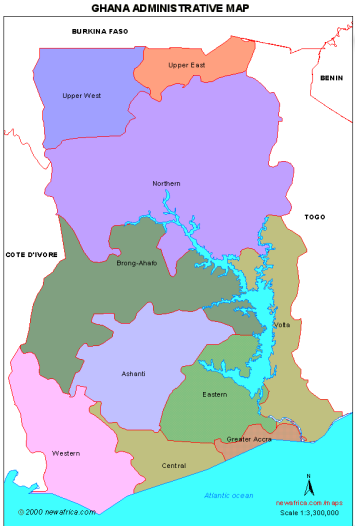


Building an effective biodiversity information network in Ghana: highlights of lessons and success stories



**Alex Asase
University of Ghana
Ghana Biodiversity Information Facility**



- Mediterranean North Africa
- Sahara-Sindian
- Sahel
- Sudan-Guinea Savanna
- Guinea-Congo Forests
- Lake Victoria Basin
- Afrotropical Highlands
- Somali-Masai
- East African Coast
- Zambezan
- Kalahari-Highveld
- Namib Karoo
- Fynbos
- West Coast Malagasy
- East Coast Malagasy

Contextualization

- Ghana is rich in biodiversity which is of immense importance for daily subsistence, health care and nutrition as well as for marketing and economic income.
- However, NBSAP of Ghana identified lack of accurate, up-to-date and information gap on the current status of biodiversity in the country as one of major constraints to sustainable development.
- Effective partnership formations with key stakeholders - academia, research institutions, government ministries, NGOs, individual scientists etc., was central for efficient mobilization and use of biodiversity information about Ghana.
- To address these concerns, a Ghana node of GBIF was formally establish in May 2009 after a series of stakeholder consultations and workshops. Ghana has since been an active member of the GBIF community.

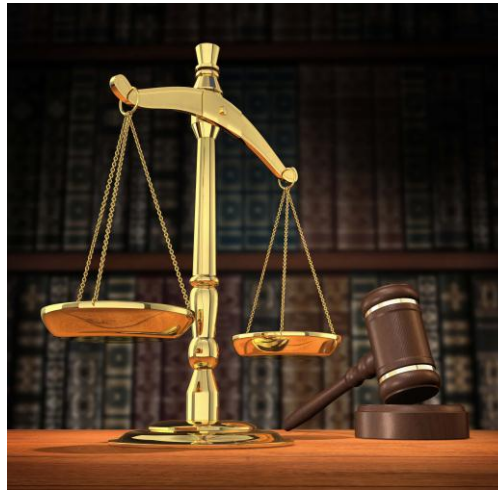
But there were challenges!



Capacity – human, infrastructure & technology



CHANGING THE CULTURE



Legal issues-IPR



Political support & diplomacy



Funds

Managing challenges

- Political support from Ministry of Environment
- Project grants (JRS Biodiversity Foundation)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) workshop
- Becoming a participant of GBIF
- Capacity development programs (GBIF mentoring grants)



