Agenda of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} workshop of the JRS-funded project, 
\textbf{Mobilizing Africa’s Biodiversity Data} 

1 July 2014 in Cotonou, Benin

\textbf{Objectives:}

1. Update participants and review progress in implementing the project;
2. Design a training programme to address identified capacity needs;
3. Explore fundraising and partnership opportunities to advance the project aims;
4. Develop the business case for mobilizing data in thematic priority areas;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Agenda Items</th>
<th>Time Allocated</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome, introductions and approval of the agenda</td>
<td>9h00-09h30</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Project recap and review of implementation progress. Q&amp;A</td>
<td>09h30-10h15</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tea/coffee break</td>
<td>10h15-10h45</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Designing a training programme and academic curricula</td>
<td>10h45-12h30</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12h30-13h30</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Brainstorming the business case</td>
<td>13h30-14h30</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tea/coffee break</td>
<td>14h30-15h00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>UNEP-WCMC’s plans for biodiversity informatics in Africa</td>
<td>15h00-15h20</td>
<td>UNEP-WCMC (Nadine Bowles-Newark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fundraising and partnership opportunities</td>
<td>15h20-16h00</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Organizing a data-science-policy conference</td>
<td>16h00-17h005</td>
<td>SANBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Meeting close</td>
<td>17h00-17h15</td>
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Mobilizing Africa’s policy-relevant biodiversity data

3rd JRS project workshop
1 July 2014 in Cotonou, Benin
Russell Galt
Biodiversity data can help to address Africa’s policy conundrums

Biodiversity data is essential for effective policymaking
Data-science-policy value chain

1. Identify priority group
2. Data capture
3. Digitize
4. Data publishing
5. Data use via research
6. Knowledge generation
7. Policy making

→ Without data, convictions triumph over evidence
How much policy-relevant biodiversity data is currently accessible?

→ Strategic focus should be placed on mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity data
African policymakers need better data
Mobilizing Africa’s policy and decision-making relevant biodiversity data

Aims:

• **Develop an African strategy for data mobilization**
• **Enhance regional capacity in biodiversity informatics**
• **Strengthen regional engagement and collaboration**

**Donor:** JRS Biodiversity Foundation

**Timeframe:** October 2014 to March 2015 (18 months)

**Budget:** USD 250,000
Virtuous vs Vicious

Biodiversity data mobilization

Perceived by donors as good value for money

Clear policy-relevance and strategic value?

Yes

Perceived by donors as bad value for money

No

Outcomes

Strong support

Weak support

Virtuous cycle

Vicious cycle
Objectives

1. Define policy-relevant biodiversity data;
2. Conduct a gap analysis of priority data;
3. Identify key sources and repositories of data;
4. Enable data sharing (institutional arrangements);
5. Fashion on-line tools tailored to the African context;
6. Share lessons through training and academia.
Achievements to date

- Technical workshops organized;
- Expanded network;
- Webpages created;
- Toolkit for mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity data underway;
- Initiated setting of national priorities for data mobilization & mapping of institutional landscapes;
- Capacity constraints and training needs identified.
Achievements to date

✓ Technical workshops organized;
✓ Expanded network;
✓ Webpages created;
✓ Toolkit for mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity data underway;
✓ Initiated setting of national priorities for data mobilization & mapping of institutional landscapes;
✓ Capacity constraints and training needs identified.
Technical workshop & expanded network
Achievements to date

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Mobilizing Africa’s Biodiversity Data

Title: Mobilizing Africa’s policy and decision-making relevant biodiversity data
Donor: JRS Biodiversity Foundation
Grant size: USD 250,000
Duration: 18 months (October 2013 – March 2015)
Contact: Russell Galt (r.galt@sanbi.org.za)

Website established:
http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/
Achievements to date

✓ Technical workshops organized;
✓ Expanded network;
✓ Webpages created;
✓ Toolkit for mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity data underway;
✓ Initiated setting of national priorities for data mobilization & mapping of institutional landscapes;
✓ Capacity constraints and training needs identified.
Toolkit underway

