

Mentoring Madagascar (MadBIF) – GBIF France FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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1. Executive summary

We present the achievements realised during the mentoring between MadBIF and GBIF France. We planned these activities to allow the transfer of information, technology, experience and best practices between these two nodes. The idea was also to raise awareness of GBIF's stakes in Madagascar, especially with the GB22 taking place in Madagascar in 2015.

As expected, we organised the first meeting between the GBIF France and MadBIF teams from 10 to 12 June 2015 at the [Centre National de Recherches sur l'Environnement](#) (CNRE) in Antananarivo, followed by a week of awareness raising and training on quality, publication and use of biodiversity data, bringing together stakeholders in Madagascar's biodiversity in Antananarivo from 15 to 18 June 2015 (<http://www.gbif.fr/content/formation-sur-la-qualite-utilisation-et-la-publication-des-donnees-sur-la-biodiversite>).

The results of these activities are:

- The launch of the new MadBIF website (<http://madbif.mg/>) during the MadBIF symposium (just before the GB22)
- New data publishers from Madagascar endorsed (<http://www.gbif.org/country/MG/publishers>)
- New datasets published to GBIF by [Ecole doctorale de biodiversité et Environnements Tropicaux de l'université de Toliara](#).

Following the project agenda, 2 other workshops were organised at the regional level in Madagascar in April 2016: one at the University of Toamasina and another in Antananarivo.



2. Contact information

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Role(s) in this project	Mentor node

3. Project summary

We planned these mentoring activities between Madagascar and France to allow the transfer of information, technology, experience and best practices between these two nodes. The idea was also to raise awareness of GBIF's stakes in Madagascar, especially with the GB22 taking place in Madagascar in 2015.

This report describes the results achieved during the project.

Referring to the monitoring and evaluation plans of the original project proposal, we can say that the project successfully met its objectives. For example, the MadBIF website is now online and new data publishers from Madagascar published data to the GBIF portal.

3.1. Activities completed

As expected and according to the defined calendar by the two nodes, GBIF France went to Antananarivo for ten days in June 2015 (10-19 June).

During the first 3 days of the training in Madagascar, Marie-Elise Lecoq from GBIF France helped the Madagascar IT team to install and configure its own website in order to release a version for the GB22. She also trained them to use it (add pages, add a design, etc.). The website is now maintained and updated by the Madagascar node. It was launched during the MadBIF symposium (7 October 2015) and can be found at <http://madbif.mg/>. It should be noted that the operation and the maintenance of this site are currently insured by the Malagasy GBIF node that is also responsible for the purchase of this hosting name.

A general presentation of GBIF's stakes, objectives, methodology, tools, achievements, and perspectives took place the 15 of June 2015 to an audience of stakeholders, Node staff, data holders and primary data users from different Madagascar institutions. We presented the two GBIF nodes, the accessibility of the primary data, GBIF tools and the use of the GBIF portal.



Then, we organised three days of technical training for the node staff and some key data holders on GBIF standards, tools, data publishing to the GBIF portal, data quality and data uses, taking a “training of trainers” approach. There were around 30 participants from at least 10 institutions. Besides the organization of the planned activities in Madagascar, the team of Malagasy GBIF node took part of the animation of all meetings.

The program and all the presentations made during these sessions can be found here: <http://www.gbif.fr/content/formation-sur-la-qualite-lutilisation-et-la-publication-des-donnees-sur-la-biodiversite>
<http://madbif.mg/content/mentoring-gbif-france-madbif-10-18-juin-2015>

Following these events, eight new data publishers were endorsed for Madagascar and they are currently working on the publishing of new data sets. Remote support has continued since the training and two new datasets from [Ecole doctorale de biodiversité et Environnements Tropicaux de l'université de Toliara](#) are already accessible through the GBIF portal. And the Madagascar node stayed in touch with the participants and continues to help them when needed. Unfortunately, we forgot to provide an evaluation form at the end of this first workshop, but the feedback was generally positive.

In March/April 2016, two other technical training sessions were organized in Madagascar. The first one took place in Tamatave (Toamasina) from the 31st of March to the 1st of April 2016 and was hosted by the ISSEDD laboratory at the University of Toamasina. The second one took place in Antananarivo from the 4th to 5th of April 2016. The trip Antananarivo – Toamasina – Antananarivo for the two GBIF nodes teams was supported by the Malagasy GBIF node and the two technical training sessions were organized in collaboration with local institutions (University of Toamasina and Centre d'Information et de Documentation Scientifique et Technique CIDST).

