

## Call for nominations for 2016 Young Researchers Award

The GBIF Secretariat invites the nomination of graduate students for the 2016 [Young Researchers Award](#). This prize intends to foster innovative research and discovery that make use of GBIF-mediated data.

This year, GBIF will present two awards of €4,000 each to one master's student and one doctoral student. Students must apply through a Head of Delegation of a GBIF Participant country ([see the complete list of GBIF Participants](#)), who will forward a maximum of two nominations to the GBIF Secretariat by 15 July 2016.

► **DOWNLOAD**

[Call for nominations](#)

## CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

### BID Africa 2015 call brings in initial proposals from 34 African countries

The first call for proposals from sub-Saharan Africa for the [Biodiversity Information for Development](#) (BID) programme, published in September 2015, brought in 143 initial concept notes for projects coordinated from 34 African countries.

The total amount of funds requested was in excess of six times the value of the €900,000 available for this call.

GBIF and its evaluation panel invited a selected number of applicants to prepare full proposals. Selected projects will be announced in April 2016.

Funded by the [European Union](#) and led by GBIF, BID is a

Call for nominations for 2016 Young Researchers Award

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multi-year programme to increase the availability and use of biodiversity information for research and decision-making [in the 'ACP' nations](#) of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

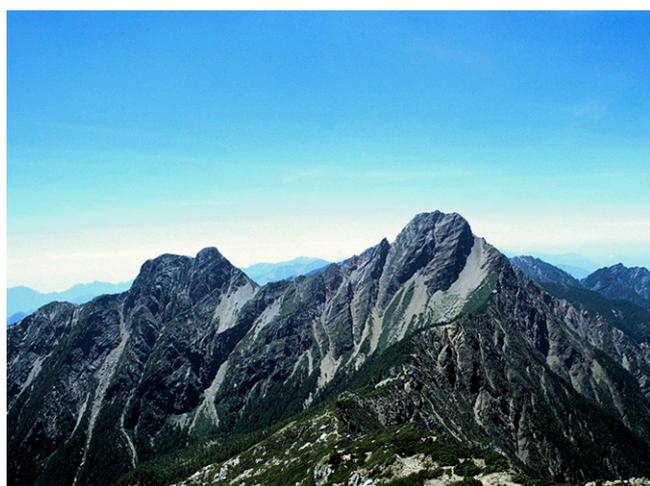
► **READ MORE**

[News release](#)

## BIFA programme supports four projects to benefit 14 countries in Asia

The Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia (BIFA) has awarded €106,000 in grants to four projects that support the data needs of researchers and policy makers.

The projects will enhance data publishing capacity in 14 Asian countries while engaging eight GBIF nodes as well as prospective new Participant countries in Asia.



YUSHAN NATIONAL PARK, TAIWAN. PHOTO BY KAILING3, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS. CC BY SA 3.0.

The four projects selected through a call for proposals in 2015 are:

- The development of an open-access learning resource – the ‘biodiversity informatics cookbook’ – by the GBIF nodes in India, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, to support training activities in Asia.
- The development of a biodiversity database system in Vietnam, with mentoring support from JBIF, Japan’s GBIF national node.

- The mobilization of biodiversity data from the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heritage Parks—regionally significant protected areas for biodiversity—supported by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), TaiBIF and GBIF Norway.
- Enhancing the data publishing capacity of GBIF Philippines with help from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

The fund will also be used to support the next meeting of GBIF Asian nodes in the Philippines in July. BIFA allocates supplementary funds provided by the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan, for GBIF-related activities in Asia.

► **READ MORE**

[Details of funded projects](#)

## GBIF nodes staff earn first digital badges for data publishing

The GBIF Secretariat has awarded digital badges to 10 participants who completed training on biodiversity data publishing support and promotion. This initiative pilots a new approach for certifying skills and expertise within the GBIF community.

The badge recipients are among the nodes staff members who sought to attain the credentials following a training event in Madagascar before of the 2015 Governing Board meeting.

In the future, GBIF expects to use the badges to support the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme and to recognize the contributions of project partners.

► **READ MORE**

[News release](#)

## Capacity Enhancement Support Programme opens 2016 call for proposals

The GBIF Secretariat has invited proposals for funding under the 2016 [Capacity Enhancement Support Programme](#), which seeks to enhance the long-term capacity of GBIF Participants through collaborative projects.

