African Engagement Strategy

F. Parker-Allie
Biodiversity plays a critical role in sustainable development, provides vital ecosystem services and is one of our greatest regional assets.
We have seen a paradigm shift in Africa over the last 15 years.
Africa’s economic growth accelerated after 2000, making it the world’s third-fastest growing region.

Compound annual real GDP growth, 2000–08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Growth Rate, %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
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<td>World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developed economies</td>
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African annual real GDP, 2008

$ billion

SOURCE: International Monetary Fund; World Bank World Development Indicators; McKinsey Global Institute

World’s ten fastest-growing economies*

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<td>Angola</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>Chad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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</table>

Sources: The Economist; IMF

GDP growth, unweighted annual average, %

Asian countries

African countries

*Excluding countries with less than 10m population and Iraq and Afghanistan
†2010 estimate  ‡2010 forecast
Potential development flashpoints & important biodiversity areas

Map captures some potential flashpoints where there is spatial overlap of multiple sectors and cross-sectoral drivers of growth.

- The benefits of biodiversity are crucial to key economic sectors (i.e. forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, health and energy) and to providing solutions to sustainable development and poverty alleviation on the continent.
- The management of our natural assets and the information related to this are crucial. Ultimately, we cannot manage what we don’t measure.
Building capacity for ecosystem and biodiversity assessment in the Southern African region (NCAP)

Coordinator: Carol Poole                      Duration: 2014/15 – spending 2016/17
Partners: Madagascar, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho

Project has two main objectives:

• To develop **regional capacity** and initiate learning networks for **ecosystem and biodiversity assessment** in support of the IPBES program of work
• To use South Africa’s national assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems to **build capacity** in an upcoming cohort of promising **black early career scientists** from the region.

Outcomes:

• Learning Exchange about NBA’s and Ecosystem Classification Systems. 25-29 May 2015 (40 delegates, 11 countries)
• 2 MSc students funded (1 Moz, 1 SA)
• Mentors & student support for
• Updating of the Mammal Red List of SA, Swaziland and Lesotho
**Objective**

Digitization/imaging of African plant type specimens (2004-06)

- Staff members from the National and Compton Herbariums visited the Lubango Herbarium, Angola to provide support to API Project activities and assist in herbarium curation activities, also LMU (Eduardo Mondlane University) and LMA Herbaria (2010-2012) in Mozambique.

- Also to explore research collaborations

**Partners:** Mozambique, Angola

**Funded:** Mellon Foundation, Founding KEW

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**Southern African Botanical Diversity Network (SABONET)**

**Objective**

- Develop a strong core of professional botanists, taxonomists and plant diversity specialists in **10 countries of Southern Africa**, competent to inventory, monitor, evaluate and conserve the diversity of the region, in response to the needs of the CBD.

- SABONET enabled staff of botanical institutes to share expertise and skills with one another

**Partners:** Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, SA, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Funding:** GEF/UNDP,

**Co-funded** – USAID/IUCN ROSA
Support the IUCN Species Survival Commission to improve the conservation status and sustainable use of wild chameleons

Red List Authority (RLA) - Focal Point: Kristal Tolley

Scope: Continental

Objectives:
- Chameleon conservation
  - Status of all chameleon species for the IUCN Red List,
  - Assess, through the Red List Authority for Chameleons, updates to IUCN the Red List

- Chameleon management
  - Support CITES, at national and international levels, in chameleon-related issues

- Chameleon habitat conservation and management

- Dissemination and communication

- Partnership and advocacy
  - Work with governments, research institutions, conservation organizations and local communities to develop and implement effective conservation measures

Duration: since 2010
South Africa has made considerable progress in the field of biodiversity informatics, not least by joining GBIF and publishing over 11 million primary biodiversity records.

In collaboration with the DST and DEA, SANBI has exercised leadership by galvanizing a broader African community of practice to share lessons, strategize and collaborate in mobilising biodiversity data.

SANBI has convened several GBIF Africa Regional Meetings since 2009

Hosted the landmark 2015 Africa Rising Conference (as an outcome of the JRS funded “Mobilizing Africa’s Policy Relevant Data”)

Initiated the collaborative development of a biodiversity informatics curriculum

Led specialist training sessions across the continent.