Like the training we did in June 2015, both trainings were focused on GBIF standards, tools, data publishing to the GBIF portal, data quality and data uses, following a “training of trainers” approach. There were around 25 participants in each training event from at least 8 institutions. It was been planned that these participants subsequently provide training for their colleagues in order to increase both the visibility of GBIF and the number of datasets published in future.

The program and all the presentations made during these sessions can be found here:

<http://www.gbif.fr/content/formation-madbif-gbif-france-du-31-mars-au-05-avril-2016-madagascar>

Following these events, two new datasets from the Ecole doctorale de biodiversité et Environnements tropicaux de l'université de Toliara were successfully published (<http://www.gbif.org/dataset/9142fb42-44fa-458c-b0aa-2041b1fd617c> ; <http://www.gbif.org/dataset/4da0200f-66d3-4442-a71c-1a9461c86e87>), and many participants (including Toliara and Toamasina universities representatives) indicated they were determined to use the GBIF tools and standards for recording and sharing their own or their student's field work. Remote support by GBIF France and MadBIF teams will continue after these last trainings in order to endorse new data providers, publish new datasets and possibly publish some data papers.



An evaluation form was handed at the end of the two training sessions and their analysis is currently done by the MadBIF team.

3.2. Ongoing and post-project activities

The Madagascar IPT is hosted on the servers of GBIF France but they are managed by the Madagascar team. GBIF France will continue to host this in the future as needed. As mentioned above, the MadBIF website is now hosted on the server of itworks (<http://madbif.mg/>) and is managed by GBIF Madagascar.

Remote support by GBIF France and MadBIF teams will continue after these last trainings in order to endorse new data providers, publish new datasets and possibly publish some data papers.

4. Project objectives

The aim of this capacity building project was to strengthen the collaboration between GBIF Madagascar (MadBIF) and GBIF France established by the SEP CEPDEC program (2008-2012). This collaboration will enable MadBIF to receive guidance and technical support from GBIF France in order to implement a better data mobilization strategy, to mobilize and publish new data using the tools developed by GBIF and following data quality best practices.

The aim was also to raise awareness on GBIF's stakes in Madagascar and in the region, especially in 2015 with the GB22 taking place in Madagascar.

The language of the mentoring was French to allow easier interactions between nodes staff, potential data providers and stakeholders.

By the end of the project (June 2016), the aim was that new datasets would have been identified and connected and a new web site will allow a better communication in the region.

GBIF Participant represented	Name and role of the representative	Role of the Participant in the project	Confirmed participation?
GBIF Madagascar	Félicitée REJO-FIENENA Head of Delegation rejo_felicite@yahoo.fr	Mentee GBIF Node	yes
GBIF Madagascar	Jaona Ranaivo Node Manager	Mentee GBIF Node	yes
GBIF Madagascar	Dr RAMANANKIERANA Heriniaina	Mentee GBIF Node	yes
GBIF France	Eric Chenin Head of delegation	Mentor node	yes



GBIF France	Marie-Elise Lecoq (IT engineer)	Mentor node	yes
GBIF France	Sophie Pamerlon (data engineer)	Mentor node	yes

Statement of capacity needs:

MadBIF activities have considerably grown during the collaboration between the CNRE (MadBIF) and GBIF France during SEP-CEPDEC program. This collaboration provided computer equipment and knowledge to certain groups of Malagasy institutions / scientists which allowed them to contribute to MadBIF activities. These groups of institutions / scientists had also been trained on data recovery during workshops organised by the MadBIF and GBIF. At that time, prioritization was given to botanical data.

While these groups have continued to work with the nodal point of MadBIF, there are some issues that needs to be discussed about the current situation of MadBIF activities. Indeed, the current data made available to GBIF through MadBIF does not really reflect the richness of Madagascar in biodiversity. In addition, these data are mainly concentrated on plants and some animal groups, and only cover a part of the territory of Madagascar.

Bringing the dynamism back to MadBIF team and the mobilization of different actors working in the field of biodiversity in Madagascar is an urgent necessity.

