

Report

2012 Regional Nodes Meeting of the GBIF Participant Nodes in Africa

Contributed by the regional Nodes representative with endorsement of the Nodes within the region.

1. Regional Nodes meeting report summary

The African nodes met on 17 and 18 July in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting, in which 15 country nodes and international organizations participated, was hosted by GBIF Associate Participant Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), in collaboration with the Centre for Geographic Information Systems of the National University of Rwanda.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to review the current status of the nodes, their achievements and challenges. Further progress with the implementation of the action plan for the region was discussed, which included a data mobilization strategy, capacity development and advancing the regional engagement framework.

Key activities were identified to take forward within these three areas of work for the 2012/13 regional action plan. Preliminary discussions were held towards setting up an Africa Science Committee, which will address key research questions and priority areas for the region, as well as consider and discuss the biodiversity informatics research agenda. Also a business case will be developed to draw all the work together which will be relevant to funders, Heads of Delegation and government.

2. Website (if available)

Currently a placeholder exists for the regional work on the SABIF website. <http://www.sabif.ac.za>
This may change pending further discussion on this.

3. Regional Nodes meeting highlights / general remarks

Each node provided an update on the current status, achievements, highlights and challenges. Below are some key activities in selected Nodes:

ARCOS – The Albertine Rift Conservation Society has extensive networks in Africa including NGO's and conservation organisations. ARCOS is currently finalising the development of a regional portal, which will consider transboundary aspects. This portal development has been done in collaboration with the GBIFs technical team and will be going live in August 2012.

Benin - About 10000 plant specimens have been digitized and published by the national herbarium of Benin. Benin is engaging on a JRS funded project with Costa Rica, whereby a technological package for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS) of Benin, is being provided. This project includes purchase of materials, capacity building and portal development. Progress includes the implementation of a Nodes Portal Toolkit for Benin, and participation at a workshop in Costa Rica (May 21-25, 2012) on the progress made and organization to implement the project. Here training was also held on: the use of computer technology, standards, protocols and tools used globally to integrate biodiversity information as well as introduction to GIS, useful technologies for occurring biodiversity data, and methods to improve fitness-for-use of biodiversity data. A wrap up and conclusion of SEP-CEPDEC project will be conducted before December 2012 and Benin will try to have a budget line for the GBIF-Benin Node.

Burkina Faso - FasoBIF became a voting member in 2012, and is a member of the Biodiversity Information network in the country. A high Performance Server (HPC) for the management and storage of environmental and climatic information has been acquired. Outreach is being conducted to increase national membership to the Node. Burkina Faso participated in GBIF training (Benin in August 2011), has participated in the NPT testing phase and is continuing the digitization of primary data. An Inventory of Two Forest Ecosystems (floristic) has been compiled. The level of equipment and internet connection has improved, however some challenges still exist, including: high mobility of staff, data still in analog form, sample quality and multiplicity of prototypes harvested and a lack of a data sharing culture. Way forward, continue scanning, develop a marketing strategy for stakeholders and decision makers, training on information management and communication.

EWT – The EWT is an associate participant node, with a focus on creating links between existing transboundary datasets. A scoping report was conducted of the current status and requirements of GIS and biodiversity data infrastructure in the Maputland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot (spanning across South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique). A regional survey of our partners' biodiversity data needs illustrated some challenges in moving towards widespread data accessibility. This survey will be expanded across Africa in 2012, in collaboration with other node managers across the region.

Ghana - GhaBIF is now a voting participant to GBIF, hosted at the Department of Botany, University of Ghana. The node has 14 participants including research institutions, universities and NGOs. A total of 85,185 records are available via GBIF. Ghana recently participated in training on mapping and modelling species distributions at University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. On-going mentoring activities with NetherlandsBIF on data transfer to GBIF, medicinal plants checklist and citizen science site is taking place. Ghana is also collaborating with BHL on digitization of biodiversity literature. Some challenges faced includes no direct financial support from government apart from signing MOU with GBIF, inadequate technical expertise in biodiversity informatics tools, insufficient support for further data mobilization and cleaning, and analysis of existing data.