Capacity building in IPR



Capacity building in digitization of herbarium specimens using BRAHMS

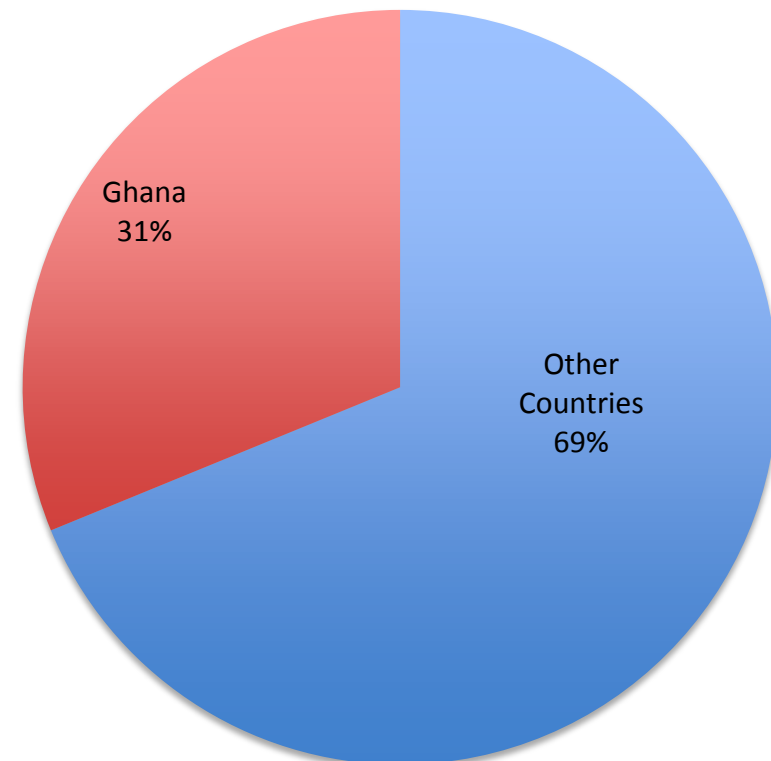
Data about Ghana on GBIF data portal

Data about Ghana on GBIF data portal

- A total of 342 occurrence datasets with 239,260 records.
- A total of 29 countries data about Ghana.

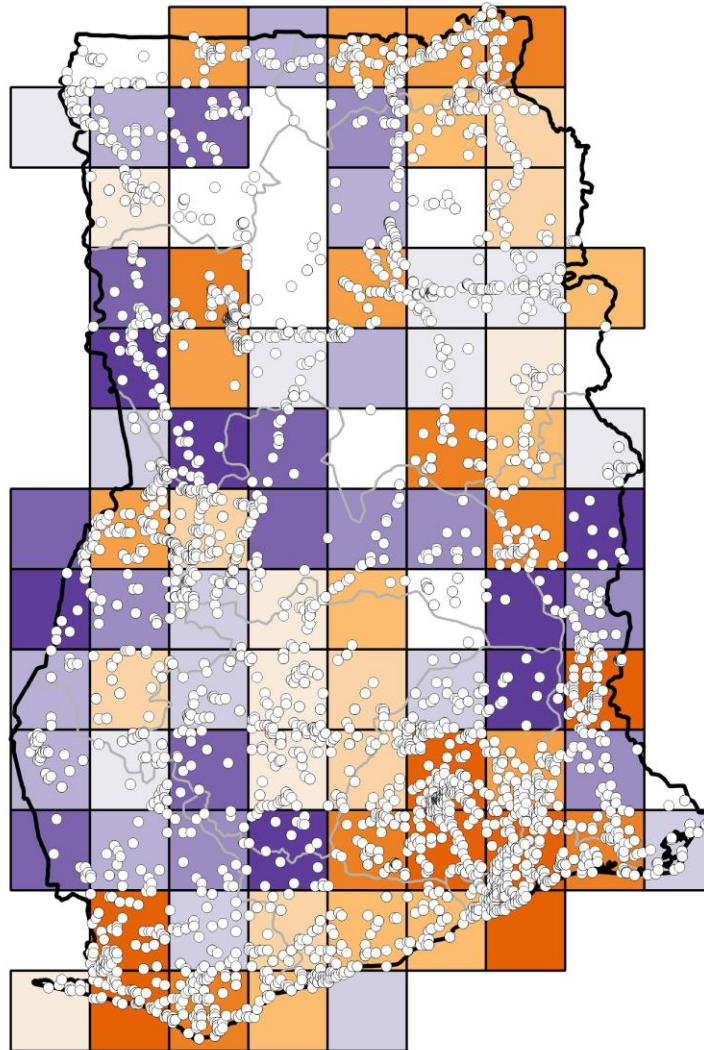
Data from Ghana on GBIF data portal

- Two occurrence datasets with 93,346 records
- Ghana publishes data covering 76 countries, territories and islands



Proportions of data records about Ghana from other countries and Ghana (Accessed 20 May 2015)

Assessing inventory completeness of Digital Accessible Knowledge (DAK) of the plants of Ghana



Legend

○ Working4

□ GHA_adm0

Working5

□ GHA_adm1

GridHalfDeg

0.0357 - 0.0895

0.0895 - 0.1237

0.1237 - 0.1768

0.1768 - 0.2005

0.2005 - 0.2343

0.2343 - 0.2663

0.2663 - 0.2975

0.2975 - 0.3156

0.3156 - 0.3498

0.3498 - 0.3769

0.3769 - 0.4736

0.4736 - 0.6287

Inventory Completeness

$$C = S_{obs} / S_{exp}$$

S_{obs} = observed species

S_{exp} = expected species

Merci

Thank you