The call is only open to [GBIF Participants](#).

The deadline for submitting concept notes was 11 April 2016 for the first stage of the programme's two-stage selection process. A panel will assess concept notes and invite selected applicants to present full proposals by 20 May 2016.

Proposals for one-year projects starting on 16 June 2016 can receive a maximum of €15,000 for mentoring activities, regional training support, GBIF advocacy actions, documentation and capacity needs assessments.

► **READ MORE**

[Call for proposals](#)

## Videos from training workshops now online

A set of 16 videos from a December 2015 workshop on data quality is available for viewing on [GBIF Spain's website](#). The videos in Spanish include presentations by trainers Pablo Muñoz of Oxford University, Francisco Pando, Katia Cezón, Santiago Martínez de la Riva and Cristina Villaverde from GBIF Spain. High definition versions of the recordings are available through the [portal of the Spanish National Research Council \(CSIC\)](#).

Additionally, interviews of GBIF nodes staff from Argentina, Brazil, France, Portugal, Spain and Australia on progress in developing national biodiversity portals based on the ALA portal are also available via [youtube](#). The interviews were recorded during a meeting of the group.

► **WATCH**

[Training videos from the data quality workshop](#)

[GBIF nodes staff talk about progress in adapting the ALA portal](#)

## NEW MEMBERS

### Agreement targets improved data exchange on Arctic species

A new partnership between GBIF and the [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group \(CAFF\)](#) aims to improve the quality and scope of Arctic biodiversity information available to science and society.

The partnership will focus on promoting efficient exchange of data between CAFF's [Arctic Biodiversity Data Service \(ABDS\)](#) and GBIF.org.

► **READ MORE**

[News release on the agreement](#)

## DATA PUBLISHING

### Experts offer recommendations for improving GBIF-mediated data for agrobiodiversity research



TOMATO DIVERSITY BY IBVDERBLE, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS. CC BY-SA 3.0

A team of international experts have completed a report providing more than 50 recommendations for enhancing the coverage, completeness and usefulness of GBIF-mobilized data for research in agrobiodiversity.

GBIF's task group on data fitness for use in agrobiodiversity assembled its recommendations following a survey, in-depth interviews of other experts and a public consultation. The final report is now available via GBIF.org.

► **DOWNLOAD**

[Final report of the task group on data fitness for agrobiodiversity research](#)

### New report offers recommendations on improving GBIF-mediated data for distribution modelling

A group of experts tasked with helping to improve the usefulness of GBIF-mobilized data for distribution modelling research have presented their insights in a [just-published report](#).

The report draws on survey results from the distribution modelling research community and the group's own views as well as input gathered at 'Frontiers of Biodiversity Informatics and Modelling Species Distributions' symposium and panel discussion.

The task group's recommendations call for GBIF to:

- provide users with known indicators about data precision, quality and uncertainty
- include features that enable users to annotate data errors or issues
- help train and guide users on the appropriate uses and interpretations of the data

The Secretariat is providing the distribution modelling user community with opportunities to [provide feedback on the report](#) (user registration required) and to [share their specific use cases and experiences in working with GBIF-mediated data](#).

► **READ MORE**

[Task group report](#)

[News release on the report](#)

## MEDIA

### GBIF Benin on national TV

A 52-minute television programme on biodiversity informatics for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Benin, aired on national TV, can be viewed on youtube. The programme includes interviews with Joseph Hounhouigan, dean of the faculty of agricultural sciences at the University of Abomey-Calavi, which hosts the GBIF node in Benin, Gaston Akouehou, Head of Delegation for Benin and Jean Cossi Ganglo, node manager of GBIF Benin.

► **WATCH**

[Part 1 of TV programme](#)

[Part 2 of TV programme](#)

## GBIF DATA IN USE

The Secretariat maintains a programme to monitor use of GBIF-mediated data in scientific literature. The following peer-reviewed articles represent some recent highlights.

