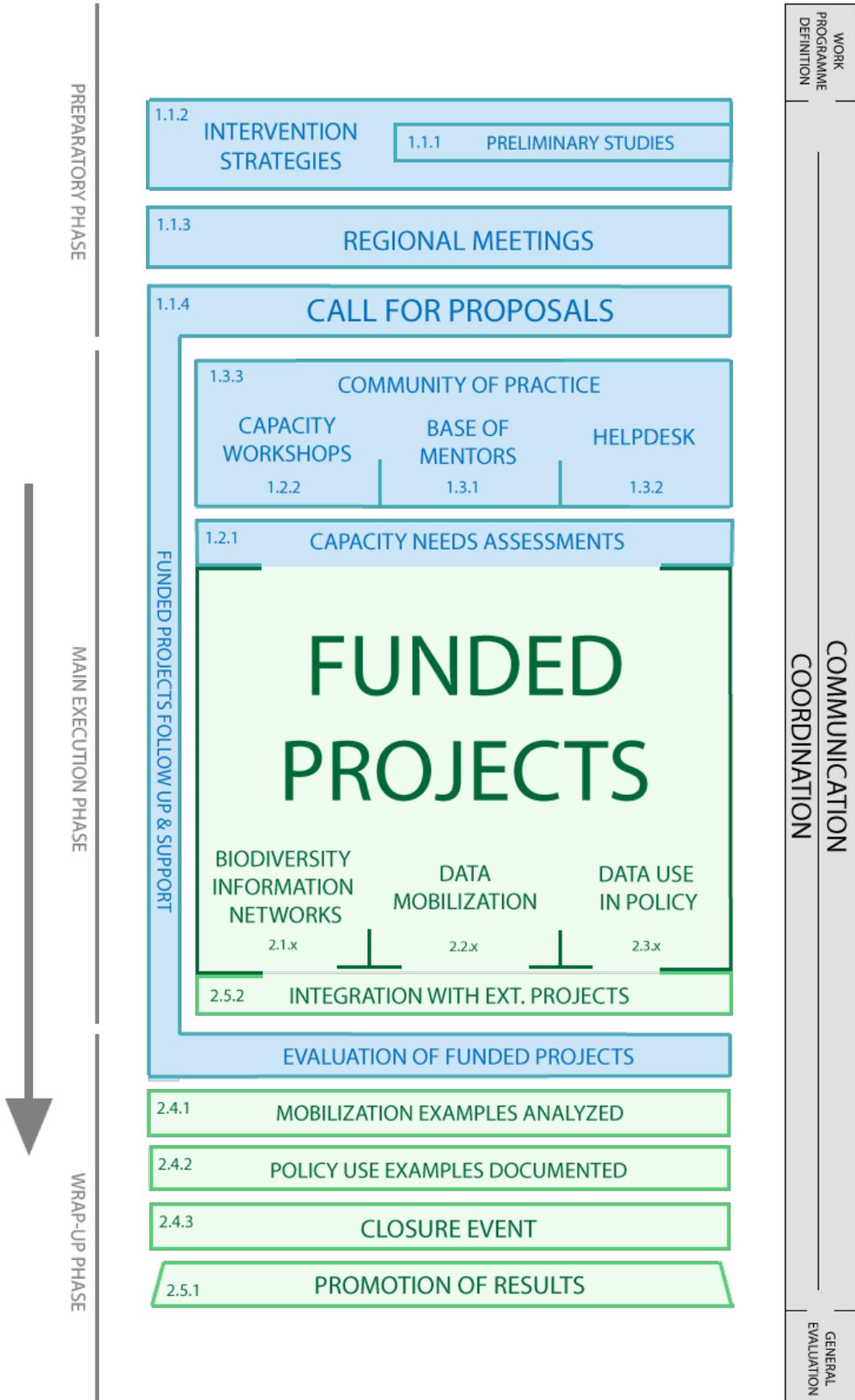
Enhanced capacity for effective mobilization and use of biodiversity information