The objectives are (1) to mobilize groups of institutions / Scientifics who are representatives of the territory of Madagascar and disciplines in biodiversity (special mention will be given to actors working in the fields of marine biology, microorganisms and other disciplines not yet enrolled in MadBIF data), (2) to support policy makers of the Big Island to integrate conservation / enhancement of biodiversity in country strategic policies and (3) to strengthen the capacity of MadBIF team in Bioinformatics and data management and to insure team's mobilization.

Objectives:

1. Training the Node staff and data holders on GBIF standards, tools, data connection to the GBIF portal, data quality and data uses.
2. Promoting best practices on data digitalization
3. Mobilizing data providers, metadata and data on biodiversity
4. New national website
5. Contribution to reinforce the national biodiversity information network and rise collaboration in the region (Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius...)

5. Project deliverables

1. The Node staff and potential data holders have been trained => meeting with the Madagascan node and 3 workshops organised: see the numbers of participants in the various workshops and their institutions in annex.
2. New metadata and data sets are connected to the GBIF Portal at the end of the mentoring (first ones for the GB22) => at least 10 new data publishers are endorsed by Madagascar and are willing to publish data sets in the GBIF portal. The last published data sets are: Census of tapia forest plant species in central highland of Madagascar, Inventaire des poissons de la lagune

d'Ambavarano/Fort dauphin et Espèces végétales sur sable roux du fourré de Ranobe, PK 32 Toliara

3. The Biodiversity information national network is reinforced;
4. The new website is available since the GB22 and is still working : <http://madbif.mg/>
5. Presentation of the work done during an international workshop on marine turtles in 2015
6. Contact between Comorian researcher at the Centre National de Documentation et de Recherche Scientifique (CNDRS) and MadBIF team was established toward the end of the project. A perspective on the uploading of data sets on the biodiversity of Comorian islands was discussed.

Project communications

The launch of the MadBIF website will help to communicate on the activities in Madagascar: <http://madbif.mg/>.

The GBIF community, especially the francophone one, can reuse all the presentations made during the workshops:

<http://www.gbif.fr/content/formation-sur-la-qualite-lutilisation-et-la-publication-des-donnees-sur-la-biodiversite>

<http://www.gbif.fr/content/formation-madbif-gbif-france-du-31-mars-au-05-avril-2016-madagascar>

The videos of the workshops have been included in the e-learning platform of GBIF France: <http://formation.gbif.fr/browse.php>. Available to trainers, these materials will be used for internal workshop in different research institution in Madagascar.

6. Evaluation: findings and conclusions

This mentoring provides concrete and great results: new web site and new data publishers connected to GBIF.

And the organisation of the three workshops allowed us to reach new data publishers and stakeholders. The Madagascan trainers acquired experience and they were able to manage more parts of the later workshops than they could in the first one, which shows a good transfer of capacity to the MadBIF node.

All the available communication tools combined with the knowledge of participants which will be valued at their institution will increase the number of datasets published in the future.

We will continue to exchange best practices and support. And the MadBIF is still looking at the evaluation forms filled in at the end of the april workshops.



7. Recommendations and lessons learned

We (Madagascar and France) think that this mentoring was really useful and efficient. It developed strong collaborations between us.

As the language of the mentoring is French, it allowed easier interactions between nodes staff, potential data providers and stakeholders. And lots of interactions and discussions took place, not only between the node managers but also with all the people working on the nodes, especially at IT level, which is really interesting.

This has been a very productive, very enjoyable project that has reinforced the link between our two nodes.

8. Future plans

We will continue to work together around the BID project and we are talking about possible interactions around the celebration of francophone speaking week.

