

*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

### New GBIF Head of Participation Appointed

GBIF is delighted to announce that Dr Sandy Andelman has been appointed as the new Head of Participation at the GBIF Secretariat. [[read more...](#)]

### GBIF Programme Assistant appointed

In recognition of the high administrative work loads of the GBIF Secretariat Programme Officers, a Programme Assistant has been appointed in order to allow the Programme Officers to focus more on the substantive areas of their portfolios. [[read more...](#)]

### Strengthening of the GBIF Secretariat Informatics group

In order to expand the GBIF Secretariat Informatics capacity, The GBIF Secretariat has hired two new programmers. [[read more...](#)]

### Task Group on a Global Strategy and Action Plan for Mobilisation of Natural History Collections (GSAP-NHC)

As part of a broader Global Strategy for mobilising Primary Biodiversity Data, GBIF has convened a Task Group to catalyse the development of a Global Strategy and Action Plan for further mobilisation of natural history collections data worldwide (GSAP-NHC). [[read more...](#)]

### GBIF Task Groups submit recommendations for mobilising biodiversity observational data and multimedia data resources

Two GBIF convened Task Groups, on Observational Data (ODTG) and Multimedia Resources (MRTG) have submitted their recommendations towards mobilising biodiversity observational data and multimedia resources, respectively. [[read more...](#)]

### GBIF Data Citations Task Group (DCTG)

The GBIF Nodes Committee members have identified the importance of adequately addressing the citation of biodiversity data served via the GBIF network, including providing attribution to the scientists and/or persons who are the original sources of such data. [[read more...](#)]

### ABBIF campaign secures ~400,000 Euros for its work

The Amazon Basin Biodiversity Information Facility (ABBIF) Campaign has secured ~€400,000 in funding support after submitting a proposal to the Andean Community of Nations. [[read more...](#)]

## TOOLS & SERVICES

### Integrating large web-based databases - GBIF and the IUCN's WDPA

A formal collaboration between the WDPA development team at UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and the GBIF Secretariat has led to the development of a rich-Internet application (RIA) enabling simultaneous cross searching between the WDPA database and the

more than 150 million species occurrence records available through the GBIF network. [[read more...](#)]

## PUBLICATIONS

### White paper on Significance of Organism Observations now available

Observations of nature are the foundation of ecological studies, which use observations to search for patterns in nature, and biodiversity conservation. Organism observations (observational) data is a major constituent of "primary biodiversity data". [[read more...](#)]

### GBIF Posters now available for download

GBIF has made a number of posters available for GBIF Participants to download from the GBIF website: [http://www.gbif.org/GBIF\\_org/posters](http://www.gbif.org/GBIF_org/posters). We encourage all Participants to download and print copies, display them at GBIF-related meetings and distribute both electronic and hard copies as requested.

## EVENTS

### GBIF co-sponsored nomenclatural workshops at ICZ

In late August GBIF co-sponsored two workshops in conjunction with the International Congress of Zoology in Paris, France. The meetings were co-sponsored by EDIT, the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy and PESI, the Pan-European Species-directories Infrastructure. [[read more...](#)]

### GBIF participation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

The 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress ([www.iucn.org/congress/](http://www.iucn.org/congress/)) was held in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008. [[read more...](#)]

### GB15

Most of the GBIF network will be attending the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GBIF Governing Board. The meeting will take place in Arusha, Tanzania, in the first week of November. [[read more...](#)]

### e-Biosphere 09: International Conference on Biodiversity Informatics

The e-Biosphere 09 Conference will be held in London on 1-3 June 2009. [[read more...](#)]

## FEATURED NODE

### TanBIF: Towards sustainable development in Tanzania

With the establishment of TanBIF in August 2007, Tanzania is becoming a regional leader in using biodiversity informatics to underpin sustainable development. The TanBIF Portal ([www.tanbif.or.tz](http://www.tanbif.or.tz)) will be launched as a collaborative environment to provide long-term, unified access to all relevant sources of data and information on Tanzania's biodiversity [[read story...](#)]

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