- Sub-Result 1.1 Improved enabling environment for collaborative mobilisation of targeted biodiversity data in each of the three target regions
- Sub-Result 1.2 Enhanced capacities of key stakeholders for coordinating the mobilization, management and use of targeted biodiversity data and establishing biodiversity information systems and networks, through the concept of training the trainers
- Sub-Result 1.3 A strengthened community of practice supporting the implementation of funded projects

Result 2: Enhanced availability of information resources and best practice guidance for mobilisation and application of biodiversity information for key policy needs

- Sub-Result 2.1 Partnerships between key holders and users of biodiversity data are established or strengthened through consortia or biodiversity information systems and networks
- Sub-result 2.2 Targeted biodiversity data mobilized in each of the regions
- Sub-Result 2.3 The use of the mobilized biodiversity data promoted through engagement with the scientific and policy communities
- Sub-Result 2.4 Identification and analysis of examples of the use of targeted biodiversity information in decision-making
- Sub-Result 2.5 Achievements of project interventions recognized by international science-policy initiatives

The two main results are highlighted through different colours in the scheme on the next page, where Result 1 is in blue, and Result 2 in green.



Main activities

The main activities of the BID project are also indicated in the scheme on page 10.

The main activities of this project are:

Result 1:

Enhanced capacity for effective mobilization and use of biodiversity information

Sub-Result 1.1:

Improved enabling environment for collaborative mobilisation of targeted biodiversity data in each of the three target regions

The main activities under sub-result 1.1 are the following:

- 1.1.1 Determining the **intervention strategy** for each of the target regions
- 1.1.2 **Studies** to identify the starting point for the programme in each of the ACP regions through consultations with the countries and desktop studies
- 1.1.3 **Regional meetings** in each of the regions to enable countries to agree on targets for biodiversity data mobilization, the main capacity needs to be addressed and the governance for collaborations
- 1.1.4 Management of **calls for proposals** for the “enhanced availability and use of biodiversity information for key policy needs” (sub-result 2.1-3)

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 1.1.1 Determining the **intervention strategy** for each of the target regions
 - Setting up the Steering Committee of the global programme, and additionally the extended Steering Committee including representation from each of the regions
 - Development of the terms of reference for the desktop studies and consultations (1.1.2)
 - Development of criteria for the evaluation of countries to be engaged at various stages throughout the programme in each of the regions. These criteria should inform the analysis of countries within the regions in the desktop studies (1.1.2).
 - Based on the initial overview from 1.1.2 selection of target countries to be involved in the programme by the Steering Committee
 - Development of criteria for making agreements with implementing partners and complementary actors
 - Setting up agreements with implementing partners and complementary actors

- Agreement on the division of budget available for each region in the programme(e.g. call for proposals)

1.1.2 **Studies** to identify the starting point for the programme in each of the ACP regions through consultations with the countries and desktop studies

- Consultation among science and environment ministries and relevant government authorities of countries in each of the regions, as well as involving any relevant regional organisations. Consultations will include: an expression of interest in the programme, key institutes and main programmes to be involved, priority data needs, priority capacity needs around mobilizing and using the data.
- Desktop studies based on available documents on biodiversity data and capacity needs for biodiversity information.
- Analyses of the existing key institutions, relevant programmes, priority biodiversity data needs and availability, and associated capacity needs for countries and regions.

1.1.3 **Regional meetings** in each of the regions to enable countries to agree on targets for biodiversity data mobilization, the main capacity needs and the governance for collaborations

- Organizing regional meetings in each of the regions; a cycle of two regional meetings per region is proposed
- Invitation of policy-makers and representatives from key institutions from the targeted countries to the regional meetings
- At the meetings identification of the criteria and sources of the targeted biodiversity data to be mobilised, and the main capacity needs around mobilisation and use of these biodiversity data
- At the meetings identification of the needs of policy-makers on how to apply targeted biodiversity information in support of decision-making (to be addressed in the 2nd set of regional meetings)
- Discussion on the priorities for the call for proposals in each of the regions
- A second set of regional meetings could highlight mid-term results of the projects funded under sub-result 2.1-3, could forge further collaborations between projects, expand the base of targeted countries, and could reorient the priorities for a 2nd call for proposals

