

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

Request for proposals to draft a GBIF position paper

The GBIF Secretariat has issued a request for proposals to draft a GBIF position paper on enabling a shared infrastructure for the development, maintenance and governance of vocabularies and ontologies for biodiversity informatics. Deadline for submission is 14 July [[read more...](#)]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

GBIF and LifeWatch sign collaborative agreement for mutual benefit

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the LifeWatch infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research recently joined forces by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) that will enable the two organisations to collaborate on development and sharing of critical biodiversity informatics infrastructure and information. [[read more...](#)]

ICIMOD members to promote sharing of biodiversity data

Eight regional member countries of ICIMOD take on the global platform to promote sharing of biodiversity data in the Hindu Kush- Himalayan Region. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Mentoring Projects 2010

GBIF issued a call for Mentoring Proposals in February 2010. Three projects have now been selected for 2010. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Mentoring Project Belgium-Mauritania, first meeting held in Nouakchott

As part of the Belgium-Mauritania Mentoring Programme, a two days GBIF Workshop was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania. 22 participants from various institutions, ministries, universities and national parks attended the meeting at the Ecole Normale Supérieure that was designated by Mauritania as the National GBIF Node, also known as MrBIF. [[read more...](#)]

Albertine Rift data sharing commitment agreed

Participants attending a meeting on Albertine Rift Data Management, Sharing and Reporting have committed to work together at local, national and regional levels in order to promote data collection, storage and information sharing in the Albertine Rift region. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF urges countries to support the establishment of scientific body

Countries have been asked to consider lessons learnt from existing intergovernmental initiatives in order to support a proposed new science-policy initiative that will seek to improve the scientific basis for addressing pressing environmental challenges globally. The recommendation to establish an IPBES - an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - was made by government representatives at a high-level UN meeting held in Busan, Korea from 7 - 11 June 2010. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

New version of the GBIF Data Portal released

A new version of the GBIF Data Portal (version 1.3) is now available at <http://data.gbif.org>. The latest release makes use of upgraded software that eliminates bugs that were reported by the GBIF Community through the Data Portal project site (<http://code.google.com/p/gbif-dataportal/>). [[read more...](#)]

PARTICIPATION

GBIF - 98 Participants

The total number of GBIF Participants is 98, comprising 54 GBIF country members and 44 international organisation members. For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

GBIF Annual Report 2009 published

The GBIF Annual Report 2009 was published on 4 June. The report includes the highlights of a very successful year for the organisation and can be accessed electronically from [here](#).

Updated edition of Terms Used in Bionomenclature

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility would like to announce the publication of an updated edition of Terms Used in Bionomenclature, compiled by Prof. David Hawksworth. [[read more...](#)]

MEETINGS & EVENTS

India, GBIF and IAIA start talks on 2nd global EIA data project

An Indian project that will capture biodiversity data generated by Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) was at the centre of discussions at a workshop attended by several EIA stakeholders in Dehradun, India 23-26 June 2010. [[read more...](#)]

SECRETARIAT NEWS

Canadian Scientist Awarded 9th Ebbe Nielsen Prize

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) announced the winner of the 9th Ebbe Nielsen Prize as Mr. Sujeevan Ratnasingham, a Canadian scientist credited with the development of the Barcode of Life Data (BOLD) Systems. [[read more...](#)]

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