

BUILDING IN-DEPTH CAPACITY IN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS

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INTRODUCTION

- Discovery and access to primary biodiversity data are critical components in ensuring informed decision-making on the sustainable use of biological resources and biodiversity conservation at all levels (Morris et al., 2013)
- Although plant specimen collections in Benin have accumulated since the 1780's (Akoegninou et al., 2006), their digitization and publication in the country began very recently (2010) in the framework of the activities of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) through GBIF – Benin (http://lis-02.snv.jussieu.fr/ipt_benin).



INTRODUCTION

- Actually 197 805 occurrence data are accessible on Benin's biodiversity through GBIF (www.gbif.org) and GBIF Benin (http://lis-02.snv.jussieu.fr/ipt_benin) portals
- More than 100,000 occurrence data were published by GBIF Benin over the past 3 years
- Efforts are still going on to achieve more so that to release more and more complete DAK on biodiversity of country



INTRODUCTION

- To allow science to use the data to achieve relevant products to inform decisions, resource management, strategies of biodiversity conservation of the country..., we greatly need capacitated research and teaching staff in BI
- Capacitated research and teaching staff in BI in Benin is a sine qua non condition to release and sustain the logic benefits of our efforts of mobilizing data
- This justify the utmost importance of in-depth capacity building in BI we are trying to promote in the country



APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL: IN-DEPTH CAPACITY BUILDING IN BI

- Curricula development for master and Ph. D programs in BI
 - Literature review
 - Partnership with universities and research institutions (KU, SANBI...)
- Administrative formalities for agreement and recognition



APPROACH TO ACHIEVE IN-DEPTH CAPACITY BUILDING IN BI

- Challenges to overcome
 - Lack of enough capacitated staff to implement the curricula of master and ph. D degrees in BI
 - Lack of resources



APPROACH TO ACHIEVE IN-DEPTH CAPACITY BUILDING IN BI

- Fund raising to support the programs
- Partnership development with universities and research institutions (KU, SANBI...)
- In-depth training in BI of Ph. D students abroad to reinforce the staff
- Programs' implementation through partnership (staff and students exchanges)



MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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