Guinea - Guinea has been a GBIF node since 2009, with a partnership from the herbarium of Guinea. The main activities since then focused on strengthening relationships between the National herbarium of Guinea and GBIF Guinea, training workshops for staff, and currently a process is underway to join the herbarium to RIHA (Africa International Herbarium Network), which included a workshop on the implementation of the model RIHA. Training of staff covered RIHA installation on machines, theory and explanation of the different interfaces of the base RIHA and practice and data entry in the database. The way forward for GuineaBIF is to upgrade its membership to a voting member of GBIF. The process is still under way with the ministry of Guinea.

Kenya - outcomes from the 2011 KenBIF stakeholders meeting were that the node should be established under the National Council of Science and Technology (NCST) and have a special/combined mandate to receive and share environmental data nationally and internationally. KenBIF should operate under a Steering Committee and should be housed at NMK and NMK to provide infrastructure and informatics capacity support and initial data from collections. Draft National Bioscience Policy was prepared under the Kenya National Council of Science and Technology addressing, Sustainable Utilization of biological resources, biodiversity informatics, bioinformatics, national bio-security and dual-use research institute. Stakeholders will continue to lobby government to pass the bill into law. Currently developing a KenBIF Data Portal participated in UGABIF workshop and GBIF workshop in Spain, continued digitization.

Madagascar - Following participation in SEP-CEPDEC, MadBIF has now become a voting member as of 2012. They have hosted two national meetings in 2009 and July 2011, that helped define the structure of MadBIF nodes portal. The governance structure includes the Board of Directors, Finance and Budget Committee, Commission for IT & Capacity Building, Commission for communication and a Scientific Commission, as well as the General Assembly (All institutions producing and / or using data on the biodiversity. A survey has been distributed to 33 institutions, 17 organisations responded and 23 data sets have been documented

with an estimated 260 000 specimens. Assessment of observational data is difficult. The publication of about 17 500 data by three institutions has taken place and 15,000 new records are to be review before publication. A server has been set-up and IPT is installed, this will be strengthened. Partner institutions have been provided with basic equipment for scanning data at 6 institutions and recruiting providers for scanning and purchasing more equipment.

ICLEI –has recently published the GBIF-ICLEI Best Practice Guidelines for Biodiversity Data Publishing by Local Governments. Currently the Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAP) are being developed and ICLEI will communicate with council to obtain commitment and implement the local action plan for 3 biodiversity projects (AN ICLEI & IUCN Programme). The ICLEI node is also participating in a GBIF/SABIF/SANBI Mentoring Programme. Here SANBI is mentoring ICLEI to develop technical expertise in data-hosting and are working together in the development of a demand driven strategy for data discovery and publishing for local government staff, and planning participation at the CBD COP11 in Oct 2012 in India.

International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology - ICIPE is an international research institute with Kenyan roots working on insects in the context of agriculture. Activities across Africa with focus in Eastern Africa with about 100 partners, first MoU signed by Hans Herren in early 2000. Node includes Insect Taxonomy, Entomology Training, Digital Photography, African Insect Taxonomy Toolkit, DNA-Barcoding Project & Biomonitoring with aquatic macro-invertebrates. The ICT department is managing the IPT Installation and updates, backup the servers. Challenges are slow data input time and geo-referencing, data release by projects and storage after project ends. Sustainability of the Node is a concern, as the activities of the Node are limited to the capacity of the Node Manager. ICIPE's online, data mobilization activity, via the GBIF data portal include: the Tsetse flies, the sand flies, and *Dermoptera*. Other activities include DNA-Barcoding Project with the National Museum of Kenya, CCDB and IDRC. Further work includes the digitization of the Aquatic macro-invertebrates. Much of the needed infrastructure is available.

Mauritania – Despite the desert landscape in Mauritania, this country has a wealth of biodiversity. The national node is in the process of developing its own data portal which should go live in August 2012. They have previously engaged with Belgium, and exchanged lessons learnt through this mentoring activity. Node Manager attended the Biodiversity Information Management Forum in Cape Town in June 2012 and the Meeting of Consultation for the second phase of South Experts Plants (SEP2D) in Paris in June 2012 in France.

