

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 2010 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize will be awarded for the ninth time in 2010 to a person or small team that is demonstrating excellence in combining biodiversity informatics and biosystematics research. The Science Committee of the GBIF Governing Board seeks nominations for the Prize, which are due by 1 March 2010. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF preparing for the future

The Chair of the GBIF Governing Board has sent the 3rd Consultation letter to GBIF Heads of Delegation regarding the draft GBIF Memorandum of Understanding for the post-2011 period. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF calls for proposals on new Position Paper on mobilisation of data

As part of a broader global strategy for mobilising Primary Biodiversity Data, GBIF is proposing the development of a Global Strategy and Action Plan (GSAP) for the further mobilisation of observation, ecological, multimedia and other types of primary biodiversity data worldwide. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF calls for proposals on new Position Paper on Data Hosting Centres

Whilst an unprecedented volume of primary biodiversity data is currently being generated worldwide, it is perceived that significant amounts of data get lost or will be lost after project closure. To investigate the causes of such loss, and recommend strategies as to how biodiversity data can be rescued and archived, through 'data hosting centres', GBIF wishes to develop a discussion paper on this topic. [[read more...](#)]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Charter of the Friends of the Conservation Commons comes into force

GBIF along with UNEP-WCMC and TNC have signed the Charter of the Friends of the Conservation Commons shortly after the final version was opened for signature in December 2009. According to the provisions contained within the Charter, these signatures enabled it to become a binding document. [[read more...](#)]

Nine metadata grants awarded by GBIF

GBIF is building a metadata portal to enable discovery of biodiversity resources on both the GBIF and other networks. Following the call in November 2009 for submission by GBIF Participants of proposals to enable them to connect their metadata catalogues to the GBIF network, nine awards have been issued. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF at ARCOS workshop

The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS; a new GBIF Associate Participant) held a training workshop in Bujumbura, Burundi from 20-22 January that brought together representatives from data centres throughout the Albertine Rift region in order to improve

capacity for collecting, analysing, and interpreting data for use in long term biodiversity monitoring. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

TAPIR Specification ratified by TDWG

GBIF is pleased to report the successful ratification of the TDWG Access Protocol for Information Retrieval (TAPIR) as a TDWG standard. TAPIR is one of the protocols used by the GBIF network and a version is included in the GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit. [[read more...](#)]

PARTICIPATION

GBIF - now 98 Participants

GBIF welcomes the latest two Participants in GBIF. In December 2009, Chile became a Voting Participant and as of January 2010, the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) became an Associate Participant. The total number of GBIF Participants is now 98, comprising 54 GBIF country members and 44 international organisation members. For a full list, click [here](#).

MEETINGS & EVENTS

GBIF active involvement at UNFCCC COP15

Side event: On 8 December, GBIF and Bioversity International convened an official side event at the UNFCCC COP15 on the importance of biodiversity & international cooperation in informatics and science within the context of climate change adaptation, agriculture and food security. [[read more...](#)]

Newspaper article:

An article on GBIF was published in the 17 December edition of the 'COP 15 Post' a special edition of the newspaper 'Copenhagen Post'. [[read more...](#)]

Closing statement: The GBIF Executive Secretary, Dr Nicholas King, made a closing statement in the COP15 Main Plenary Room on 18 December. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF at 2010 Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

The Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is already almost an institution in the small, picturesque town of Trondheim, Norway. This year the conference took place from 1 - 5 February 2010 under the theme "Getting the biodiversity targets right - working for sustainable development" and GBIF was represented by the Executive Secretary. [[read more...](#)]

Looking ahead: International Year of Biodiversity (2010)

The United Nations International Year of Biodiversity 2010 (IYB) provides GBIF with an unprecedented opportunity to raise stakeholder awareness of our organisation, its vision and mandate and the important contribution GBIF and its network of participants can make in biodiversity management, conservation and sustainable development. During the months of February and March, the GBIF Secretariat will be raising awareness of these issues - and of our network - through active engagement at a number of key international meetings. [[read more...](#)]

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