

*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

### Endorsed by GBIF, four Campaigns are underway

Four user-focused initiatives, led by countries or organisations (not by the GBIF Secretariat), are carrying out projects that address issues of global concern, and also contribute to GBIF priorities. GBIF looks forward to the successful implementation of these Campaigns and encourages all interested parties to participate in them and contribute to their success. [[Read story...](#)]

### Jim Edwards nominated for the Franklin Award by the Bioinformatics Organization

The Benjamin Franklin Award for Open Access in the Life Sciences is presented annually by Bioinformatics.org. Members vote on the nominees and membership is free; deadline for voting is 15 February 2008. [[Read story...](#)]

### GBIF making the search for biodiversity research resources easier

GBIF, Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh are paving the way for more effective international discovery of important research specimens by developing an internet-based index of who has what. [[Read story...](#)]

### In latest RFP, the JRS Foundation requires building on accomplishments of GBIF and TDWG

In a recent request for pre-proposals, the JRS Foundation specifically states that applicants should build upon the work of GBIF and TDWG. [[Read story...](#)]

### GBIF Participant Nordic Gene Bank becomes NORDGEN

Nordic Gene Bank (NGB) has been a GBIF Associate Participant since 2004. As of 1 January 2008, it has joined with the Nordic Forestry Resource and Nordic Animal Genetic Resource institutes to form NORDGEN - the Nordic Genetic Resource Center of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). [[Read story...](#)]

### Observational Data Task Group

GBIF has constituted a Task Group to address several questions about observational data, because the inclusion of even more observational data sets in the GBIF network will contribute greatly to achieving the [1 Billion Records](#) goal. [[Read story...](#)]

### GBIF invites expressions of interest

Several Task Groups similar to the Observational Data Task Group will be formed to consider various topics over the coming months. Persons interested in being included should contact the Secretariat (see contact information at the end of this newsletter).

## TOOLS & SERVICES

### Bibliographies of GBIF citations accessible at EditGrid.com

Articles from both professional publications and the popular media are listed in spreadsheets that are available for download. [[Read story ...](#)]

### GBIF Data Portal now available in Korean

The GBIF Data Portal can now be accessed in Korean: <http://data.gbif.org/settings.htm>

### GBIF-Spain adds videos to its training website

It is hoped that these videos will become a reference point for those interested persons who can not physically attend the courses and workshops: [[Read story ...](#)]

### Distributed database of Amphibian occurrences now online

The 2006 DIGIT seed money amphibian collaborative project involving 8 institutions worldwide has successfully delivered 276,035 geo-referenced records. [[Read story ...](#)]

## PARTICIPATION

### New GBIF Participants

GBIF welcomes the latest two participants. As of 2008, Ireland has become a Voting Participant and the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) has become an Associate Participant. [[List of GBIF's current Participants](#)]

## FEATURED NODE

*A GBIF Participant Node is a mechanism by which a Participant coordinates and supports its GBIF data-sharing activities. A Participant Node includes both physical infrastructure and human resources. In each issue of the newsletter we will focus on specific GBIF nodes; their activities and results.*

### GBIF-Sweden - Implementing the facility that Linnaeus would have dreamt of ...

GBIF is delighted to open its new GBits' "Featured GBIF Node" section with GBIF-Sweden. Established in 2003, the Swedish GBIF Node has mobilised more than 13 million records from 36 different datasets (to date), becoming the third largest contributor to the GBIF network. GBIF Sweden is now working on developing a new portal with enhanced functionality. To learn more about GBIF Sweden, click on: [http://www.gbif.se/file\\_download/100](http://www.gbif.se/file_download/100)

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**GBits** archive: [http://www.gbif.org/GBIF\\_org/newsletter](http://www.gbif.org/GBIF_org/newsletter)