South Africa – A new call for the digitization of data in South African institutions was disseminated by the South African Biodiversity Information Facility (SABIF). Approximately 19 proposals were received and these still remain to be evaluated. A data mobilisation strategy will be developed for South Africa in the coming year. A number of training activities have been hosted in 2011 including “species distribution modelling” and “data fitness for use training”. An awareness-raising session was held at the National Biodiversity Information Management Forum (June 2012) where grant recipients and data providers highlighted the valuable contribution of the National Node which has enabled improved data management at institutions, by providing resources such as funding, training manuals, international expertise, software tools and best practice guidelines. Discussions of the integration of the DST funded programmes are still going ahead.

Tanzania – TanBIF has recently held a closing function for the CEPDEC programme. One of the key products produced under this programme has been the publication of a Book on the Checklists of Tanzanian Species. This closing function was attended by the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Honourable, Dr. Mohammed Gharib Bilal. A number of other Species Catalogues including medicinal, threatened species, invasive and endemic species are in the pipeline.

Togo – joined GBIF in June 2009, under the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Togo participated in a mentoring project with GBIF France from April 2010 – 2011, and is currently engaging with data providers to mobilize biodiversity data. Mobilization team has implemented the start-up Nodes Portal Toolkit for TogoBIF. Upcoming digitization projects include the Department of Applied Entomology (UL), ethno-botanists and traditional healers. It is intended to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment to continue efforts to change the country status.

Uganda-UgaBIF organized a regional training on biodiversity information standards and protocols in Uganda (July 9-13) which attracted participants from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania who made use of the web portal that was developed under the GBIF mentoring project with ETI Bioinformatics. Key at the meeting was the recommendation and adoption of the BRAHMS software for botanical collections and Specify 6 for zoological collections in addition to other existing software applications. This called for UgaBIF to plan for specific training in the two digitisation tools. A data sharing agreement for UgaBIF and its stakeholders will be developed and implemented in the coming year.

4. Regional Nodes meeting outputs

4.1. Regional priorities and targets (regional action plan)

Regional Priority Updates:

1.) The Data Mobilization Strategy and Action - The need for certain types of data varies across Africa. To make best use of limited resources it is essential that data mobilization is strategic – such that it is geared towards addressing specific challenges, by advancing scientific research and enabling sound policy making. In Africa, there are many pressing development goals, the attainment of which, biodiversity data can support. Thus African nodes are in the process of developing a stepwise protocol which can be followed to determine data needs, priorities and pertaining opportunities. This strategy document will help to focus efforts across the continent with a view to increasing the relevance of GBIF-related activities.

Way ahead: African Nodes need to identify specific thematic areas of priority and mobilize data as a collective. Also, taxonomic African data priorities to be captured by the European region will be determined. It was also identified that case studies would be identified to demonstrate the value and use of GBIF mediated data.

2.) Regional Engagement – Progress was reported against a number of regional engagement activities identified at the second regional meeting. A further update on the Africa Coordinating Mechanism included the development of a roadmap, which indicates the steps needed to operationalize the ACM. It includes a set of goals, objectives, activities and expected outcomes for a proposed project, or regional engagement framework, to have a fully operational GBIF-Africa structure.

Way Ahead: A log-frame was developed which includes activities, milestones, timelines and responsible persons in the initial, baseline and transition phases of the establishment of the ACM.

3.) Capacity Development

Following the 2nd GBIF-Africa Regional meeting a document was produced to address the process of the capacity building plan for Africa. The plan needs to be agreed and endorsed by all participants in the region with clear milestones and reporting to the GBIF-Africa Coordinating Mechanisms and GB meetings. The recommendations are to operationalise and streamline the GBIF-Africa Coordinating Mechanism, develop and implement the Africa research agenda on biodiversity informatics and promote the application of biodiversity data and develop strategic relations with relevant regional and international initiatives and institutions such as CBD, EAC and AU. The GBIF Mentoring programme has been a significant catalyst for establishing Africa BIFs and has boosted the continents participation growth and commitment to GBIF, thus continuation of the GBIF Mentoring Programme is strongly recommended.

Way ahead: The capacity building priorities for Africa are to develop capacity for nodes and data users & providers. Capacity development would need to focus on skills development in data publishing, developing and maintaining portals, maintaining and coordinating an active network of data providers and users and developing a training plan for data providers and users.

