GBits

GBIF Newsletter

No. 2 - December 2007

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.

NEWS

GBIF sets goal of mobilising 1 billion records by end of 2008

Having proven the concept of a worldwide, distributed biodiversity data network via its new data portal, GBIF is moving to increase global biodiversity data coverage by an order of magnitude. *[Read story ...]*

Canada invests in data network that will help achieve the 1 billion record goal

Success in achieving GBIF's goals depends on each Participant making investments in projects that meet their own needs and at the same time contribute to the aims of GBIF. *[Read story...]*

GBIF Data Portal being improved to handle millions more records

Several important new features will appear in the coming months as the Portal's handling of hundreds of millions of records becomes reality. *[Read story...]*

GBIF formally accepted as a Participant organisation in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Executive Secretary Nick King represented GBIF at the GEO Plenary in Cape Town, South Africa, at which GBIF was formally accepted as a Participant in GEO. *[Read story ...]*

GBIF seeks a highly experienced Training Officer

The GBIF Secretariat seeks an experienced Training Officer (TO) to lead the development and implementation of training activities across the GBIF network. Closing date for applications is 16 January 2008. *[Read story ...]*

GBIF Governing Board adopts recommendation on information exchange

In keeping with the Recommendation on Open Access adopted in 2006, the GBIF Governing Board has issued a recommendation on Exchange of Information among countries. *[Read story ...]*

2007 GBIF Science Symposium presentations

The Programme and presentations are available as PDF files from the GBIF "Symposia & Workshops" link on the website. *[Read story ...]*

Moore-funded TDWG/GBIF Project a success

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded nearly USD 1.5 million to GBIF and TDWG in May 2005 to run a 30-month project to modernise TDWG as a standards development organisation for biodiversity informatics. The grant was intended to strengthen TDWG as a standards-development organisation for biodiversity informatics. *[Read story ...]*

TOOLS & SERVICES

The Crop Wild Relatives Global Portal

The two GBIF Participants, Nordic Gene Bank and Bioversity International, have through their Nodes joined forces to develop a portal that uses the GBIF central web services to link names and specimen and observation records served through GBIF with other data resources important for the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives. To explore this useful resource, please visit: http://cwrint.grinfo.net/index.php?page=welcome

Use of GBIF data and web services

As is intended, GBIF data are being incorporated into web portal developments by other people and organisations. Examples include:

- iSpecies (try *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Achillea millefolium* or type in the species of your choice.
- The Carex Factsheets: As examples, try *Carex aurea*, *Carex mitchelliana* or click on another species name in the index.

EVENTS

GBIF-ES to host a workshop on digital imaging

The Spanish GBIF Node will host a workshop on digital imaging which will be held at the Royal Botanic Garden, Madrid, 12 - 14 December 2007. Languages of the workshop will be Spanish and Portuguese. Instructors will include Sidnei de Souza (CRIA, Brazil), Arturo H. Ariño (Univ. Navarra, Spain), David Galicia (Univ. Navarra, Spain), Silvia Lusa (GBIF Spain) and Francisco Pando (GBIF Spain). *[More information ...]*

Biodiversity Informatics and Climate Change Impacts on Life

The international conference 'Biodiversity Informatics and Climate Change Impacts on Life' is organised by the Danish GBIF node (DanBIF – Danish Biodiversity Information Facility) together with the Department of Biological Sciences, Aarhus University, and the Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen. The conference will take place April 5-6, 2008, at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. *[More information ...]*

PARTICIPATION

Argentina moved from Associate to Voting Participant status in September 2007
Andinonet (Andean Network of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL) joined in October 2007.
[*List of GBIF's current Participants*]

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Season's greetings from GBIF