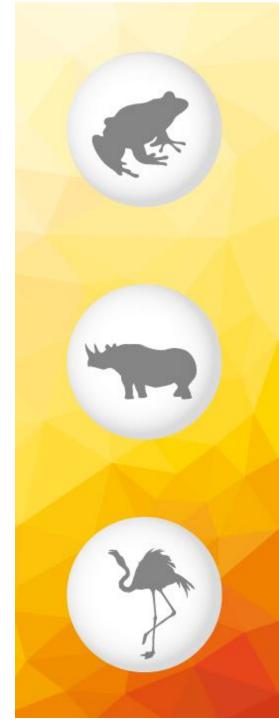
Using apps for biodiversity data collection





Why use mobile apps?

- It saves time there is no need to transcribe data from paper to a digital format
- It reduces errors there are no transcription errors while entering data into a computer
- Data can be formatted correctly from the start – which means that limited/ no data cleaning is needed
- It is possible to collect digital media with each record (e.g. photographs, video and sound recordings, GPS coordinates, etc)



Software to use for app creation

Free options:

- ODK (Open Data Kit)
- KoBo Toolbox

Commercial options:

- Survey123 (part of the ArcGIS suite of software)
- All are based on XLSforms (www.xlsform.org)



Steps to creating an app

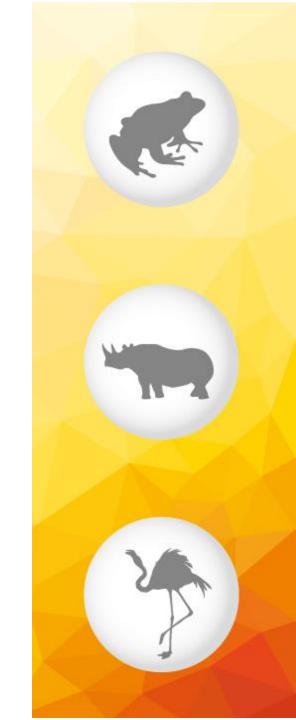
- 1) Designing the form
- 2) Previewing the form
- 3) Editing the form
- 4) Previewing the form
- 5) Deploying or publishing the form
- 6) Loading the form onto a mobile device
- 7) Collecting data
- 8) Getting the data from the form onto your computer for analysis



Exercises in KoBo Toolbox

In the next set of exercises, we will:

- 1) Develop and deploy a simple app
- Collect data (from a web browser or Android device), view data and download data into Excel
- 3) Import an xlsform to create an app



Things to remember when designing a data collection app

Make it smart

- ➤ Don't treat a mobile app like an electronic piece of paper consider what features of using an electronic device can you harness for data collection e.g., relevance, drop-downs, default settings, logical flow, etc
- Use the features of your phone e.g. GPS capture, photos, audio recordings, videos, to enhance the data

Testing, testing ...

Repeatedly test your app. A poorly designed app won't save you time and may frustrate you, and you'll default back to using paper



Data collection app exercise

file: FBIP_Exercise_KoboToolbox.pdf

