

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

Call for comments on GBIF Beginner's Guide to Persistent Identifiers

In May 2010, GBIF issued a call for proposals to draft a GBIF 'Beginner's guide to issuing persistent identifiers for biodiversity resources'. GBIF asks for comments to the draft document. Deadline for comments is 30 September 2010. [[Read more...](#)]

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Official launch of the GBIF Community Site

After a successful trial period that has involved more than 200 users from all over the world, the public version of the GBIF Community Site was officially launched on 13 August 2010. This site is a free online social platform for professional interaction within the scope of GBIF: collaborative projects, discussions, sharing of information and expertise, announcements, mentoring, etc. [[read more...](#)]

GBIF assesses training and eLearning needs of Nodes

On 27 August the GBIF 'Task Group on Electronic Learning' released a survey to assess the current and future interest and capacity of GBIF Nodes relating to training and electronic learning (eLearning). The Task Group seeks to provide recommendations and guidelines to the GBIF Secretariat on the subject of eLearning as part of the implementation of the GBIF Virtual Classroom. [[read more...](#)]

TOOLS AND SERVICES

Successful coding sprint

The GBIF Secretariat has renewed development efforts on the Integrated Publishing Toolkit to address the feedback received in the first year of use. The roadmap for the IPT has been communicated to the Node managers and Data publishers and development has already begun on this activity starting with a successful 'coding sprint' during August with visiting developers Daniel Amariles and Héctor Tobón from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

PARTICIPATION

GBIF - 99 Participants

GBIF is happy to welcome the European Environment Agency as an Associate Participant to GBIF. The total number of GBIF Participants is 99, comprising 54 GBIF country members and 45 international organisation members. For a full list of GBIF's current Participants, click [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

GBIF Position Paper on Future Directions and Recommendations for Enhancing Fitness-for-Use across the GBIF Network

Primary biodiversity data can be used for multiple purposes by various user communities worldwide. Assessing and enhancing fitness for use of data is therefore critical. With the aim of

providing a long term vision to address this issue, the GBIF Position Paper on Future Directions and Recommendations for Enhancing Fitness-for-Use across the GBIF Network is now released for community uptake. [[read more...](#)]

Group convened to prepare GBIF position paper on Vocabularies/Ontologies

In response to the call for proposals to develop a position paper on enabling a shared infrastructure for the development, maintenance and governance of vocabularies and ontologies for biodiversity informatics, a team led by Bob Morris (UMASS-Boston, Harvard University Herbaria) & Plazi Verein has been awarded the contract. [[read more...](#)]

Report on 'Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region Workshop' published

In June 2010 ICIMOD, GMBA and the GBIF Secretariat organised a workshop on 'Access and Publication of Mountain Biodiversity Data' in Kathmandu (Nepal), with the participation of representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Georgia, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. A complete report has now been made available by the organisers summarising the contents and outcomes of the meeting. Read the report at

<http://www.gbif.org/participation/training/events/training-event-details/?eventid=103>

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Princess attends GBIF event in celebration of IYB 2010

Her Royal Highness Princess Marie of Denmark attended the official opening of a poster exhibition on biodiversity jointly organised by GBIF and other partners to mark the occasion of the 2010 United Nations International Year of Biodiversity in the Danish capital. [[read more...](#)]

Registration for GB17 is available online

The online registration system for the 17th GBIF Governing Board Meeting (GB17), to be held in Suwon, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 15 October 2010, is open. The site also provides important information to delegates on the various events taking place during GB17, information on travel and visa and general information about the Republic of Korea as well as a link to the pre-meeting documents. URL: <http://gb17.gbif.org/>

SECRETARIAT NEWS

Secretariat Staff Changes

In line with changing priorities and capacity needs, Samy Gaiji has moved from Head of Informatics to Senior Programme Officer for Science and Scientific Liaison, and Tim Robinson, as the Information Systems Architect, takes on a broader portfolio around all 'external IT systems' including the further development of the IPT and GBIF Portal.

New GBIF Secretariat Staff member

GBIF welcomed Federico Méndez to the Secretariat in September. Federico, from Costa Rica, joins the IT team to further the GBIF Portal development work integrating the metadata, primary biodiversity and checklist data published through the GBIF network.

CONTACTS

Postal and physical address:

GBIF Secretariat
Universitetsparken 15
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark

Tel: +45 35 32 14 70
Fax: +45 35 32 14 80
E-mail: info@gbif.org

Contact information for GBIF Secretariat staff:

<http://www.gbif.org/communications/directory-of-contacts/gbif-secretariat/>

GBits archive: <http://www.gbif.org/communications/resources/newsletters/>