

*VISION OF GBIF: A world in which biodiversity information is freely and universally available for science, society, and a sustainable future.*

*MISSION OF GBIF: To be the foremost global resource for biodiversity information, and engender smart solutions for environmental and human well-being.*

## NEWS

### Winner of 2011 Ebbe Nielsen prize announced

Prof Jens-Christian Svenning of the Department of Biological Sciences at Aarhus University, Denmark, is the winner of the Ebbe Nielsen prize this year. The award of €30,000 recognises innovations in biodiversity informatics. Prof Svenning intends to use the award towards gaining a better understanding of what determines species diversity. [[read more ...](#)]

### Young scientists showcase GBIF data use

An ornithologist from Mexico and a marine biologist from Ireland are this year's winners of the GBIF Young Researchers Award. César Antonio Ríos-Muñoz and Conor Ryan, both Ph.D. students, will each receive €4000 to help fund research proposals making innovative use of data made available through the GBIF network. [[read more ...](#)]

### New tool for biodiversity data publishing

A new tool to convert descriptions of biodiversity data into scientific journal articles is now available. The tool, developed by GBIF in partnership with academic publishers Pensoft, creates so-called 'Data Papers' from descriptions of datasets (metadata). The aim is to give due recognition to efforts by scientists and institutions making data accessible to the wider scientific community. [[read more ...](#)]

### Trapping data to aid conservation

A pilot project to help digitise data captured by the network of camera traps in India has been launched in a collaboration between Norwegian and Indian scientific institutions. The Norwegian government is providing 1.2 million Norwegian Kroner (US\$ 217,000) towards the two-year project. [[read more ...](#)]

## AROUND THE NETWORK

### The Republic of Congo is now GBIF Associate Participant

The most recent addition to the GBIF network is the Republic of Congo, bringing the total number of participants to 104. Of these, 57 are country members and 47 are international organisations and economies. [[full list of participants...](#)]

### Training to help digitise Indian biodiversity data

A workshop on digitising and mobilising natural history collections was organised in Kolkata, India in June. The event was part of The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)'s mentoring efforts to help the Wildlife Institute of India build a GBIF node. [[read a personal account of the event by ALA's John Tann...](#)]

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### Registration opens for Governing Board meeting

Registration is now open for the meetings of the 18<sup>th</sup> GBIF Governing Board (GB18) and associated committees, a three-day training event for GBIF nodes and the annual GBIF Science Symposium. The meetings will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 28 September to 7 October and mark 10 years of GBIF's existence. The Science Symposium is open to the public and press, subject to prior registration. [[read more...](#)]

## DATA PUBLISHING NEWS

As a new feature for GBits, we are highlighting some of the new data publishers and datasets that have been added to the GBIF network since the last edition in May.

### New publishers

- Cameroon's [Institut de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement \(IRAD\)](#) published 1,249 records of 60 species from the [insect collection of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Cameroon Station](#).
- [Birds Australia](#), through the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) submitted 7.4 million observation records from its [Birdata](#) database, still being processed for inclusion in the GBIF data portal.
- Peru's [Universidad Nacional de San Agustín](#) published more than 11,000 plant records from the [Herbarium Arequipense](#), also still in the processing stage.

### Other datasets

- Mexico's [Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad \(CONABIO\)](#) added 267 new databases to the GBIF portal, comprising a total of 1.1 million records, nearly doubling the amount of data so far published by CONABIO.
- The UK's [National Biodiversity Network](#) published 32 datasets comprising more than 1.5 million records from a range of regional surveys and collections.
- Ireland's [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) submitted a further 30 datasets ranging from the mosquitos, fleas and lice of Ireland to the Road Kill Survey, with a total of more than half a million records.
- The [Danish Biodiversity Information Facility \(DanBIF\)](#) published nearly [80,000 records of algae specimens](#), comprising 850 species, from Denmark, Iceland, the Faeroes and Greenland, dating back to 1841, held in the Phycology Herbarium of [Copenhagen's Botanical Museum](#).

## SECRETARIAT NEWS

### GBIF on social media

GBIF now has a [Facebook page](#) – a bit friendless at the moment, so please 'like' us. We will use it to highlight news from around the GBIF community, plus developments and discussions in the world of biodiversity data and informatics. You can also follow us on Twitter [@gbif](#), and don't forget the GBIF community site <http://community.gbif.org/>.

### New Secretariat staff

Sampreethi Aipanjiguly has started in her position as Communications Officer, and Olaf Bánki will be starting as Senior Programme Officer for Participation from 1 August. [[read more ...](#)]

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