

The mission of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is to facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data worldwide via the Internet to underpin sustainable development. Priorities, with an emphasis on promoting participation and working through partners, include mobilising biodiversity data, developing protocols and standards to ensure scientific integrity and interoperability, building an informatics architecture to allow the interlinking of diverse data types from disparate sources, promoting capacity building and catalysing development of analytical tools for improved decision-making.

CALLS FOR ACTION AND PARTICIPATION

Call for Nominations for the GBIF Metadata Implementation Framework Task Group (MIFTG)

The current design of the GBIF data portal is focused on mobilising and making directly accessible primary species occurrence data delivered as Darwin Core or ABCD. [[read more...](#)]

Call for Nominations for the GBIF Task Group on a Data Publishing Framework

For meaningful forecasting and sustainable use of biotic resources, a large volume of 'fit-for-use' primary biodiversity data is essential. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Secretariat seeks Technical Writer

The GBIF Secretariat seeks an external contractor to play a key role in the documentation process of the software tools developed by the Secretariat. Deadline for application is 27 February. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF commissions Task Group on Content Needs Assessment

GBIF has constituted a Task Group on Content Needs Assessment to assess the needs for biodiversity data for multi-varied analysis, identify the gaps in biodiversity data presently accessible through GBIF, and make recommendations on data mobilisation strategies to bridge the gap between data needs and data access. [[read more...](#)]

Call for Participation in the Public Review of Proposed Natural Collections Description Metadata Standard

Natural Collections Description (NCD) is a proposed metadata standard for describing collections of natural history materials at the collection level: one NCD record will describe one entire collection. [[read more...](#)]

Harvard Museum first to pledge funds to support GBIF's 'Global Strategy and Action Plan for mobilisation of Natural History Collections data'

GBIF's 'Global Strategy and Action Plan for mobilisation of Natural History Collections data (GSAP-NHC)' received a major boost through a pledge of USD 5000 by the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ). [[read more...](#)]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

GBIF and Fishbase collaborate on Fish Names evaluation

A contract was signed on 20 January with the Fishbase Information and Research Group to perform an evaluation of scientific names purported to be fishes within the GBIF data portal. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF and Landcare Research, NZ, collaborate on nomenclatural database

A contract was signed on 20 January with Landcare Research in New Zealand to develop a pilot implementation of a cross-code nomenclatural database. [[read more...](#)]

Specimen and specimen image Data Management System developed by GBIFS and the Zoology Museum, Copenhagen

David Remsen of the GBIF Secretariat has helped develop a data management system for the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen for cataloging specimens and specimen images that will be used to support the digitisation of Tanzanian specimens, in support of TanBIF.

TOOLS & SERVICES

Development of GBIF's Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT)

Development of the Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) is on-track and beta testing is underway with 46+ users already testing the software. A public test installation is available for all to use (<http://ipt.gbif.org>) or the software may be hosted locally. [[read more...](#)]

PARTICIPATION

New GBIF Voting Participant

GBIF welcomes Uruguay as a new Voting Participant. [[read more...](#)]

For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Translation of GBIF publications

The Secretariat encourages all Participants to inform us if any GBIF publications and key documents have been translated into your national language. GBIF will put links to these documents on the GBIF website. Please contact anmnielsen@gbif.org.

See list of current publications and translations [here](#).

GBIF Participant Newsletters

If you as a GBIF Participant would like GBIF to list your electronic newsletter on the GBIF website, we would be happy to do so. Please contact anmnielsen@gbif.org.

Paper submitted for Systema Naturae 250

David Remsen of the GBIF Secretariat submitted a paper for inclusion in the publication of Systema Naturae 250, a compilation of presentations made at the SN 250 symposium in Paris, August 2008.

Paper published December 2008

A paper, *Actual usage of biological nomenclature and its implications for data integrators; a national, regional and global perspective*, by Charles Hussey, Yde de Jong and David Remsen was published in ZooTaxa in December 2008. Read the paper [here](#).

SECRETARIAT NEWS

New Financial Officer at GBIF Secretariat

The GBIF Secretariat is pleased to welcome Bo Thorsteinsson as our new Financial Officer as of 1 January 2009. [[read more...](#)]

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