Acosta AL, Giannini TC, Imperatriz-Fonseca VL *et al.* [Worldwide alien invasion: a methodological approach to forecast the potential spread of a highly invasive pollinator](#). PLoS ONE. *Author country*: Brazil

Aguiar LMS, Bernard B, Ribeiro V, Machado RB & Jones G [Should I stay or should I go? Climate change effects on the future of Neotropical savannah bats](#) Global Ecology and Conservation 5: 22-33 *Author countries*: Brazil, United Kingdom

Bateman BL, Pidgeon AM, Radeloff VC *et al.* [The pace of past climate change vs. potential bird distributions and land use in the United States](#). Global Change Biology. *Author countries*: United States, Australia

Bellard C, Genovesi P & Jeschke JM. [Global patterns in threats to vertebrates by biological invasions](#). Proceedings of the Royal Society B 283 (1823). *Author countries*: France, Italy, Germany

Cardador L, Carrete M, Gallardo B *et al.* [Combining trade data and niche modelling improves predictions of the origin and distribution of non-native European populations of a globally invasive species](#). Journal of Biogeography. *Author country*: Spain

Coro G, Magliozzi C, Berghe EV, *et al.* [Estimating absence locations of marine species from data of scientific surveys in OBIS](#). Ecological Modelling. *Author countries*: Italy, Belgium, Greece, Philippines

Crowl AA, Miles NW, Visger CJ, *et al.* [A global perspective on Campanulaceae: biogeographic, genomic, and floral evolution](#). American Journal of Botany. *Author country*: United States

Deblauwe V, Droissart V, Bose R *et al.* [Remotely sensed temperature and precipitation data improve species distribution modelling in the tropics](#). Global Ecology and Biogeography. *Author countries*: France, Belgium, Cameroon, United States, India, Denmark, Netherlands

Díaz S, Kattge J, Cornelissen JHC *et al.* [The global spectrum of plant form and function](#). Nature. *Author countries*: Argentina, Germany, Netherlands, Australia, France, Colombia, United Kingdom, United States, Panama, Russian Federation, French Guiana, Italy, Canada, Costa Rica

Dunne JA, Maschner H, Betts MW *et al.* [The roles and impacts of human hunter-gatherers in North Pacific marine food webs](#). Scientific Reports. *Author countries*: United States, Canada

Griffiths HJ & Waller CL. [The first comprehensive description of the biodiversity and biogeography of Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic intertidal communities.](#) *Journal of Biogeography*. *Author country*: United Kingdom

Hattab T, Leprieur F, Ben Rais Lasram F *et al.* [Forecasting fine-scale changes in the food-web structure of coastal marine communities under climate change.](#) *Ecography*. *Author countries*: France, Tunisia, Canada

Huang D, Hoeksema BW, Affendi YA *et al.* [Conservation of reef corals in the South China Sea based on species and evolutionary diversity.](#) *Biodiversity and Conservation*. *Author countries*: Singapore, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand

Janssens SB, Vandeloos F, De Langhe E *et al.* [Evolutionary dynamics and biogeography of Musaceae reveal a correlation between the diversification of the banana family and the geological and climatic history of Southeast Asia.](#) *New Phytologist*. *Author countries*: Belgium, Netherlands, Tanzania

Jenkins CN, Alves MAS, Uezu A *et al.* [Patterns of vertebrate diversity and protection in Brazil.](#) *PLoS ONE*. *Author country*: Brazil

Loskutov IG, Melnikova SV & Bagmet LV [Eco-geographical assessment of Avena L. wild species at the VIR herbarium and genebank collection](#) *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution* *Author country*: Russian Federation

Newbold T, Hudson LN, Hill SLL *et al.* [Global patterns of terrestrial assemblage turnover within and among land uses.](#) *Ecography*. *Author countries*: United Kingdom, Norway

Osawa T, Kohyama K & Mitsunashi H. [Trade-off relationship between modern agriculture and biodiversity: Heavy consolidation work has a long-term negative impact on plant species diversity.](#) *Land Use Policy*. *Author country*: Japan

Pérez-Moreno H, Martínez-Meyer E, Soberón Mainero J *et al.* [Climatic patterns in the establishment of wintering areas by North American migratory birds.](#) *Ecology and Evolution*. *Author countries*: Mexico, United States

Ramirez-Cabral NYZ, Kumar L & Taylor S. [Crop niche modeling projects major shifts in common bean growing areas](#) *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 218-219: 102-113 *Author countries*: Australia, Mexico

Spalink D, Drew BT, Pace MC *et al.* [Evolution of geographical place and niche space Patterns of diversification in the North American sedge \(Cyperaceae\) flora.](#) *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 95: 183-195 *Author countries*: United States, China

Trowbridge CD, Little C, Ferrenburg LS *et al.* [Shallow subtidal octocorals in an Irish marine reserve.](#) *Marine Biodiversity*. *Author countries*: United States, United Kingdom, Ireland

## NEW DATA

### Andorra

Species observations in Andorra

Publisher: [Centre d'estudis de la neu i de la muntanya d'Andorra \(CENMA\), Institut d'Estudis Andorrans](#)

Total records: 108,287

Observations of [arthropods](#), [fungi](#), [vertebrates](#) and [flora](#) in Andorra from the CENMA – Institut d'Estudis Andorrans.