4.2. Requirements / opportunities for the implementation of the regional action plan

JRS Foundation

The JRS Foundation has contributed significantly in supporting a number of activities in the region. With regards to applications submitted in **2012** two have been supported. The first is an application submitted by **SANBI/SABIF/GBIF**. The aim of this project is to develop a set of outcomes that will comprise a Biodiversity Data Assessment and Action Plan for southern Africa and other participating African GBIF countries. The outcomes include the biodiversity data needs assessments, an audit of available data, a gap analysis, development of priority national and regional checklists and the technology requirements to manage and disseminate biodiversity data.

A second proposal which was approved looks **at Biodiversity Informatics Training for Africa and the World**, submitted by Prof. Townsend Peterson, with SABIF as a partner. Here 4 in-person training courses will be hosted in Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt, enabling teams of biodiversity researchers in four regions of Africa, with impacts broadened by capturing presentations digitally and developing online training modules. The project website that will be developed will include the full biodiversity informatics curriculum, with links to (1) YouTube videos, (2) reading materials, and (3) practice data sets, for each training module. This training may also be extended to other GBIF-Africa Nodes.

The JRS Biodiversity Foundation is supporting the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)** with funds for a regional hub to consolidate and share biodiversity information. ARCOS will work with national data centers in the five Albertine Rift countries, and with international institutions such as the National Museums of Kenya, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and UNEP- GRID Arendal to build capacity in the region and develop a database-driven website and educational web portal, creating connections with different stakeholders and GBIF nodes around the world.

Benin recently activated the first version of its biodiversity information system, in collaboration **with Costa Rica's National Biodiversity Institute (INBio)**, the Agronomy Faculty at Benin's Abomey Calavi University (FSA) and the country's Biodiversity Research Center. Originally funded by the Netherlands under the Programme for South-South Cooperation, the project's main goal was to strengthen biodiversity information management linkages between the project partners through the sharing of information and expertise and exchange visits. JRS is building on that foundation with support for a new FSA/INBio initiative that will undertake the improvements, installation, digitization and training activities necessary to fully activate Benin's National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS). The system will integrate the two principal tools required for a functional national biodiversity information system: an online biodiversity portal and a data digitization and management tool.

Lack of widely accessible working list of flora and fauna, up-to-date knowledge, information gaps and inaccuracies on the current status of biodiversity in **Ghana** is a constraint in the implementation of the aims of the Global Strategy of Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A JRS funded project has been supported over a three year period from 2009 and aimed to address some of those impediments through: (1) establishment of a Ghanaian- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) node to facilitate data-sharing and dissemination activities within the country, making use of the standards, protocols, infrastructure, and capacity made available by GBIF (2) digitization initiatives that builds on existing initiatives facilitating the integration of all data and information available about Ghana's biodiversity; and (3) collation and synthesizing information on medicinal plants as a practical demonstration of biodiversity informatics tools to produce meaningful analysis that can support policy or decision making within the country. A handbook on medicinal plants will be produced as an outcome of this project.

Further projects which were funded include the establishment of the **East Africa Centre of Excellence**. This project has built biodiversity informatics capacity and infrastructure. Training workshops, equipment support and demonstrating local relevance has succeeded in establishing the groundwork to develop the regional East Africa Centre of Excellence. This project has also played a role in the establishment of Uganda BIF.

4.3. Mechanisms to improve the regional coordination, communication, collaboration, and participation

It is intended to appoint a regional coordinator as an outcome of the SANBI/SABIF/GBIF JRS submission. This appointment will assist in improving coordination of activity. Mr. Selwyn Willoughby has been identified to develop a ToR for the coordinator.

The establishment of the African-Science committee also has potential to align with the GBIF science committee and encourage engagement between the Nodes and Science Committee.

4.4. Recommendations on how to advance the implementation and uptake of the 2012-2013 GBIF Work Programme within the region

Mentoring Programme: In the last two years, many GBIF bio-diverse participant countries, has made great strides in making data available via the internet. One of the key enabling factors has been through collaborative engagement. The GBIF mentoring Programme has been very valuable to the GBIF Africa region, in bringing countries together in support of the North- South and South-South engagement.

Countries and International Organisations such as Togo, Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, ICLEI, France, Netherlands, Kenya, Finland, South Africa, Uganda, Belgium, Mauritania and ETI have all benefitted from this programme which promotes collaboration and capacity development. Many countries have data uploaded to GBIF portal, some have developed data portals nationally and others are in the process of developing products such as national checklists.