9. Signature of the project main contact point

Signed on behalf of the project partners

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Archambeau". The signature is written over a horizontal line and has a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Annexe:

Projet « Mentoring MadBIF – France GBIF »

Formation sur le formatage des données sur la biodiversité

15 au 18 juin 2015, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Participants list

1. ANDRIAHARIMALALA Tahiana
2. ANDRIAMANALINA Anjara
3. ANDRIANJOHANY Solange
4. FIDIARISOAVONINARIVO Salomon
5. FIENENA Lucien



6. JAORAVO Marcellin
7. MANASINA Ruffin
8. MANDIMBY Andriamitsiry
9. MAURICE Zeldo Kerla
10. RABARIVOLA Linah
11. RABEARIVONY Jeanneney
12. RABERANTO Rodin
13. RAHARIJAONA Nivoniaina F.
14. RAKOTOARINJANAHARY Henri
15. RAMANANDRAISOA Voahangy Lalao
16. RAMANANKIERANA Heriniaina
17. RAMASIARISOA Pierrette
18. RAMINOSOA Tantely
19. RANAIVO Jaona
20. RANAIVOSOA Toandro Sitraka
21. RANDRIAMBANONA Herizo
22. RANDRIANARIVELO Clairemont
23. RANDRIANJOHANY EMILE
24. RANJALAHY Hary
25. RASAMOELINA Patrick
26. RATIANARIVO Haja
27. RAVAOARISOA Soloniaina
28. RAZAFIMAHAIMODISON Jean Claude
29. RAZAFIMALALA Herisoa
30. RAZAFIMPAHANANA Dimby
31. TOTONDRABESA C. Christian
32. TSIAVAHANANAHARY Tsaralaza Jorlin
33. ZAONARIVELO Jonh R.

Formation sur le formatage des données sur la biodiversité

31 March to 1 April, Toamasina, Madagascar

Participants list

N°	Noms et prénoms	Organisme/Institution
1	Caviere fabien	GBIF FRANCE
2	Pamerlon Sophie	GBIF FRANCE
3	RAMANANKIERANA Heriniaina	Mad BIF
4	VAVITSARA Marie Elodie	Univ Mahajanga

5	JEAN FRANÇOIS Rasolofo Niaina Fidy	MFG
6	Rambeloson Jean Christian	MFG
7	RANAIVO Jaona	CNRE
8	RANDRIAMBANONA Herizo	CNRE
9	Andriamarimanana Hery Tahina	CNRE
10	RAJAONARIVELO Mamy Nirina	CNRO
11	FIDIARISOAVONINARIVO Salomon	Université de Toliara
12	YOUSOUF Jacky	Universite de Toliara
13	RAKOTOMAVO Andriamparany	ISSEDD
14	MIASA Eustache	ISSEDD
15	MOMA Landry	ISSEDD
16	MAVINTA Jean Christian	ISSEDD
17	RAKOTOASIMBOLA Armand Todisoa	ISSEDD
18	Solo Noe rene	ISSEDD
19	Rasolontiavina Nadié Eleonore	ISSEDD
20	Herinandrasana Mihanta	ISSEDD
21	Miasa Rija Tsirinantso	ISSEDD
22	Nahavita tsara Rasoanomenjanahary Elisah	ISSEDD
23	Maurice zeldo	ISSEDD
24	Laimijay judicael	ISSEDD
25	Indriamarika Edain Dumarco	ISSEDD
26	LELAKA Roela	ISSEDD
27	BEMIASA John	IHSM



Formation sur le formatage des données sur la biodiversité

4 to 5 April, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Participants list

N°	Nom et Prénoms	Institution
1	ANDRIAMANALINA Anjara	WWF
2	RAZAFIMAHAIMODISON Jean Claude	Centre ValBio Ranomafana
3	ANDRIANJOHANY Solange	Univ Toliara
4	FIDIARISOAVONINARIVO Salomon	Univ Toliara
5	RAMASIARISOA Pierette	CNRE
6	RABEARIVONY Jeanneney	UNA/Fac Sciences
7	JAORAVO Marcellin	UNA/Fac Sciences
8	RAHARIJAONA Nivoniaina	CIDST
9	RAMANANDRAISOA Voahangy Lalao	PBZT
10	RAVAOARISOA Soloniaina	PBZT
11	RANDRIANARIVELO Clermont	ISTE/Univ Fianarantsoa
12	RABERANTO Rodin	ISTE/Univ Fianarantsoa
13	MANDIMBY Andriamitsiry	Univ Fianarantsoa
14	RAZAFIMPAHANANA Dimby	WCS/REBIOMA
15	RAZAFIMALALA Herisoa	DGRS/MESUPRES
16	RAKOTOARINJANAHARY Henri	CNRE
17	BAOHANTA Rondro Harinisainana	CNRE