



No. 20 - January 2011

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 2011 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize will be awarded for the 10th time in 2011 to a person or small team that is demonstrating excellence in combining biodiversity informatics and biosystematics research. Deadline for applications is 15 March. [read more...]

Call for proposals for Young Researchers Award

Two awards of €4000 will be available in 2011. The main objective of the Young Researchers Award is to foster innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics by graduate students in masters and doctorate programs at universities in countries participating in the GBIF network. Deadline for application is 15 March. [read more...]

Call for GBIF Support of Regional Training Events

The call for GBIF support of regional training events is targeted to GBIF Participants and it seeks to support training activities with a regional component, by offering direct assistance by the GBIF Secretariat and discretionary financial support, up to 5000 EUR per event, to be used exclusively to enable regional participation in the events by representatives of GBIF Participants from the region. Deadline for application is 15 February. [read more...]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Success of 3-year capacity building project celebrated

A week-long training event in Paris involving participants from 22 francophone countries marked the closing of the collaborative project between GBIF's Capacity Enhancement Programme for Developing Countries (CEPDEC) and the French programme Sud Expert Plantes (SEP). The French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted the official closing ceremony for the SEP-CEPDEC collaboration at the Quai d'Orsay on 26 November 2010, where the project's participants presented the results of this 3-year cooperation and their recommendations for the future. [read more...]

GBIF Checklist evaluation awards announced

GBIF is pleased to announce that it has been able to support 16 awards in response to a November 2010 call to evaluate a GBIF-promoted exchange format for species checklists and taxonomic data. [read more...]

GBIF contribution to the GEOSS Portfolio for Science and Technology

The recently launched GEOSS Portfolio for Science and Technology features a web based GIS client application developed by GBIF in collaboration with several other data service providers. [read more...]

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PARTICIPATION

GBIF - now 101 Participants

The total number of GBIF Participants is 101, comprising 55 GBIF country members and 46 international organisation members. For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, please click here.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

GBIF at CoP16

GBIF attended the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC CoP16) which was held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010, following on CoP15 held in Copenhagen in 2009.

During the course of the two-week negotiations, GBIF focused efforts for communication and outreach on raising awareness, monitoring and attending side events where discussions were followed and contact was made with potential new partners, conducting bilateral meetings with potential new Participant countries, following the negotiations and the Executive Secretary making a high-level intervention on the last day (more information here) and was interviewed on climate-change.tv (more information here).

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

New Heads of delegation

The GBIF Secretariat is happy to welcome two new Heads of delegation; Dr Luis Campos Baca, Peru and Dr Richard Edwards, Wildscreen. For details of the Governing Board delegations, please click here.

New funding strengthens the German GBIF Node

Germany is one of the founding members of GBIF and a major provider of biodiversity information, such as observational, collection and multimedia data. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has now decided to invest 4.2 million Euro into the German GBIF node system. [read more...]

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

GBIF Secretariat staff changes

A number of staff changes have taken place in the GBIF Secretariat. GBIF welcomed Developers Oliver Meyn and Lars Francke to the Secretariat end-2010. Meyn and Francke join the IT team to further strengthen the IT development. GBIF bid farewell to Programme Assistant Louise Scharff in November and Communications Assistant Caterina Schwedt in December 2010. Also the Programme Officer for Communication and Outreach, François Rogers, has decided to leave the Secretariat by the end of January 2011. In February 2011 GBIF will welcome Gilda Kischinovsky as new Administrative Assistant and Burke Chin-Jen Ko as Informatics Liaison.

To see an up-to-date list of GBIF Secretariat staff, please click here.

CONTACTS

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GBits archive: http://www.gbif.org/communications/resources/newsletters/

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