1.1.4 **Management of calls for proposals** for the “enhanced availability and use of biodiversity information for key policy needs” (sub-result 2.1-3)

- Based on 1.1.3 developing for each of the regions a call for project proposals with accompanying documentation (projects covered under sub-result 2.1-3)

- Developing selection criteria for the establishment of selection panels for the projects in each of the regions (e.g. regional and thematic representation)
- Developing the eligibility and selection criteria for the project proposals in each of the calls
- After selection of the projects to be funded, setting up the contracts with each of the selected projects
- Communicating the selected projects to the wider public
- Evaluation of the mid-term project reports
- Evaluation of the final project reports

Sub-Result 1.2:

Enhanced capacities of key stakeholders for coordinating the mobilization, management and use of targeted biodiversity data and establishing biodiversity information systems and networks, through the concept of training the trainers

The main activities under sub-result 1.2 are the following:

- 1.2.1 Consultative **capacity self-assessments** to identify capacity needs as part of the project proposals submitted to the calls for proposals
- 1.2.2 Capacity needs for project implementation addressed through **capacity enhancement workshops for project leads**

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 1.2.1 Consultative **capacity self-assessments** to identify capacity needs as part of the project proposals submitted to the calls for proposals
 - Development of guiding material to enable projects to perform a consultative capacity self-assessment as part of their project proposals
 - Consultative self-assessment to identify the capacity needs relating to the mobilization, management, and use of targeted biodiversity data
 - Consultative self-assessment to identify the capacity needs relating to setting up consortia for data mobilization and establishing and strengthening biodiversity information facilities
 - Overall analyses of these self-assessments to inform the design of the capacity enhancement workshops (1.2.2)
- 1.2.2 Capacity needs for project implementation addressed through **capacity enhancement workshops for project leads**
 - Organization of capacity enhancement workshops at the start and mid-term of the implementation cycle of funded projects

- Design of the workshops based on analysis of capacity needs expressed by funded projects (1.2.1)
- Development of training courses to equip project leads with the skills* to effectively carry out their selected projects
- The workshops organised at the mid-terms of the projects include elements of sharing experiences between projects and potentially identifying and forging collaborations between projects

*topics might include the standardization, collection, digitization and publishing of biodiversity data, and the setup of consortia for data mobilization and the establishment and strengthening of biodiversity information systems and networks

Sub-Result 1.3:

A strengthened community of practice supporting the implementation of funded projects

The main activities under sub-result 1.3 are the following:

1.3.1 Strengthening the **base of mentors**

1.3.2 **Helpdesk support** and technical assistance

1.3.3 **Matchmaking** to provide mentoring support to the funded projects

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

1.3.1 Strengthening the **base of mentors**

- Development and adaptation of training material
- Arrangements with key individuals within the GBIF network to become involved in the programme as trainers and/or mentors
- Training of key individuals to act as implementing partners, trainers and mentors both from the South and the North

1.3.2 **Helpdesk support** and technical assistance

- Setting up of helpdesk assistance at an international and regional level (e.g. mailing lists)
- Arranging support for the endorsement, hosting and remote assistance to enable the publishing of targeted biodiversity data
- Targeted visits from mentors (1.3.1.) to support projects which encounter specific issues requiring expert assistance
- Establishing agreements for helpdesk to continue remote support after the completion of the programme activities

1.3.3 Matchmaking to provide mentoring support to the funded projects

- Establishing close partnerships between mentors and funded projects*
- Matching expertise between different funded projects within the programme and establishing a close partnership between the projects

*Where the specific capacity enhancement needs identified by a project (1.2.1) cannot be sufficiently addressed through the workshops (1.2.2), a mentoring action for the project could be considered

Result 2: Enhanced availability of information resources and best practice guidance for mobilisation and application of biodiversity information for key policy needs

Sub-Result 2.1:

