

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

GBIF Participants Reporting System launched

The GBIF Secretariat has launched the 2009 online reporting system for GBIF Participants to report on progress in implementing the GBIF 2009-2010 Work Programme. The GBIF Participants are asked to report back on their progress no later than 21 August and the reports will be presented at the GBIF 16th Governing Board meeting (GB16) in Copenhagen in early October 2009.

Call for Nominations for GBIF Task Group on priority data domains

The GBIF Governing Board at its 15th meeting in 2008 set the target of discovery of up to 5 billion, and mobilisation of up to 2 billion, primary biodiversity records. In January 2009, GBIF constituted a Content Needs Assessment Task Group (CNA TG); preliminary results from the CNA TG in June make it clear that a need exists for prioritisation of specific under-represented yet policy-important domains. In particular, the CNA TG identified the need to facilitate increased discovery and mobilisation of primary biodiversity data from three priority domains, namely, (a) agro-biodiversity and forestry, (b) marine biodiversity and fisheries, and (c) biomedical and public health. [[read more...](#)]

Public review on Darwin Core commenced

TDWG has announced the commencement of the public review of Darwin Core - a standard for sharing biodiversity information. You will find the proposed standard is a living document with a history, an anchor in the Dublin Core, and mechanisms to grow and change. Since being officially put forward as a draft standard in February 2009, Darwin Core has undergone a peer review, a review by the TDWG Executive, and multiple revisions. [[read more...](#)]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

GBIF and ZooKeys sign a Memorandum of Cooperation

On July 9, 2009 the GBIF Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with ZooKeys, a peer reviewed, open access journal. The MoC formalises the basis for the two organisations to cooperate to facilitate discovery and access to 'primary biodiversity data' simultaneously with scholarly publication using GBIF's infrastructure. ZooKeys calls upon its authors to submit supporting primary biodiversity data together with their manuscript, in conformance with GBIF promoted standards. ZooKeys will make the GBIF 'Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT)' available from its website. GBIF will provide ZooKeys with standards for primary biodiversity data sharing and a template, to be included in ZooKeys' 'instructions for authors'. GBIF will also provide remote help-desk support to ZooKeys for ensuring maintenance of the IPT software. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

GBIF Data Portal version 1.2.5 is now available

The GBIF Data Portal has reached version 1.2.5. The Data Portal now gives access to close to 181 million occurrence records from 296 data publishers. The Data Portal has several new

features, including the feature which allows occurrence searches to include searches for records with images. There is new statistics on host countries providing geo-referenced records for other countries and several GUI enhancements. See more at <http://data.gbif.org>

PARTICIPATION

GBIF Participants

GBIF welcomes Mauritania and SINEPAD as new GBIF Participants [[read more...](#)]

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

PUBLICATIONS

GBIF 2008 Annual Report available

The 2008 Annual Report from GBIF can be downloaded from http://www2.gbif.org/annual_report_2008.pdf.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

CEPDEC-TANZANIA Training Course: Digitisation of Biodiversity Information

The Tanzania Biodiversity Information Facility (TanBIF), in collaboration with the GBIF Secretariat, organised a training course on the digitisation of biodiversity information. It was held in the Centre for Virtual Learning of the University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) from the 13th to the 17th July 2009. [[read more...](#)]

Training opportunity - IPT Helpdesk Experts Training Workshop

The IPT Helpdesk Experts Training Workshop on the GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-16 September 2009. [[read more...](#)]

SECRETARIAT NEWS

Job Opening - GBIF Software Developer

The GBIF Secretariat is seeking a motivated and experienced software developer for a 15 month consultancy. In particular, the appointed consultant will support the development of one of GBIF's key infrastructure components: the GBIF Metadata Catalogue. Deadline for application: 30 August 2009. [[read more...](#)]

CONTACTS

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