

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.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Introducing 'Message Mate'

Message Mate is a new light communications tool provided by the GBIF Secretariat for the GBIF network, by the GBIF network. Received by Node Managers as an email without attachments, pictures or heavy format at the end of every month, Message Mate communicates about international events/activities, new tools, products and services, as well as scientific and media publications on/by GBIF. Message Mate is currently being tested over a 6 month period, where after a decision will be taken on whether or not it should be continued. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF Task Group on Electronic Learning

The GBIF Task Group on Electronic Learning was set up in February 2010 to test different Open Source eLearning platforms for the Global GBIF Virtual Classroom, and provide recommendations and guidelines on the selection, use and population of contents of such platform. Exploring the needs of the GBIF Community on this topic is also part of their mandate. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF leading working group on Data Integration and Interoperability for GEO BON

The GBIF Secretariat and GBIF Finland are co-leading the Data Integration and Interoperability working group, one of eight topical working groups that are preparing the Detailed Implementation Plan for the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON). [[read more...](#)]

National stakeholders agree sustainability plan for TanBIF:

The Governing Board of TanBIF, comprising 30 stakeholder institutions across the science and environmental spectra in Tanzania, have agreed a broad-based sustainability plan for TanBIF beyond the GBIF-CEPDEC start-up phase, premised on the societal benefits that will accrue to the country from the continued investment in the TanBIF infrastructure. [[read more...](#)]

A new Bio-informatics Hub for Guinea GBIF

The Center for Observation and Environmental Monitoring (COSE), Ministry of Environment, Water, Forests and Sustainable Development, Republic of Guinea, is a Participant in the GBIF SEP-CEPDEC programme. This programme aims to create capacity in developing countries to integrate the use of data in biodiversity education, science, policy and decision-making at all levels. It is within this context that the COSE, host organisation for GBIF GUINEA, recently created a bio-informatics hub. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

GBIF Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit (HIT) version 1.0 Release Candidate 1

The GBIF Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit (HIT) version 1.0 Release Candidate 1 (RC1) has now been officially released. In the next phase of the project, volunteer Nodes will help scope further developments via a round of testing. The Harvesting and Indexing Toolkit is an open source Java-based web application developed by the GBIF Secretariat to manage biodiversity data harvesting and quickly build indexes of harvested data. [[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

Publications using GBIF increase 500%

Professional publications that used GBIF-enabled data for analysis during 2009 showed a year-on-year increase of more than 500%, according to the latest statistics drawn from Google Scholar. [[read more...](#)]

MEETINGS & EVENTS

GBIF Committee Mid-Term meetings held in Copenhagen

The GBIF Budget, Executive and Science Committees held their Mid-term meetings in Copenhagen from 19-22 April. [[read more...](#)]

Workshop on Biodiversity Data Discovery and Publishing in India, 4-7 May

GBIF Secretariat staff will participate as resource persons in the Training Workshop on Biodiversity Data Discovery and Publishing to be held at Dehradun, India, 4-7 May 2010. The objective of this workshop is to develop a pool of trainers ('train-the-trainers') in the area of biodiversity data discovery and publishing. [[read more...](#)]

Latin American Workshop on Biodiversity e-Learning Platforms

The Ibero-American Biodiversity Information Facility (PIIB) is holding a 'Latin American Workshop on Biodiversity e-Learning Platforms' with the collaboration of the Research Institute for the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP), the Spanish GBIF Node (GBIF.ES) and the GBIF Secretariat in Cuzco, Peru, from 10-13 May 2010. [[read more...](#)]

Breaking Barriers to Sharing Biodiversity Information

The South African Biodiversity Information Facility (SABIF) Secretariat has organised a successful SABIF Data Handover Event which took place on 25 March 2010, in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF at EuroGEOSS Consortium plenary meeting

The plenary meeting of the EuroGEOSS Consortium (www.eurogeoss.eu/) will take place at the EC- Joint Research Centre (Ispra, Italy) on 10-12 May 2010. [[read more...](#)]

SECRETARIAT NEWS

GBIF committee elections

The GBIF Governing Board has intersessionally elected the 2nd Vice Chair of the GBIF Budget Committee and a new Chair of the Training Work Area. [[read more...](#)]

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