The GBIF workplan 2012/13 has recently been reviewed, and financial allocation to this area of work has been significantly reduced. This reduction will significantly compromise the momentum of activity that this programme has enabled. Many countries across the world have benefitted through more collaborative activities, and more data has been made available via GBIF in support of science and policy. We strongly recommend that this budget allocation be increased rather than reduced, and that this should have a more stable longer term (3-5 year) budget allocation.

Regional Engagement: Nodes recommend a fixed budget for regional meetings and outreach activity to enable recruitment of non-GBIF participants to the GBIF network.

Establishment of a Science Committee: Preliminary discussions were held towards setting up an Africa Science Committee, which will address key research questions and priority areas for the region, as well as consider and discuss the biodiversity informatics research agenda. Terms of reference for the committee are expected to be developed shortly.

Research Support: There is potential for the GBIF secretariat to provide a facilitation role with the identification of research areas and/or scholarships for students who could support the objectives of GBIF by looking at data use cases, impacts of data mobilization and possibly at tools, which can be developed for decision support. This is recommended, especially in light of postgraduate research hubs being established in Africa e.g. South Africa.

Training: Node Managers have indicated that technical and strategic training for Node Managers should be identified as two distinct entities. GBIF is currently addressing technical training however Node managers have also indicated training needs in topics such as Proposal Writing, and how to communicate the work of Nodes to different stakeholders, "Project management training" etc. This Node Managers' training is recommended to be a component of the GBIF training plan for 2013.

Business Case: A business case will be developed which draws all the work together in a logically consistent manner for funders, our HoD's and government.

Drivers: Selwyn Willoughby, Olaf Banki, Hulda Gideon, Fatima Parker-Allie, Russel Galt, Baba Ainina will come up with a framework by the end of October 2012.

4.5. Regional, national, or thematic priorities for the implementation of the 2012-2013 GBIF Work Programme

Identified above

5. Any other relevant agreements and decisions (please add as many rows as necessary)


Agreements / decisions	Main contact / responsible	Relevant dates	Comments
A second regional representative was identified to stand in when the regional representative is unable to attend to formal business	Hulda Gideon elected as Vice Chair	Immediate	
2 nd Vice Chair	Pierre Radji	Immediate	
Compilation of a list of training events happening in the Nodes (Current)	Innocent Akampurira	31 August 2012	
Identify African Nodes training needs/requirements including post-graduate research which will inform the training plan	Innocent Akampurira	Dec 2012/Jan 2013	Training needs survey will be distributed next year by GBIF – thus Innocent and Alberto & Melianie to engage to avoid duplication
Develop ToR for the Science Committee	Jean Ganglo	31 August 2012	
TanBIF to drive the HoD/regional meeting at GBIF 19	Hulda Gideon		Pending approval of HoD
Identification of data use cases to demonstrate the value of GBIF mediated data	Russell Galt	July 2013	
Development of ToR for Africa Coordinator, and appointment	Selwyn Willoughby	November 2012	
Development of business case for GBIF-Africa work	Drivers: Selwyn Willoughby, Olaf Banki, Hulda Gideon, Fatima Parker-Allie, Russell Galt, Baba Ainina	A framework to be developed by the end of October 2012	

6. Financial report

The regional meeting was organized by ARCOS with support from GBIF core funding. Participant support was provided by ARCOS (staff time plus financial support for the region) and SANBI/SABIF (staff travel).

3rd GBIF AFRICA REGIONAL NODES MEETING 17th - 18th July 2012
FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Budget line	Requested funds to GBIF	Requested funds to GBIF	Expenditure	Expenditure	Variance	Variance
	(\$)	(Euros)	(\$)	(Euros)	(\$)	(Euros)
Travel	18,659	14,006.01	17,708.75	13,292.73	950.24	713.28
Accommodation	3,600	2,702.27	3,806.78	2,857.48	-206.78	-155.21
Meeting logistics						
o Venue	2,900	2,176.83	2,095.87	1,573.22	804.13	603.60
o Meals (lunches) and refreshments	2,500	1,876.58	3,090.87	2,320.10	-590.87	-443.52
o Local transport	240	180.15	0	0	240	180.15
Meeting materials	150	112.59	358.18	268.86	-208.18	-156.27
Others						
Sub Total	28,049	21,054.42	27,060.45	20,312.39	988.55	742.03
Administrative overhead (10%)						
TOTAL	28,049	21,054.42	27,060.45	20,312.39	988.55	742.03
Comments / annotations on budget						
Travel costs Includes Air tickets and Visas for all delegates as well as cancellation charges all totaling to					13,392.73	
Accommodation and meals includes delegate dinners and workshop meals served					5,177.58	
Venue costs include translators and Hall /venue hire					1,573.22	
Meeting Materials includes workshop stationary .badges and Banner					268.47	
Total						
Exchange Rate	1	Euro = \$ = 1.332214273				20,312.39

