

No. 13 - October 2009

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.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Public Review of TAPIR commenced

TDWG has announced the commencement of the Public Review of the TDWG Access Protocol for Information Retrieval (TAPIR) - a method for sharing biodiversity information, for example species level data or occurrence data. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

GBIF "early-bird" release of HIT Version 0.9, 30th October 2009

With the Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit (HIT) to be released to "early-bird" testers, data aggregators can start looking forward to a simpler, quicker and more efficient way of harvesting data and managing large networks of data publishers. [[read more...](#)]

Darwin Core standard ratified by TDWG

GBIF are pleased to report the successful ratification of the new Darwin Core standard by the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) group [[read more...](#)]

New GBIF website

Due to the changes in the GBIF website, www.gbif.org, the links in the previous versions of the GBits newsletter are no longer active. If you wish to read any of the old issues with correct links, please go to: <http://www.gbif.org/communications/publications/newsletters/> .

PARTICIPATION

GBIF - now 96 Participants

GBIF welcomes Togo, Uganda and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as new GBIF Participants, bringing the GBIF country members up to 53, and international organisation members to 43.

For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, click [here](#).

MEETINGS & EVENTS

The 16th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board (GB16)

The 16th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board (GB16) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 6th - 8th October 2009. With 138 registered delegates, GB16 experienced the highest attendance record to date. [[read more...](#)]

Full election results from GB16

A number of key posts were up for election at GB16, including the Chair of the Governing Board. The elections resulted in the GBIF community welcoming [Dr Joanne Daly \(CSIRO, Australia\)](#), as the new Chair of the Governing Board and successor to Prof. David Penman (New Zealand) who completed his second term this year and was thus ineligible for re-election. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Science Symposium: Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change

Continuing the tradition of combining the Governing Board Meeting with a science-policy related forum - the 7th annual GBIF Science Symposium - the GBIF Science Committee used the occasion to highlight Climate Change threats to Marine Fisheries and Ecosystems. [[read more...](#)]

Andy Jarvis winner of 2009 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize ceremony took place in the beautiful surroundings of the Ceremonial Hall of the University of Copenhagen. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF activities in support of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

2010 is the United Nations' -designated 'International Year of Biodiversity' (IYB). The intention of the IYB is to raise the awareness of the critical importance of biodiversity for humanity, including the ecosystem services required to support all socio-economic development - with the slogan 'Biodiversity is life; biodiversity is our life'. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF at ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity, 20-23 October 2009

Dr David Penman, outgoing Chair of the GBIF Governing Board, attended the recent ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity in Singapore to represent GBIF and manage the GBIF booth. A good number of GBIF Participants were also represented. [[read more...](#)]

Asian Regional Meeting and Biodiversity Informatics Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand, 16-19 November 2009

Co-organised by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and GBIF, this event will bring together representatives from the 12 GBIF Participants in Asia, representatives from the ASEAN member states that are not GBIF members yet, and representatives from other partner organisations and initiatives. [[read more...](#)]

SEP-CEPDEC Regional Training for Madagascar and the Indian Ocean, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 23-27 November 2009

This is the third regional training as part of the SEP-CEPDEC collaboration, focusing on digitisation and publication of biodiversity data online and the first steps in the establishment of a National Biodiversity Information Facility. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF NPT Workshop, Montreal, Canada, 7-8 December 2009

At the Nodes Committee Meeting held on 3-5 October in Copenhagen prior to GB16 (<http://gb16.gbif.org>), it was agreed to the organisation of a workshop with regional and thematic representatives from the Nodes Community to scope and plan for the development of the Nodes Portal Toolkit (NPT). [[read more...](#)]

SECRETARIAT NEWS

Additions to GBIF Secretariat staff

In order to strengthen GBIF's communications and outreach activities, the GBIF Secretariat has hired a new Programme Officer for Communications and Outreach, Francois Rogers, and a Communications Programme Assistant, Caterina Schwedt. [[read more...](#)]

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