



No. 5 - June 2008

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 2008 Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Ebbe Nielsen Prize will be awarded for the sixth time in 2008. Nominations for this year's Prize are due by 1 July 2008. [*Read story...*]

Results of GBIF-funded projects coming online:

Infrastructure for the Global Compositae Checklist in place and working

GBIF 2005-2006 Seed Fund award results in software for integrating checklists of taxa, and a solid beginning on a Global Species Database for the Compositae. [*Read story...*]

Online checklist allows linking of information about all bee species

GBIF and the USA's National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) and Integrated Taxonomic Information Service (ITIS) were major funders of the project, and are pleased that it has been released in time for the USA's National Pollinator Week. [Read story...]

GBIF at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties GBIF was well represented and well received at CBD COP9. [Read story...]

A new CEPDEC Intern joins the GBIF Secretariat

A one-year internship to assist with CEPDEC activities has been added to the GBIF Secretariat to help with CEPDEC-related activities. [Read story...]

3rd GBIF Workshop on Georeferencing Biodiversity Databases

Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid (Spain) hosted the workshop, 5-8 May 2008, which was a training opportunity for 23 participants who will in turn provide training sessions in their own countries and organisations. Videos of a number of the presentations are available. [Read story...]

GBIF seeks comments on proposed metadata strategy

GBIF is currently preparing a strategy that will enable it to scale exponentially and fulfil its goal of becoming the preferred gateway, worldwide, to a comprehensive array of species-occurrence data. [Read story...]

## **TOOLS & SERVICES**

GBIF launches tabulation of data-sharing with countries of origin

The GBIF Data Portal now contains a tabulation that allows the user to find out how many data records from a country are hosted by institutions or networks within other countries. [Read story...]

GBIF Portal version 1.2 now available

The new version of the GBIF Data Portal contains 134.4 million occurrence records. [Read story...]

GBIF-Sweden launches new portal

On April 10, 2008, GBIF-Sweden released a new portal with an improved interface and some new functions. [Read story...]

Central African Biodiversity Information Network (CABIN) launched 1 April 2008

This project will contribute to CEPDEC, and is led by the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), in collaboration with several research institutions based in Central Africa. [*Read story...*]

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### **PUBLICATIONS**

## **GBIF Bibliographies**

The GBIF Secretariat maintains two bibliographic spreadsheets on the <u>EditGrid</u> website. <u>Popular media citations of GBIF</u> contains entries that refer to articles in print, or on the web, from newspapers, magazines, television, and internet-based publications. References to GBIF that have appeared in such journals as *Science, Nature, BioScience, The Scientist* and other professional journals are listed in <u>Professional publications that cite GBIF</u>. [*Read story...*]

## **PARTICIPATION**

# GBIF-Spain hosted April meeting of all Spanish data providers

Representatives of 20 Spanish institutions that share data through the GBIF network met in April. [*Read story...*]

## **New GBIF Participant**

GBIF welcomes Luxembourg, which became an Associate Participant as of May 2008. For full list of GBIF's current Participants, click <a href="here">here</a>.

## Irish GBIF Node getting up to speed

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) of Ireland has been designated as GBIF's Irish Node. [*Read story...*]

### **EVENTS**

Only newly posted events are listed here. For a full listing, click here.

Observational Data Task Group, 16-18 June 2008

Multimedia Resources Task Group, 19-21 June 2008

GBIF's Observational Data Task Group [<u>Read story...</u>] and Multimedia Resources Task Group [<u>Read story...</u>] will meet at the GBIF Secretariat in Copenhagen to develop recommendations to GBIF on how best to mobilise biodiversity-related multimedia resources and observational data. Surveys have been conducted by both groups; results of these will be the basis for discussion.

#### 20th International Congress of Zoology

The Congress will take place in Paris, 26-29 August 2008 [link]. GBIF will be presented at this Congress by Anne-Sophie Archambeau of GBIF-France, by Tom Orrell of GBIF Participants the Integrated Taxonomic Information Service and the Catalogue of Life, and by David Remsen of the GBIF Secretariat.

### FEATURED NODE

SIB-Colombia: Developing a national-level collaborative data-sharing and -use environment Created in 2001 to support the conservation and sustainable use of Colombia's biodiversity, the "Sistema de Información sobre Biodiversidad de Colombia - SiB" was designated in 2003 as the Colombian Node to GBIF. With a thematic scope covering all levels of biological diversity (from genes to ecosystems), and built up as a national partnership currently comprising more than 60 institutional members countrywide, the SiB is working towards a greater mobilisation of data and capacity through the GBIF network. [*Read story...*]

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