Signed By 
 Bbaale Josephine
 Finance & Administration Manager ARCOS
 Email finadmin@arcosnetwork.org/bbaalejosephine@yahoo.com

7. Annexes

7.1. Final list of participants

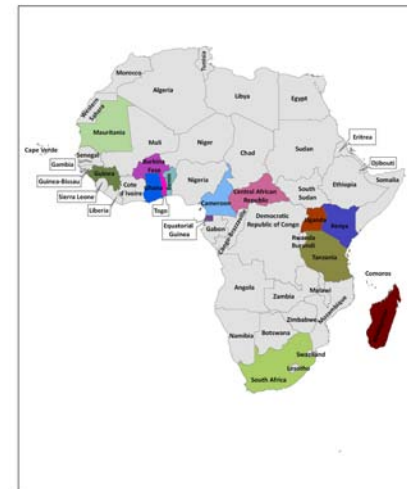
#	Country	Organisation	Participant	Apology Notes
1	Benin	Université d'Abomey-Calavi	Ganglo Cossi Jean	
2	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso BIF	Louis Blanc Traoré	
3	Cameroon	National Herbarium Cameroon	Gaston Achoundong	Did not attend, passport problems
4	Central African Republic	GBIF Centrafrique	Denis Beina	Unable to attend family commitments Report presented by Melianie Raymond
5	Congo	CERVE, Herbar National, Brazzaville Congo	Emile Kami	Did not attend, no feedback
6	Denmark	GBIF Secretariat	Olaf Banki	
7	Denmark	GBIF Secretariat	Melianie Raymond	
8	Equatorial Guinea	Director de Formacion Y Desarrollo De Recursos Humanos	Jose Nguema Oyana	Did not attend, no feedback
9	Ghana	University of Ghana	Alex Asase	
10	Guinea	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable	Saïdou Doumbouya	
11	Kenya	ARCOS	Josephine Bbaale	
12	Kenya	ARCOS	Zachary Kimutai Maritim	
13	Kenya	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	Sarah Simons	Did not attend, no feedback
14	Kenya	ICIPE	Fabian Haas	
15	Kenya	KENBIF	Francis Oguya	
16	Madagascar	Centre National de Recherches sur l'Environnement	Jaona Ranaivo	
17	Mauritania	Mauritanian Biodiversity Information Facility	Baba Anina Ould Moulaye Mohamed	
18	Morocco	Morocco BIF	Said Belcadi	Did not attend, no feedback
19	Rwanda	CGIS/NUR	Gaspard Rwanyiziri	
20	Rwanda	CGIS/NUR	Mazimpaka Jean Damascene	
21	Burundi	INECN	Aline Njebalikanuye	
22	Rwanda	NUR Tropic Conservation	Apurir William	
23	Rwanda	DG Science, Technology and Research	Dr Marie Christine GASINGIRWA	
24	South Africa	BioNET-SAFRINET	Mariette Truter	Unable to attend
25	South Africa	EWT	Harriet Davies-Mostert	
26	South Africa	ICLEI	Russell Galt	
27	South Africa	SABIF	Fatima Parker-Allie	
28	South Africa	SANBI	Brenda Daly	
29	South Africa	SABIF	Hyleen Ferguson	
30	South Africa	SANBI	Selwyn Willoughby	
31	Tanzania	TANBIF	Hulda Gideon	
32	Togo	Université de Lomé	Pierre Raoufou Radji	
33	Uganda	UGABIF	Innocent Akampurira	

7.2. Final version of the agenda

3rd GBIF Africa Regional Meeting

Purpose of meeting

- Review current status of the Nodes -highlights, achievements and challenges
- Report on Progress with the implementation of the African Regional Action Plan
 - Feedback from group leaders
- Progress with the African Coordinating Mechanism
- Determine the way forward with the Action Plan
- prepare for GBIF 19 including side event



