

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 Science Committee Seeks Nominations for 2009 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize will be awarded for the eighth time in 2009 to a person or small team that is demonstrating excellence in combining biodiversity informatics and biosystematic research. The Science Committee of the GBIF Governing Board seeks nominations for the Prize, which are due by 31 March 2009. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF provides support for CBD Parties in the preparation of their 4th National Biodiversity Reports

Following discussions on potential collaboration during 2008, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) invited GBIF to provide assistance to Parties with the preparation of their Fourth National Biodiversity Reports. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF and the Convention on Migratory Species sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

GBIF and the Convention on Migratory Species have signed an agreement to work together to develop and share biodiversity data on migratory species. [[read more...](#)]

Establishment of a GBIF 'Content Needs Assessment' Task Group

GBIF is setting up a Task Group on Content Needs Assessment. A call for nominations for membership has been sent to all GBIF Participants. [[read more](#)]

GBIF GSAP-NHC initial strategy document open for comments by Participants

GBIF's Global Strategy and Action Plan for mobilisation of Natural History Collections (GSAP-NHC) Data Task Group met in Copenhagen during August 2008 to develop the initial strategy document. The document is now open for further comments by the GBIF Participants. [[read more...](#)]

Recommendations on Publishing and Discovery of Biodiversity Data Resources

The GBIF Science Committee in its meeting in Arusha, Tanzania endorsed the draft of the 'Recommendation on Publishing and Discovery of Biodiversity Data Resources'. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS & SERVICES

New GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) beta testing opens in January

The new Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) allows for publishing specimen and observational occurrence data, names data and dataset descriptive data to the internet in a single toolkit. [[read more...](#)]

Development underway on GBIF Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit

Development has started on the GBIF harvesting and indexing toolkit; a toolkit to simplify the job of harvesting datasources without the need for understanding the underlying protocols involved. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Web Services Performance Improvement

Due to increasing volumes of traffic on the GBIF portal web services it has become necessary to implement some performance improvements in these services. [[read more...](#)]

EVENTS

Report from the GB15 meeting

GBIF's fifteenth Governing Board meeting (GB15) took place in Arusha, Tanzania from 31 October to 6 November. [[Read more...](#)]

2008 Ebbe Nielsen Prize awarded at GB15

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize was awarded for the 7th time on 5 November 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania at GB15. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF's sixth Science Symposium 'Biodiversity, Humans and Global Change in Africa'

This year's Symposium had the thought provoking theme of Biodiversity, Humans and Global Change in Africa. [[read more...](#)]

GEO BON plan approved at GEO V Plenary

GBIF participated in the GEO V Plenary in Bucharest on 19-20 November where the establishment of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) was approved by GEO members. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF to convene expert workshop to prepare Darwin Core standard for ratification process

The GBIF Secretariat will hold a three day programming workshop in Copenhagen on 21 - 23 January 2009 on the proposed Darwin Core (DwC) standard. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Multimedia Resources Task Group sub-group meeting in February 2009

Based on the recommendation of the GBIF Science Committee, a sub-group of the GBIF Multimedia Resources Task Group (MRTG) will meet in Copenhagen 23-26 February 2009 to work on a number of multimedia issues. [[read more...](#)]

Biodiversity Informatics session at European Geosciences Union meeting in Vienna, 19-24 April 2009 - Call for Participation

GBIF is convening a "Biodiversity Informatics" session in the forthcoming Earth and Space Sciences Informatics programme of the European Geosciences Union General Assembly to be held in Vienna, 19-24 April 2009. [[read more...](#)]

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Season's greetings from GBIF

GBits archive: http://www.gbif.org/GBIF_org/newsletter