

Call for volunteer mentors for the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme

A. Introduction

The GBIF Secretariat invites individuals with experience in biodiversity data mobilization, management and use, and national and regional biodiversity information facilities to participate in mentoring and networking activities for the [Biodiversity Information for Development \(BID\)](#) programme. Becoming a BID mentor is an opportunity to collaborate with the growing community of scientists, institutions, and networks involved in the mobilization and use of biodiversity data, and to participate in events in some of the most biodiversity-rich areas of the world.

Mentors play a key role in the BID programme by contributing their expertise to the community that supports the implementation of the [projects funded through the programme](#). BID is a multi-year, €3.9 million programme funded by the European Union and led by GBIF with the aim of increasing the amount of biodiversity information available for use in scientific research and policy making in the 'ACP' nations of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The mentors contribute to capacity enhancement through the BID programme by providing remote and on-site support to project teams, participating in training events, and by interacting with other mentors.

B. Scope of mentoring activities

Responsibilities of mentors

Your **main role** as a mentor is to provide remote and/or on-site support to the teams implementing the projects funded through the BID programme.

Examples of remote (online) assistance:

- Helping to answer questions and directing project participants to further information and resources, using a mailing list or over conference calls
- Providing hands-on support for data management and publishing issues, including checking the quality of published datasets
- Providing feedback on plans, agendas or resources linked to training activities organized by the project teams
- Reviewing draft mid-term and final narrative reports prepared by grantees ahead of their submission to the GBIF Secretariat

Examples of on-site mentoring visits:

- Providing hands-on training involving the project team to address major issues that could not be solved through remote assistance
- Attending national meetings and engaging with key stakeholders
- Acting as trainers and BID/GBIF representatives in national or regional training events

Other responsibilities include:

- Joining the mailing lists established to support project teams and to interact with fellow mentors
- Maintaining a relevant profile that will be displayed on the BID website to enable other members of the community to contact you
- Documenting the support provided so as to make it as reusable as possible by others in the community, for example by using mailing lists and making training materials available online
- Respecting common online etiquette and following suggestions from the GBIF Secretariat as appropriate

Benefits for mentors

- All **your contributions will be acknowledged** in the resources produced and on the GBIF and BID websites as appropriate. We will use Mozilla Open Badges to recognize your contributions as a mentor, which you can use outside of the BID community if you wish.
- You will have the opportunity to **collaborate with other biodiversity informatics experts from around the world** through networking opportunities with the project teams and the other mentors.
- You may have **opportunities to travel** to make targeted mentoring visits, provide training or **represent GBIF and BID at relevant meetings**, and with costs covered through the BID programme. You will be required to make a separate application for travel support together with the grantee concerned.
- You will have opportunities to participate in both remote and face-to-face **training** to strengthen your skills in topics related to biodiversity informatics and capacity development.

The GBIF Secretariat will review the success of this expanded mentoring programme and expects to introduce additional models to support effective mentoring in the months to come.

C. Expression of interest

Please express your interest by using this [online form](#). Applications are welcome for the duration of the implementation phase of the BID programme, until 30 June 2019. In completing the form, you will be required to provide your contact information, identify your areas of expertise and provide short motivation statement for becoming a BID mentor.

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by the GBIF Secretariat as soon as possible and usually within the two weeks of submitting the online form. Secretariat staff may get back to you for further information if necessary. Once approved, you will be invited to attend a remote session on being a BID mentor, in which you will receive all the information you need to get started.

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