Partnerships between key holders and users of biodiversity data are established or strengthened through consortia or biodiversity information systems and networks

The main activities under sub-result 2.1 are the following:

2.1.1 **Funded projects that establish consortia of holders and users of biodiversity data**

2.1.2 **Funded projects that establish and strengthen national or regional biodiversity information networks and systems, adapting the model in use by the GBIF network**

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

2.1.1 **Funded projects that establish consortia of holders and users of biodiversity data, involving for example:**

- National or regional workshops to enable inter-institutional collaboration
- Formalized partnerships through institutional agreements, data sharing policies, and mobilization strategies
- Establishing common data quality standards and processes based on the user needs
- Adopting a data publishing process, possibly including installing data publishing informatics tools (e.g. GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit)

2.1.2 **Funded projects that establish and strengthen national or regional biodiversity information networks and systems, adapting the model in use by the GBIF network, involving for example:**

- National or regional stakeholders' workshops to support a participative approach to establishing a biodiversity information facility and network
- Mentoring actions (1.3.3) to strengthen the teams coordinating biodiversity information networks and systems

- Establishing governance structures for the biodiversity information systems and networks (including representatives from ministries of science and environment, key institutions holding or using biodiversity data etc.)
- Establishing functional networks of holders and users of biodiversity information on the national or regional level
- Inventories of biodiversity data holdings at the national or regional level (for example, implementing metadata catalogues)
- User needs analyses
- Biodiversity data mobilization strategies
- Setting up a data publishing infrastructure to serve the needs of the network
- Providing technical support to the network on data management and publication
- Contributing to national or regional policies on open access and on biodiversity
- Ensuring mobilized biodiversity data are made available to users on the national or regional level

Sub-result 2.2:

Targeted biodiversity data mobilized in each of the regions

The main activities under sub-result 2.2 are the following:

- 2.2.1 **Funded projects mobilizing targeted biodiversity data***, from digitization to publication
- 2.2.2 **Funded projects including stakeholder workshops** on international standards and best-practice for biodiversity data mobilization and management

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 2.2.1 **Funded projects mobilizing targeted biodiversity data***, from digitization to publication, involving for example:
 - Digitization of natural history collections and biodiversity information from literature
 - Mobilizing data from observation networks and monitoring systems, for example on Invasive Alien Species, Red List protected and endemic species
 - Publishing national, regional and local species checklists

- Assisting the digital repatriation of historical biodiversity data from collections in other countries
- Mentoring actions to improve data management and archival processes for key biodiversity data holders

*data types include species occurrence data, species abundance data, species descriptions; data sources can be natural history collections and observations; thematic scope could include Invasive Alien Species, biodiversity in protected areas, threatened and endemic species etc.

2.2.2 **Funded projects including stakeholder workshops** on international standards and best-practice for biodiversity data mobilization and management

- Training of data managers within key data holding institutions
- Training of collections staff involved in digitization projects

Sub-Result 2.3:

The use of the mobilized biodiversity data is promoted through engagement with the scientific and policy communities

The main activities under sub-result 2.3 are the following:

- 2.3.1 **Funded projects performing requirements capture from key user groups**, including, for example, policy makers and scientists
- 2.3.2 **Funded projects involving scientists and policy-makers to improve the mobilized data** for specific use cases
- 2.3.3 **Funded projects on integration of targeted biodiversity data in support of decision making** on specific biodiversity and ecosystem management issues

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 2.3.1 **Funded projects performing requirements capture from key user groups**, including, for example, policy makers and scientists, involving:
 - Scoping the biodiversity data needs for a specific use case, including data quality requirements and necessary connections to other data types to guide mobilization efforts
 - Setting up user groups to guide project implementation (e.g. regular sessions with policy makers) e.g. on identified priority themes, for example, agro-biodiversity, urban biodiversity, protected areas
- 2.3.2 **Funded projects involving scientists and policy-makers to improve the mobilized data** for specific use cases, involving for example:
 - Workshops on validating species checklists, invasive species lists, threatened species lists etc.
 - Workshops on species distribution modeling based on GBIF-mediated data