Tuesday, 17th July 2012
 Chez Lando Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Time	Session Title	Speaker(S) /Facilitator (F)
08:00 – 08:30	Registration – arrival coffee/tea	
08:30 - 08:35	Welcome	Dr. Sam Kanyamibwa
08:35 – 08:45	Welcome address and opening remarks by host country	Dr. Rose – DG Rwanda Environmental Management Authority REMA (TBD)
08:45 – 09:00	Setting the scene GBIF overview on the regional engagement process currently underway Background and contextualisation of the GBIF –Africa Regionalisation Strategy	Olaf Banki Fatima Parker-Allie
09:00 – 09:10	Feedback from the Mid-term Copenhagen meeting	Ms. Fatima Parker-Allie
09:10 - 09:20	Feedback from Science Committee Meeting in Copenhagen	Prof. Jean Ganglo
09:20	Nodes Feedback on highlights and achievements Benin	
09:30	Burkina Faso	
09:40	Cameroon	
09:50	Central African Republic	
10:00	Congo	
10:10	Equatorial Guinea	
10:20	Ghana	
10:30 – 10:50	Tea/Coffee	
10:50	Nodes Feedback on highlights and achievements continues Guinea	
11:00	Kenya	
11:10	Madagascar	
11:20	Mauritania	
11:30	South Africa	
11:40	Tanzania	
11:50	Togo	

12:00	Uganda	
12:10	ARCOS	
12:20	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	
12:30	EWT	
12:30 – 13.10	Lunch	
13:10	ICIPE	
13:20	ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability	
13:30	Products developed by the region e.g. Checklists by Tanzania	Nodes Input: Facilitator: Zac Maritim
13:40-14:00	Plenary session to distil issues emanating from the Node Managers presentation.	Participants: Facilitator: Selwyn /Fatima
	Implementing the Africa Regional Action Plan - Focus on Progress with the 3 priority areas of the Africa Action Plan	Facilitator: Selwyn
14:00 – 15:00	Strategic input into development of Key Areas: (1) Capacity Development (2) Data Mobilization strategy and action plan (3) Regional Engagement	Innocent Akampurira Russel Galt Fatima Parker-Allie
15:00-15:30	Group discussion on the priority areas and way forward	All
15:30	Meeting Close	
15:30 – 18:00	A visit to the Genocide Memorial Site in Gisozi	All
18:00	Dinner	

Wednesday, 18th July 2012
Chez Lando Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Time	Session Title	Speaker(S) /Facilitator (F)
8.30- 9:00	Registration – arrival coffee/tea	
09:00 – 11:30	Next steps and way ahead with implementing the Africa Regional Action Plan Discussion on the Biodiversity Informatics Science Focus and the GBIC Outlook	Selwyn Willoughby (F)
11:30 – 11:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:45 – 12:30	Next steps and way ahead with implementing the Africa Regional Action Plan Group Session Outcome: Alignment with GBIF WP, to advance the implementation and uptake of the GBIF Work Programme within the region	Selwyn Willoughby (F) All
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 15:00	Way forward with Africa Regional Action Plan Identification of mechanisms to improve the regional coordination, communication, collaboration and participation Including discussion on : TDWG, Node-to Node Interaction, Mentoring, JRS proposal (Selwyn) – could also be discussed under regional engagement Establishing thematic nodes Should the region engage in the mobilization of a thematic focus group? New areas suggested by the NSG Data Repatriation	Fatima Parker-Allie (F) All Node Managers
15:00 – 15.15	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:15 – 15:30	Challenges in Contributing to the Regional Work Plan	All
15:30 – 15:45	Outstanding items raised at the mid-term NSG meeting, for discussion Key outcomes of the meeting and Priorities for the GBIF19 including inputs for the side meeting	Fatima Parker-Allie
15:45 – 16:00	Closing	Chair/ARCOS
16:00	Meeting Close – Tea/Coffee	

7.3. Regional Nodes meeting documents and presentations

Will be uploaded in the regionalization component on the SABIF website - www.sabif.ac.za

7.4. Photos / PR materials



Group Photo of the 3rd GBIF-Africa regional meeting



Meeting deliberations



Participants visit the Genocide Memorial in Rwanda