

South African National Biodiversity Institute - GBIF
SANBI-GBIF Website Platform

Program: Hosted portal - Pilot

Status: Concept Note Submitted

Status

Concept Note Submitted

Submission Requirements and Status

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 24 November 2020, 11:00pm UTC.

Portal Instructions

- **Save often.** Note that the portal does not auto-save, so we advise you to save the draft often, using the button **Save and continue** in the bottom right. The draft will remain open for further editing.
- If you wish to save the draft for later completion, click on **Save and close**. When you return to the GBIF grants portal, you will find the draft under **Pending Requests**. You can then continue to **Edit** it
- You must **Submit** your draft before the deadline. Note that once submitted, you can no longer **Edit** your draft
- You can **print** a copy of this form by first selecting the **Save and close** button (if in **Edit** mode) at the bottom right, then select the **Print** icon at the top right. This generates a **PDF** that you can **print or share with collaborators**. See FAQ
- The Primary Contact will receive an email confirming submission

I am a GBIF Node manager:

Yes

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Lead Organization

GBIF Participant node

Instructions

Applications must be submitted by a GBIF Node Manager.

GBIF Node: South African National Biodiversity Institute - GBIF

GBIF Node - Country: South Africa

Primary Contact: Fatima Parker-Allie

Primary Contact email: F.Parker@sanbi.org.za

Alternative contact:

Please indicate which GBIF Participant node you are representing or are affiliated to.

GBIF Participant node: South Africa

Please provide a name for your proposed hosted portal

Hosted portal name: SANBI-GBIF Website Platform

Partners

Dr. Zingfa Wala - Sol Plaatje University

Node Represented/Relationship to the node: Post Doctoral Researcher

Country: South Africa

Email: zingfawala@gmail.com

Role: Promoting the Portal in the Biodiversity Data Science Curriculum material and course being developed

Partner confirmed?: Yes

Andrew Mckechnie - University of Pretoria

Node Represented/Relationship to the node: Collaborator

Country: South Africa

Email: aemckechnie@zoology.up.ac.za

Role: Collaborator - Vectors of Disease

Partner confirmed?: Yes

Wendy Foden - SANPARKS

Node Represented/Relationship to the node: Collaborator (potential data partner)

Country: South Africa

Email: Wendy.Foden@sanparks.org

Role: Collaborator - Vectors of Disease

Partner confirmed?: No

Team and Roles

Participating in the pilot phase will require commitments to work actively with the Secretariat, including:

- establishing the portal
- considering the styling and branding
- updating the written content and any translations
- encouraging ongoing data mobilization
- promoting the portal to a community of users
- monitoring and evaluating the portal's use

From your listed team of partners, please describe how you will distribute the work if selected. *[max. 1,500 characters]*

Establishing the Portal - Fatima Parker-Allie

Styling and Branding - SANBI marketing

Updating content - Node Manager and additional staff member

Encouraging Ongoing mobilisation - Fatima Parker-Allie, Morne du Plessis

Promoting portal - Fatima Parker-Allie, Dr. Zingfa Wala,

Monitoring the use - Fatima Parker-Allie

Description of the data scope for the proposed pilot portal

Briefly describe the scope of the occurrence data that you would like to display on a GBIF hosted portal, including the geographic, taxonomic and temporal scope or other parameters. Note that hosted portals can currently only display occurrence records that are already shared on GBIF.org and organized to the GBIF backbone taxonomy. *[max. 1,500 characters]*

I would like to have all the occurrence records published by the South African institutions available on GBIF.org, reflected in the hosted portal. There are currently 13 data publishers listed for South Africa. With regards to scope, this includes all historic records and will likely extend the boundaries of the country. As engagement efforts with stakeholders continue, in the arena of 1. data mobilisation, 2. filling of data and knowledge gaps and 3. use; relevant data mobilised will all be uploaded into the IPT and published to GBIF.

SANBI has recently made a decision to look into the aspect of vectors of disease, and SANBI-GBIF will support the mobilisation and use of this data. Some work has already been ongoing through efforts of the National Zoological Garden which has amalgamated with SANBI, as well as the University of Pretoria (Zoology Department). SANBI-GBIF will look at this research, as well as other use cases and will then also engage the relevant South African community in this regard. SANBI-GBIF is also looking at Next Generation Sequencing Data and converting this to foundational data formats and publishing this data.

Approximately how many datasets and records currently available from GBIF.org meet this scope? Include links as appropriate. *[max. 1,800 characters]*

The current number of occurrences is - 28 151 022 records for South Africa.

https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/search?publishing_country=ZA&advanced=1

103 datasets have been published on GBIF.org

Rationale and user community

Hosted portal - Needs

Briefly describe the main need you have identified for the hosted portal. Please also indicate when this need has arisen and whether it is time sensitive in any way, such as whether there are any timelines you would need to keep with regards to the deployment, promotion and ongoing use of the pilot portal. *[max. 1,800 characters]*

The SANBI-GBIF Node has been in operation for over a decade. While the Node had an independent portal and website, this was not maintained, due to capacity constraints. The data served by what was the SABIF portal before was replaced by the botanical system and data of the institution, and not a system which serves the South African published data. At the institutional level, a complex integrated system is planned which will support various forms of data, but this systems development is still ongoing. The Node itself requires a website as a communication tool with stakeholders, which is important for the Node efforts to remain visible. While other programmatic data initiatives exists, the Node itself also needs to have a structured, visible and branded way forward, so as to have an online platform to engage the South African community. This includes efforts around human capital development, regional efforts/engagements, eLearning and news and events.