Toolkit for mobilizing policy and decision-making relevant biodiversity data

Section A: Determining policy-relevant biodiversity data
Section B: Managing & disseminating biodiversity data
Section C: Academic curricular materials
Achievements to date

✓ Technical workshops organized;
✓ Expanded network;
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✓ Toolkit for mobilizing policy-relevant biodiversity data underway;
✓ Initiated setting of national priorities for data mobilization & mapping of institutional landscapes;
✓ Capacity constraints and training needs identified.
Setting priorities for data mobilization & mapping institutional landscapes

- Fishery data in Mauritania
- Aquatic biodiversity in Guinean Highlands
- Poached species in Botswana
- Mountain biodiversity products in Madagascar
- Medicinal plants in Tanzania
- Edible insects in Zimbabwe
- GMOs in Malawi
- Fisheries data in Mauritania
- Aquatic biodiversity in Guinean Highlands
- Poached species in Botswana
- Mountain biodiversity products in Madagascar
- Medicinal plants in Tanzania
- Edible insects in Zimbabwe
- GMOs in Malawi
Achievements to date

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• Constraints

Ownership concerns and weak incentives

Faulty systems & lack of data management skills

Insufficient financial & human resources; unfavorable government budgeting

No compensation for data sharing!

Poor communication & unclear rationale

The data is still in analogue form
I need help with:
- Data management
- Data capture
- Data digitization
- Data quality
- Data publishing
- Data modeling

I require training on:
- Project management
- Communicating BI
- Scientific writing
- Proposal writing

We also need training on:
- Negotiation & diplomacy
- Lobbying for data sharing
- Stakeholder engagement
Planned activities

- Update toolkit in light of feedback;
- Report on national data priorities and key sources and repositories (institutional landscape);
- Meet with GBIF Science Committee in Benin;
- Fashion online tools for African context;
- Implement a training programme to alleviate identified capacity constraints;
- Create an online hub of useful materials;
- Organize data-science-policy conference in March 2015;
- Fundraise additional enabling resources.
Designing a training programme to accelerate data mobilization
Opportunities & solutions for capacity enhancement

**Technical**
- Data capture
- Data digitization
- Data quality
- Geo-referencing
- Data publishing
- Data modelling
- Data project management

**Social**
- Effective stakeholder engagement
- Communicating biodiversity
- Scientific writing
- Proposal writing
- Negotiation & diplomacy
- Lobbying for data sharing
1. Who is the target audience?
2. Are the training components appropriate and sufficient?
3. How should the contents of the training programme be elaborated?
4. Who should provide the training?
5. Which mediums and facilities?
6. At what scale?
7. How often?
Fatima to present training curriculum for biodiversity informatics

http://biodiversity-informatics-training.org/

8. What existing opportunities and materials could provide such training?
Opportunities & solutions for capacity enhancement

1. Who is the target audience?
2. Are the training components appropriate and sufficient? If not, what else should be included and why?
3. How should the contents of the training programme be elaborated?
4. Who should provide the training?
5. Which mediums and facilities should be used?
6. At what scale?
7. How often?
8. What existing opportunities and materials could provide such training?
Thematic priority data for Africa

- Threatened species (Lizanne)
- IAS (Hulda)
- Marine (Fatima)
- Medicinal (Vall)
- Insects (Gina)
- GMOs (Mbogga)
- Native & endemic (Faustin)
- Agro-biodiversity and forests (Saido)
- Wetlands & freshwater (Laurence)

1. Why is it relevant to Africa?
2. What is the rationale for its prioritization?
3. What African BI case studies demonstrate its value?
4. Why should donors fund this?
5. Anything else?
We need to mobilize GMO data, it’s really important!!

Why is it so important for Africa?
Why should I fund this?
Forests are essential for African prosperity!

Indeed, and so too is agro-biodiversity.
Project website: https://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org

Project Coordinator: Russell Galt (r.galt@sanbi.org.za)