SANBI has been requested to lead, and act as the Convener of the Regional Biodiversity Informatics Africa Coordinating Mechanism (from 2016 onwards)
Members of GBIF-Africa during their side-meeting held at Amanzi Sea Fennazak Hotel, Madagascar on this date of 7th October 2015, Node Managers hereby agree as a Communique as an initiative to establish the African Coordinating Mechanism (ACM)

We, the undersigned agree on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>GBIF Node</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Benin</td>
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<td>Hilda Gideon</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Joana Mallamo</td>
<td>joana_g@ yahoo.fr</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Node Managers not present in Madagascar on this date of 7th October 2015, but agree that South Africa takes a leadership role in establishing the ACM

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2. Central African Republic | Denis Beina | d_beina@yahoo.fr | signature |
3. Malawi         | Lyson John Kampera | lkampira@ncol.mw | signature |
4. ICLEI          | Georgina Avlonitis | georgina.avlonitis@iclei.org | signature |
5. EWT            | Lizanne Roxburgh | lizanier@ewt.org | signature |
6. Republic of Congo | Emile Kami | emile.kami@yahoo.fr | signature |
At GBIF 16 (2009) the governing board endorsed the recommendation to have a series of regional meetings with the aim of improving the coordination of activities between the country nodes and the secretariat as well as to support collaboration amongst nodes at a regional level.

It was identified that an African Coordinating Mechanism (ACM) is required, which is the ultimate Vision for a Formal Regional Structure for biodiversity information management on the continent.

Through the ACM, the African Nodes strive to become the data-science interface for this mega-diverse continent, in support of the implementation of the Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.
MISSION OF GBIF AFRICA

• To facilitate GBIF Nodes to be the **focal point** for BI coordination and dissemination, in support of national, regional and international biodiversity obligations by providing **BI infrastructure for sharing and use of biodiversity data and information**.
• To develop a biodiversity informatics **research agenda**.
• To contribute to **training and capacity development** for promoting global access to biodiversity data and to enhance the BI capacity and technical skills base of developing countries.
• To generate relevant knowledge from biodiversity data that supports the **science–policy** interface.
• To advance **strategic partnerships** with national, regional and global biodiversity initiatives.
• GBIF Africa has shown a continued increase in collaboration and coordination, capacity enhancement, data discovery and publishing, mostly driven by the GBIF mentoring program, the Sud Expert Plantes, various projects supported by the JRS and national governmental funding.
• Currently, 14 239 663 records on African biodiversity are accessible through the GBIF.
• Curricula has been developed (SA, Benin) and stronger global networks in BI developed.
• A number of countries including SA, Ghana, Rwanda and Benin are looking at developing **Centres for BI**
• West African Consortium (Benin, Ghana, Cameroon & Togo), with 5 major global herbaria (Europe and North America) – “**Capture of primary biodiversity data on West African plants**”
2014 – 10 countries had published data via GBIF, through Tapir/IPT, some are serving data through portals in other regions.
By 2015 12 countries have published data and 4 published species checklists
Scope of Data

Data Published from Africa

- Animals: 79%
- Plants: 21%
- Specimens: 23%
- Observations: 76%

Data Published from other regions about Africa

- Plants: 24%
- Animals: 70%
- Specimens: 49%
- Observations: 39%
- Unknown: 12%
Mobilizing Africa’s Policy Relevant Data

Project Coordinator: Russel Galt

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

• Project developed to initiate the ACM with a key achievement of bringing a regional coordinator on board.

• Objectives: Develop a strategy for mobilising Africa’s policy-relevant biodiversity data while strengthening regional collaboration and capacity in biodiversity informatics.

• Outcomes - Toolkit developed

1 year 10 months (Oct. 2013 to Aug. 2015)
To capacitate and incentivise African countries to mobilise biodiversity data in support of sustainable development.

To this end, the project shall: enhance capacity of the 3 countries to manage and share biodiversity data by:

• Providing an intensive tailor-made training programme;
• Establish cohesive and productive national networks by organising BIMF’s
• Compiling national data mobilisation roadmaps;
• strengthen incentives for data publishing, by way of a well-publicised competition;
• increase the volume of data published by African institutions;
• and heighten awareness of the benefits of biodiversity data through a communications campaign.

Budget: $ 250,000 * 2yrs
Objectives:

i) Raise awareness of biodiversity data for sustainable development

ii) Showcase relevant tools, resources & learning networks

iii) Compile regional plan of action & proclaim a declaration
Developing a Plan of Action
PoA contained objectives and priority actions nested under the following four goals:

- **Evidence-based decision-making** is supported by coordinated **science-policy dialogue** within and outside of the biodiversity sector.
- **Capacity building** across the value chain of data/information, to empower stakeholders to produce and make accessible accurate biodiversity data for sustainable development.
- **Mobilise** and make openly accessible relevant biodiversity **data** to support education, research and decision making for sustainable development.
- **Leverage sustained funding**
Available at:

Launch of... BID Biodiversity Information for Development
• €3.9 m programme funded by the European Union and led by GBIF with the aim of increasing the amount of biodiversity information available in the ‘ACP’ nations of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

• €900,000 in grants planned (2015)

• Three categories
  • National grants ≤ €60,000 per consortium
  • Consortium grants ≤ €20,000 per partner
  • Small grants ≤ €5,000

• 143 concept notes from 34 countries
Purpose
• Current Initiatives
• Background
• Policy Context
• Implementation Plan including:
  • Priority Areas for SANBI
  • Objectives
  • Key actions/activities
  • Budget