



ACP Science and Technology Programme II

AFS/2013/329-240

WIKWIO Project Weed Identification and Knowledge in the Western Indian Ocean

Mission at the French Institute of Pondicherry
November 16-26 2015 – Pondicherry - India



Thomas Le Bourgeois - Cirad



Mission calendar

16/11/2015		Arrival at Pondicherry
17/11/2015	IFP Workshop	Wikwio annual report
18/11/2015	Event	Participation to the 60 th anniversary of IFP
19-20/11/201	IFP Workshop	Wikwio bugs and features of the portal
23/04/2014	IFP Workshop	Wikwio financial report of IFP
24-26/11/2014	IFP Workshop	Preparation of new projects Wikma for Africa Mimalc for Latin America and Caribbean
26/11/2015		Departure

Mission synthesis

WIKWIO aims to strengthen science and technology orientation to achieving food security by enhancing agricultural productivity in the Southern African region. Agricultural productivity is hampered by many factors, one important among them being weeds. WIKWIO aims to build and leverage a Science & Technology network which will consolidate existing scientific knowledge and facilitate sharing of new information on weeds and effective management practices for food and cash crops of the Western Indian Ocean region.

This mission of Thomas Le Bourgeois (project coordinator) from Cirad at IFP had several objectives:

1. Analyzing with IFP development team the bugs and new features to be fixed and implemented on the portal.

All remaining bugs were analyzed and described precisely in order to facilitate their fixing. New features to be implemented during the next months were discussed and detailed. The most important ones are:

- Implementing an illustrated glossary for technical terms used in species pages, in order to facilitate understanding by users. A first version will be implemented soon from a table prepared by TLB with terms, illustrations and definitions. A second version will be implemented later with hypertext links automatically managed in the texts of the species pages.
- Featuring a new filtering process for species pages and observations according to life cycle, biological type and habitat of species. Those three criteria are already used in IDAO.
- Developing a new dynamical IDAO system by integrating character traits in the species pages, to be filled in by users. So that the IDAO system would be linked to the species database of the portal and could evolve dynamically in terms of characters and list of species.

2. Preparing the narrative report for the second year of the project.

The narrative report of the second year of the project has been partially prepared in collaboration. The financial part will be completed as soon as the global financial report will be consolidated at the Cirad level.

3. Preparing the financial report of IFP for year 2.

We prepared and checked with the General Secretary of IFP the financial report of IFP for the year 2.

4. Preparing with Ifp team and other partner like J. Prosperi from Cirad new proposals for the future of Wikwio.

The project Wikwio is ending by November 2016. Thus we are preparing new proposals in order to get new grants to be able to pursue this action. Two opportunities are very interesting:

- During the third technical workshop in Comoros, both the Weed Officer of FAO and the Permanent Resident of PNUD and UNS in Comoros suggested to extend the project Wikwio to Western, Central and Austral Africa. We have prepared a concept note for a project WIKMA (Weed Identification and Knowledge in support to weed Management in Africa). This project will be jointly carried with FAO and submitted to FIDA during the year 2016. A first list of potential new African partners was elaborated.
- As a response to the call for proposal of EuropeAid/150248/DH/ACT/ ALC we prepared a concept note for an extension of the project Wikwio to Latin America and Caribs. MIMALC (Manejo Integrado de Malezas en América Latina y el Caribe) This project is coordinated by J. Prosperi from Cirad – AMAP. We also get contact with potential partners in this area (Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago) . The project should be completed and submitted by 20 of January 2016.

5. Participating to the 60th anniversary of IFP.

I participated to the sixtieth anniversary of IFP. All activities of IFP in human sciences and ecology were presented as well as regional and international cooperation. Among these activities, the project Wikwio has been cited as part of activities of ICT tools development devoted to biodiversity and regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean (cf Poster in Appendix).

Conclusions

This mission was very fruitful for the project Wikwio in terms of coordination, and reporting for the second year. It facilitated the work with the IT development team and has set targets for the improvement of the ICT tools.

It was also very efficient to prepare the proposals of new projects which correspond to an extension of the project Wikwio to Africa and Latin America.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Dr. P. Grard and the whole team of IFP involved in the WIKWIO project for their welcome at Pondicherry and the quality of the work we have had together.

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Appendix 1: Poster of IFP anniversary on ICT tools development

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS

Biodiversity informatics consists in using information technology for organizing, accessing, visualizing and analyzing primary biodiversity data. Products include free software, web and mobile applications that easily gather information, and provide, facilitate and enable widespread participation by all citizens in contributing to and accessing biodiversity information.

India Biodiversity Portal (IBP)

- Provides information on a wide range of species including plants, birds, mammals, fishes, amphibians and reptiles.
- Serves as a platform for everyone to contribute to biodiversity information (e.g. through posting pictures).

Users play a vital role in enriching the information on biodiversity!



Observations entered by users, identified and approved by experts



Visualization of species collection with geo-referential points



Integrated interface with species images and information, maps, documents, group forums, etc

<http://indiabiodiversity.org/>
<http://thewesternghats.in/>



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60
1955 - 2015



GEOMATICS
ECOLOGY

Weed Identification Knowledge in the Western Indian Ocean – (WIKWIO)

Wikwio aims to assimilate weed knowledge through its participatory portal to build and strengthen a science and technology network of stake holders such as scientists, extension officers and farmers in the Southern African Region and Western Indian Ocean.

<http://portal.wikwio.org/>



Android Apps of India Biodiversity Portal and Wikwio

Wikwio IDAO App on Smartphone



Species Identification Systems

The concept of using graphics for species identification, IDAO (IDentification Assistée par Ordinateur) helps to overcome the learning barriers in traditional taxonomy. This tool allows one to easily identify the species with simple characteristics.



Different types of fruits for user selection



Users can select characteristics to identify the species

1 species at 100%
Number of species matching characteristics



Result of selected species with images and description



Projects

- Evergreen trees of the Western Ghats (BIOTIK)
- Identification of weeds from the Indo-Gangetic Plains (OSCAR).

Fundings:



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



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