- Workshops and advocacy actions to promote the use of GBIF-mediated data in national-level biodiversity reporting
 - Workshops on the preparation of data papers as a means to improve the reusability of the mobilized biodiversity data
- 2.3.3 **Funded projects on integration of targeted biodiversity data in support of decision making** on specific biodiversity and ecosystem management issues
- Decision makers adopt the use of the mobilized data into their processes
 - Development of particular use cases of targeted biodiversity information into decision-making

Sub-Result 2.4:

Identification and analysis of examples of the use of targeted biodiversity information in decision-making

The main activities under sub-result 2.3 are the following:

- 2.4.1 **Analysis of key examples and lessons learnt** on the entire chain from mobilization to use of agreed targeted biodiversity data from the funded projects (sub-result 2.1-3)
- 2.4.2 **Documenting** a series of **guiding examples** of the integration of biodiversity information into decision making
- 2.4.3 **End event** of the programme bringing together all the achievements of selected projects

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 2.4.1 **Analysis of key examples and lessons learnt** on the entire chain from mobilization to use of agreed targeted biodiversity data from the funded projects (sub-result 2.1-3), involving for example:
 - Analysis of project reports and use cases (2.3.3)
 - Follow up consultation on key examples from a case study perspective
- 2.4.2 **Documenting** a series of **guiding examples** of the integration of biodiversity information into decision making, involving for example:
 - Best practices from funded projects (e.g. on contributions to Aichi targets 9, 11 and 12)
 - Materials for decision makers on how they can make use of the results of selected projects
- 2.4.3 **End event** of the programme bringing together all the achievements of selected projects

Sub-Result 2.5:

Achievements of project interventions are recognized by international science-policy initiatives

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 2.5.1 **Promotion of results** from the programme to international science-policy initiatives
- 2.5.2 **Alignment of the project outcomes** with other international partners and initiatives

These main activities lead to the following detailed activities:

- 2.5.1 **Promotion of results** from the programme to international science-policy initiatives, involving for example:
 - Documentation and side events developed for international science-policy initiatives like IPBES, CBD, GEO-BON
- 2.5.2 **Alignment of the project outcomes** with other international partners and initiatives, for example:
 - Highlighting synergies between programme results of other partners (e.g. BIOPAMA, SEPDD, ICLEI, Bioversity International)
 - Project outcomes integrated into future collaborative work with these partners

Risks and assumptions

The logical framework of the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project contains the perceived risks and assumptions for the objectives, results, and activities (Appendix 2). Below some of the major risks and assumptions are highlighted together with their relative level of perceived risk. Possible measures mitigating the risk through the coordination of the Biodiversity Information for Development project are also provided. Risk assessment, quality assurance, and mitigation will be an integrative part of the project coordination and evaluation and monitoring of project's interventions.

Risk (Assumption)	Level	Mitigating measures
There is insufficient capacity in the countries of the targeted regions to absorb the project funding made available through calls for proposals on enhancing the availability and use of biodiversity information for key policy needs.	High	The coordination will adopt different intervention strategies for each region, taking the existing capacity in the region as starting point. In addition, the project includes various capacity enhancement mechanisms that are flexible to adjust to local circumstances.
There is lag time between the mobilization of targeted biodiversity data and its availability to researchers and policy-makers.	High	The project will ensure continuity after the project period through various interventions, such as permanent availability of open-access biodiversity information, enhanced capacity to use this information, increased interest by international science-policy initiatives, and alignment with complementary actions and projects to continue and build upon the project's achievements.
The scientific biodiversity data that already exist and could be mobilized for a specific policy-relevant purpose are too scarce in the country/region. More biodiversity data need to be generated to inform decisions on this specific policy-relevant purpose.	Medium	Mobilizing the existing scientific biodiversity data for a specific policy-relevant purpose will enable the identification of required data collection efforts in the field to improve decisions. The project provides some opportunities to include such targeted data collection activities alongside mobilization efforts in order to make a solid use case. Exemplary use cases should enable the formulation of biodiversity data collection plans as a business case for potential new funders.
The identification in each country of a leading organization or a consortium of organizations to host/manage the national biodiversity information facilities suffers extensive delays	Medium	GBIF secretariat and its partners (JRC, IUCN, CBD) have a long experience in the target regions and will contribute to the identification