Recent discussions with SANBI executives has included discussions on coordinating the community around vectors of disease. Thus the sooner we can begin efforts on the portal, we can use this as an additional vehicle to demonstrate the concepts of data publication, free and open access to data and the use of data that can also inform policy and decision making.

Existing or first website?

Would this hosted portal be replacing an existing website or would it be the first website of this scope? If the portal is replacing an existing website, please provide a link if available and explain why you think a hosted portal would be a better solution. *[max. 1,000 characters]*

In the early stages of the Node, SABIF had a website and dedicated developer support. This support was not maintained however. There were also security issues and it was decided to include the SABIF website content into the Biodiversity Advisor (<http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/>). This was not an ideal solution as the components of the initiative/Node subsequently became subsumed, and located on different pages and the identity of the SANBI-GBIF Node was not sufficiently retained. Also some of the training information/content was not migrated and was lost. The components such as regional efforts, training and programme information are all scattered on biodiversity advisor. Also, there was little capacity to support updates.

Currently, we wish to renew efforts to establish a more structured, comprehensive and alive website presence for the SANBI-GBIF Node.

User group

Have you identified a group of users for the portal?
How would you describe their needs?

Please also explain how you have identified the user group and their needs. *[max. 1,500 characters]*

The Portal is intended to serve the South African Community broadly, and will be used as a tool to demonstrate data mobilisation, publication and use. It will be used to support the Human Capital Development efforts of the Node to grow the field of biodiversity informatics, thus aligning to the GBIF Work Programme efforts as well. It will therefore be promoted and used in the training programmes which is conducted by the Node as well as in the development of our course materials and with Universities.

There is no comprehensive portal/website that brings all the South African Data Published to GBIF together, except the GBIF Integrated publishing toolkit. Currently, this is used as an example of the data being published, however for the Node a more visible portal is needed, which includes the narrative related to the Node, as well as its activities and strategy. Other programmes which fund data mobilisation such as the FBIP, make the data sets available individually as a list, and is based on programmatic delivery. No portal however, displays the data comprehensively, like what is available on the data page, in the GBIF hosted portal demos.

Expected impact of hosted portal

Please explain why you think a GBIF hosted portal would be the right solution for your node or community. *[max. 1.500 characters]*

Currently, there is no website that supports the efforts of the SANBI-GBIF Node comprehensively, and in a holistic manner that makes efforts of the Node clear. Some narrative is scattered across the institutional biodiversity advisor, as well as content being available on the GBIF Spain eLearning platform and the IPT. Also, it would be easier to be able to manage the narrative of the website, rather than rely on institutional capacity, which is not always available.

The hosted portal will bring together the narrative of the Node, the activities, the potential outputs, the current highlights, opportunities and the data. It will serve as a means of communication specific to the Node activities. Currently, such a system does not exist for the South African Node of GBIF.

Data mobilization plan for the pilot phase

Describe your expectations for data that will be mobilized during the pilot phase (December 2020-December 2021) *[max characters: 1,500]*

SANBI has a data publication target of approximately 50 000 occurrence records per annum. These will feed into the portal as records are published through the IPT. SANBI-GBIF will further engage the community to discuss data mobilisation and use related to vectors of human disease. It is not clear with regards to additional numbers at this stage.

If there are specific datasets that you expect to be included for mobilization in the pilot phase, please list them below using **the + icon to input each expected dataset**

Click the Save button at the bottom right of your screen after entering each dataset.
To remove an entry, hover your mouse on the left-hand side of the entry for the red minus sign icon to appear.

Commitments

Written content

Briefly describe the scope of written content you anticipate sharing on the hosted portal, including how often you anticipate updating the content. [max characters: 1,000]

About the Node (content to be updated) - <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/online-biodiversity-data/sabif-3/> and the GBIF Work Programme - Strategic aspects and how the community can be involved.

Human Capital Development efforts including Training

Regional Engagement Efforts - including the SANBI-GBIF developed SANBI regional strategy and Africa Coordinating Mechanism work

News and events - as new activities in the SA Node arise or related to GBIF news and events

Will be updated as required.

Styling and branding

Does the community that will use the hosted portal already identify with a logo/brand? If so please provide a link.

GBIF can provide a basic theme for your portal if needed.

logo: **Yes**

URL/Link: **<https://www.sanbi.org/>**

Hosted portal languages

Note that for languages other than English, you will be expected to provide the translations. [max characters: 1,000]

Main language of the hosted portal: **English**

Other languages will be available in the portal: **No**

Monitoring and evaluation

We expect that participants in the hosted portal pilot phase will assist with providing feedback on their experiences with the GBIF hosted portals.

Please briefly describe how you plan to monitor and evaluate the success of your hosted portal pilot. *[max characters: 1,500]*

Evaluate user statistics on a monthly basis and especially after relevant events where the portal will be promoted

Future plans

If the pilot phase is successful, please outline any plans to maintain the hosted portal beyond the pilot phase. *[max characters: 1,500]*

We will engage the SANBI Marketing department regarding hosting the portal

Optional document section

If you refer to any documents in your submission, you can upload them here. This is not mandatory.

DOCUMENTS



website_concept_GBIF_EOI.pptx

Annex 1: Grant Request and Budget PDF

Added by Fatima Parker-Allie at 11:51 AM on 18 November 2020

