



free and open access to biodiversity data

Calculation of the financial contribution

The basic financial contribution for a new Voting Participant is determined by its GDP and the year in which it becomes a Voting Participant.

The World Bank web site, www.worldbank.org, provides the latest GDP information for all countries.

To calculate the basic financial contribution for the year in which the country is to become a Voting Participant, and subsequent years, multiply the GDP (stated in billions of USD) by a multiplier, as shown here:

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Multiplier	121.00	139.15	153.48	166.22	177.36

The result is the unadjusted financial contribution, in EUR, for the years indicated.

Allowable adjustments to the calculated contribution:

- The minimum contribution for any country is 500 EUR per year.
- For the first year of its participation in GBIF, a new Voting Participant may acquire voting rights by making a contribution of at least one half of the suggested amount, as long as the contribution is 500 EUR or more. Contributions for subsequent years must be at the full level in order to retain voting rights.
- Countries whose *per capita* GDP is less than 10,000 EUR may contribute 50% of the calculated amount, as long as the contribution is not less than the 500 EUR minimum.

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INFORMATION
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How to become a GBIF Participant

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How to Become a GBIF Participant

GBIF is established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among its Participants. The duration of the current MOU, a non-binding inter-governmental document, is five years, until 2011.

According to the MOU a **Participant** is:

A country, economy, inter-governmental or international organisation (or an entity designated by them), that has signed this MOU and has expressed its intention to observe the provisions herein.*

Two Modes of Participation in GBIF

Voting -- *Countries* that are willing to observe the provisions of the MOU and have decided to make a financial contribution to GBIF. These Participants thereby have voting rights in the GBIF Governing Board as well as other advantages.

Associate -- Either *countries* that are not yet making financial contributions to GBIF, or *international or inter-governmental organisations or economies* that are willing to observe the provisions in the MOU.

- Associate Participants may take part in the deliberations of the Governing Board, but may not vote.
- Associate Participant Countries are encouraged to move to the Voting category as soon as possible, and thereby gain the advantages of that status.
- Organisations are not eligible to become Voting Participants.

Regardless of Voting or Associate status, every Participant agrees to:

- share biodiversity data through GBIF under a common set of technical standards, and follow the Intellectual Property Rights principles outlined in Paragraph 8 of the MOU;
- maintain a GBIF Node or network of Nodes that will organise and/or provide access to biodiversity data, or to data and metadata standards, software tools or other services to enhance the GBIF network;
- participate actively in the formulation and implementation of GBIF Strategic Plans and Work Programmes;
- as appropriate, make other investments in biodiversity information infrastructure and in capacity-building; and
- as appropriate, contribute to training and capacity development for promoting global access to biodiversity data, including implementing specific programs to enhance the biodiversity informatics capacity and technical skills base of developing countries.

Application for Participation in GBIF

Voting status

1. The appropriate government agency of any country that would like to join GBIF as a Voting Participant should send an official Letter of Intent to the Chair of the GBIF Governing Board in care of the Secretariat (address overleaf). The letter should express the intention to sign the MOU and to make a financial contribution to the core funding of GBIF according to the formula laid out in the MOU (see overleaf).
2. If the requirements are met as outlined in the MOU and the GBIF Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee of the Governing Board will approve the petition, and the Chair will inform the country of its official status as a Voting Participant.

Associate status

1. Any country, economy or relevant inter-governmental or international organisation that wishes to become an Associate Participant in GBIF should send an official Letter of Intent to the Chair of the Governing Board in care of the Secretariat (address overleaf). The letter should express the wish to sign, and willingness to observe the provisions of, the MOU.
2. The Executive Committee of the GBIF Governing Board will consider the petition, and if it accepts it, and a signed MOU has been received by the Secretariat, the Chair will inform the petitioner of its official status as an Associate Participant.

* A Participant may designate an entity to take part in the operation of GBIF and to act for the Participant in such matters as the Participant chooses to delegate to it.