Stakeholders

Beneficiaries of the project's outcomes

It is expected that more readily available biodiversity information for specific policy-relevant purposes will benefit a large range of persons and institutes inside and outside the targeted countries and regions. The outcomes of the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project will especially benefit the following set of people and institutes:

- a. Policy-makers belonging to national ministries, national government authorities or national and regional institutions in the targeted regions playing a role in the sustainable development of natural capital for human well-being. This includes policy-makers of national institutions in charge of sustainable management of biological resources and of reporting to the Rio conventions and other international science-policy initiatives.
- b. Collection managers, practitioners, biodiversity knowledge holders and scientists belonging to non-profit, national and international services in charge of the collection and analysis of information on biodiversity. This includes other international initiatives that integrate the available biodiversity information into their systems and services.
- c. Scientists belonging to the wider scientific community that tries to inform decision makers with the best possible interpretation and knowledge of the available biodiversity information.

Recipients of the project's activities

It is envisioned that capacity enhancement efforts on the individual, organization, and enabling environment level in the context of the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project will serve a large base of recipients (individuals and institutions). The project's approach will be to focus on key individuals of key institutes that could transfer gained knowledge at a national level for the benefit of more recipients and on establishing lasting collaborations between institutions in the form of consortia and national biodiversity information facilities. The target recipients of the project are:

- a. Key individuals from national government ministries and agencies (e.g. science & environment ministries), such as wildlife and fisheries authorities, forestry commission, agricultural departments, CBD clearing house mechanisms, park management authorities. This includes GBIF Participant Nodes already established in GBIF Participant countries.
- b. Key individuals from museums, natural history collections, research institutes, universities, parastatals and NGOs operating with biodiversity information monitoring, mobilization and use within target regions/countries.
- c. Key individuals from museums, natural history collections, research institutes and universities elsewhere in the world with opportunities to mobilize significant data for target regions/countries and key topics. (Limited proportion of project grants, exact level to be agreed by Steering Committee. Projects require complementary funding or in-kind activity at levels to be defined by Steering Committee.)

Implementation of the project

Organizational set-up and responsibilities

Global Biodiversity Information Facility

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility, as an inter-governmental initiative with a mission to provide open access to scientific biodiversity information, holds a unique implementation position. The GBIF Secretariat executes an annual work programme that contains many activities that will naturally support the implementation of the BID project. The GBIF Secretariat will coordinate and facilitate the majority of the BID project activities. The GBIF Secretariat will deploy a project team that will at least consist of the Senior Programme Officer for Participation, the Senior Programme Officer for Training, the Senior Programme Officer for Node Development, and the Programme Officer for Content Mobilization.

GBIF Secretariat will work closely with its Participants in the implementation of the BID project. The six regions in GBIF will contribute to the activities and deliverables of the BID project. Where possible the existing expertise in the GBIF community will be used in support of capacity enhancement activities (e.g. through training, mentoring, helpdesk & technical assistance). Where appropriate, the GBIF Secretariat will make use of implementing partners among the GBIF country and associate organization Participants. Contracts with implementing partners will be handled conforming to the rules stated in the 'Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Union external actions'.

Steering Committee:

A Biodiversity Information for Development Steering Committee will be created to supervise the implementation of the entire programme. It will meet during the first 3 months of the project and then once a year, or as required, in Brussels or at another appropriate venue, to allow for review of information on the various components of the project, and to provide guidance and orientation on the overall priorities and management. The Steering Committee will include authorized representatives from each of DEVCO (Chair), the GBIF Secretariat and JRC/BIOPAMA. These initial members will invite a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 additional agencies or institutions to be represented on the Steering Committee. Such agencies or institutions will be selected on the basis of relevant expertise, aligned programmes of work or coordinated donor programmes (for example L'Agence Française de Développement in relation to the SEPDD).

The Steering Committee will be responsible for the development of a detailed intervention strategy for each of the ACP regions, including 1) a strategy and mechanisms for engaging regional and national partners, 2) timelines for calls, meetings and reporting, and 3) the establishment of the Technical and Science Committees (see below).

The Steering Committee will be extended further as regional activities progress to include representatives from each of the regions involved to help steer the strategies in these regions. The GBIF Secretariat will organize the Steering Committee meetings and serve as the secretariat for the Steering Committee.

Technical and Science Committee

For each region, a Technical and Scientific Committee will be created to assure the scientific quality and the technical relevance of the programme activities the region. These committees will be composed of a few experts in the areas of interest: e.g. biodiversity information management, capacity enhancement efforts, mobilisation of policy-relevant data. These experts will be consulted every year and more often if needed. The technical and science committee in each region will also be involved in the selection panels for the calls for proposals. If deemed necessary, the selection panels for the call for proposals can be extended with additional thematic expertise. The GBIF Secretariat will propose the composition of the Technical and Scientific committees for the Steering Committee to approve.

Timetable and duration of the project

The 'BID' project has a total running time of 5 years including an end and evaluation phase (E). The implementation (I) phase of the project will be 4 years. In the chronogram below all the activities are shown over each quarter (Q) per year. The schedule of reporting on work plans (WP, W), and the final report (F) is also provided. The chronogram could be adjusted according to the different intervention strategies in the target regions.

Activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	
	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	E	E	E	E	
WP		W		W				W				W				W				F	F
1.1.1																					
1.1.2																					
1.1.3																					
1.1.4																					
1.2.1																					
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2.1-3																					
2.4.1																					
2.4.2																					
2.4.3																					
2.5.1																					
2.5.2																					

List of activities:

- 1.1.1 Determining the intervention strategy for each of the target regions
- 1.1.2 Studies to identify the starting point for the programme in each of the ACP regions through consultations with the countries and desktop studies
- 1.1.3 Regional meetings in each of the regions to enable countries to agree on targets for biodiversity data mobilization, the main capacity needs and the governance for collaborations
- 1.1.4 Management of calls for proposals for the “enhanced availability and use of biodiversity information for key policy needs” (sub-result 2.1-3)
- 1.2.1 Consultative capacity self-assessments to identify capacity needs as part of the project proposals submitted to the calls for proposals
- 1.2.2 Capacity needs for project implementation addressed through capacity enhancement workshops for project leads
- 1.3.1 Strengthening the base of mentors
- 1.3.2 Helpdesk support and technical assistance
- 1.3.3 Matchmaking to provide mentoring support to the funded projects
- 2.1-3 Funded projects under the call for proposals
- 2.4.1 Analysis of key examples and lessons learnt on the entire chain from mobilization to use of agreed targeted biodiversity data from the funded projects (sub-result 2.1-3)
- 2.4.2 Documenting a series of guiding examples of the integration of biodiversity information into decision making
- 2.4.3 End event of the programme bringing together all the achievements of selected projects
- 2.5.1 Promotion of results from the programme to international science-policy initiatives
- 2.5.2 Alignment of the project outcomes with other international partners and initiatives

Communication/visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. The Biodiversity Information for Development project will include communication and visibility measures based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan, to be elaborated before starting the implementation and supported with the budget indicated under 'communication and visibility' in the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project budget.

The measures shall be implemented (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the contractor in close cooperation with partner countries, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in procurement contracts.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Monitoring and evaluation

Day-to-day technical and financial monitoring will be a continuous process of the project. Indicators for performance monitoring and measuring progress are described in a logical framework as presented in Appendix 2 (the log-frame is an initial logical framework which may be updated or adapted in the Overall Work Plan by the Steering Committee on an annual basis, to which it will be annexed, without this necessarily requiring an amendment to the financing agreement). To maximise impact and sustainability as well as ensure an appropriate level of monitoring, the EC will require, where possible, the use of an effective result-oriented monitoring system based on appropriate definition of performance baseline, targets and key financial, social and efficiency indicators.

A mid-term review will be planned to provide for an interim evaluation of the project after 2 years of implementation. Independent consultants, recruited directly by the EC on specifically developed terms of reference, will carry out the review. The results will be presented to the Steering Committee for jointly analyzing the conclusions and recommendations, and for deciding on the follow-up actions, including if appropriate, the reorientation of the project. Financial provisions for a final evaluation of the programme are also reserved at the decision level.

The EC may carry out Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) missions via independent consultants, starting from the sixth month of project activities. The ROM missions will allow for a simple appreciation of the project's quality, highlighting shortfalls and providing recommendations for quality improvements. The reports of other evaluation and monitoring missions will be given to the Beneficiary, in order to take into account any recommendations that may result from such missions. The Commission shall inform the Beneficiary at least 2 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the external missions. The Beneficiary shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the monitoring and/or evaluation experts, and *inter alia* provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

Reporting

Reporting will be done in accordance with Article 2 of the General Conditions applicable to European Community-financed grant contracts for external actions.

Progress reports will be produced annually (with the exception of year 1, where an inception report will be presented to the Steering Committee):

- Report 1 - inception report (6 months after the contract signature): which will include the analysis/proposed selection of the target countries and institutions, communication strategy/plan, detailed project schedule)
- Report 2 - (1 year after the contract signature)
- Report 3 - (2 years after the contract signature)
- Report 4 - (3 years after the contract signature)
- Report 5 (4 years after the contract signature)
- Final report - (5 years after the contract signature, with a draft final report available 2 months after the end of the implementation phase)

The progress reports will be provided along with the corresponding invoice, the financial report and an expenditure verification report defined in Article 2 of the General Conditions. The reports will also outline progress in implementation against the milestones of this project description and the logical framework's indicators. It will provide a synthesis of past activities and a forecast of the ones planned for the subsequent year.

There must be a final report, a final invoice and the financial report accompanied by an expenditure verification report at the end of the period of implementation of the tasks. The draft final report will be submitted no later than 60 days after the end of the period of implementation of the tasks.

Each report shall consist of a narrative section and a financial section. The financial section will contain details of the time inputs of the experts, of the incidental expenditure and of the provision for expenditure verification. The narrative section will include in an organized manner all information/knowledge collected and/or produced with support from the project (e.g. programme updates, lesson learning and review exercises, thematic studies, technical papers and briefings, publications and communication materials, press releases, templates, e-newsletter, pictures, videos, project outputs, etc.)

Project budget

Below the budget of the 'Biodiversity Information for Development' project is provided, with the budget presented for each of the three result lines. Apart from the GPGC contribution, the in-kind contribution of GBIF and its partners is provided.

Budget line	GPGC contribution	GBIF & partners contribution	Total
Result 1 Enhanced capacity for effective mobilization and use of biodiversity information	€1115000	€300,000	€1,415,000
Result 2 Enhanced availability of information resources and best practice guidance for mobilisation and application of biodiversity information for key policy needs	€2400000	€700,000	€3,100,000
Communication and visibility	€100,000		€100,000
Evaluation and Audit	€50,000		€50,000
Indirect Cost (6,41% of direct eligible costs)	€235,000		
<u>Total</u>	<u>€3,900,000</u>	<u>€1,000,000</u>	<u>€4,900,000</u>

Appendices

Appendix 1 Acronyms:

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific ²⁷
AFD	L'Agence Française de Développement
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
B4Life	Biodiversity for Life - a EU flagship initiative
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
COP	Conference of Parties
DOPA	Digital Observatory for Protected Areas
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEO-BON	Group of Earth Observation - Biodiversity Observation Network
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPGC	Global Public Goods and Challenges
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IUCN	World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
JRC	Joint Research Centre
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
SEPDD	Sud Expert Plantes Développement Durables
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environmental Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

²⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/african-caribbean-and-pacific-acp-region_en