### Arctic

[Muskox abundance](#)

Publisher: [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna](#)

Total records: 117

Circumpolar musk ox occurrences gathered from 1970 to 2016.



MUSK OX (OVIBOS MOSCHATUS), QUEBEC, CANADA. PHOTO BY LAURENT BELANGER. CC BY-SA 4.0

### [Spider diversity](#)

Publisher: [Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna](#)  
Total records: 652

Spider observations from pan traps set in two wet and two dry habitats in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada.

### **Australia**

24 new and updated datasets from the [CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere](#) (OBIS Australia)

#### [Fish census in the Great Barrier Reef](#)

Publisher: [CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere](#)  
Total records: 147,466

Observations of 191 fish species from a long-term census on the Great Barrier Reef.



FLYNN REEF, PART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF NEAR CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. PHOTO BY TOBY HUDSON, VIA WIKIMEDIA

#### [Soviet fishery data](#)

Publisher: [CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere](#)  
Total records: 79,717

Data on fish catch composition and trawl locations from 35 cruises of Russian fishery research vessels in Australian waters between 1965 and 1978.

### **Belgium**

[Vlinderdatabank – butterflies in Flanders and Brussels](#)

Publisher: [Research Institute for Nature and Forest](#) (INBO)  
Total records: 761,660

Butterfly occurrences from historical collections, literature and monitoring, providing a near-complete overview of species in the region.

#### [Zomerganzen – Summering geese](#)

Publisher: [Research Institute for Nature and Forest](#) (INBO)  
Total records: 20,416

Summering geese observed in Flanders during geese management and population counts. The dataset contains over 3,700 sampling events.  
*Note: Sampling event dataset*

#### [Butterfly observations from Flanders and Brussels](#)

Publisher: [Natuurpunt](#)  
Total records: 612,934

Citizen science observations of butterflies from Flanders and Brussels, gathered through the Waarnemingen.be portal.

### **Brazil**

[Collection of the Herbário da Universidade Federal do Acre](#)

Publisher: [Universidade Federal do Acre](#)  
Total records: 18,133

Amazonian plant specimens from Brazil, Peru and Bolivia from the herbarium at the Universidade Federal do Acre.

### **Colombia**

[Hemiptera from the Instituto Humboldt's entomological collection](#)

Publisher: [Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt](#)  
Total records: 17,369

Hemiptera specimens – shield bugs, cicadas, aphids and leaf hoppers, nearly all georeferenced, from Colombia.

#### [Turtle survey data](#)

Publisher: [WCS Colombia](#)  
Total records: 281

Observations of Dahl's toad-headed turtle (*Mesoclemmys dahlia*) and red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*) from a survey of endangered turtles in Colombian dry forests.

### **Denmark**

***Denmark's Zoological Museum publishes 18 years of moth monitoring observations***

The [Zoological Museum](#) in Copenhagen has published data from an 18-year roof-top monitoring programme that collects insects with light traps. The published records account for 1,063 of the

country's 2,522 known butterfly and moth species, or 42 per cent of Lepidoptera species recorded in Denmark.

The 37,477 Lepidoptera records gathered by the study are among the first datasets published through GBIF.org as a sampling-event dataset. Enabled through an [extension of the Darwin Core Standard approved last year](#), this [class of dataset](#) provides richer detail about both a study's methodology and species abundance.

► **READ MORE**

[News release on the dataset](#)

[Data from the Biodiversitet Nu and NaturTjek projects](#)

Publisher: [Danish Society for Nature Conservation / Danmarks Naturfredningsforening](#)

Total records: 52,612

Citizen science observations of 30 indicator species.



EUROPEAN RED SQUIRREL (*SCIURUS VULGARIS*). PHOTO BY TOIVO TOIVANEN & TIINA TOPPILA VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, PUBLIC DOMAIN.

[Macroarthropods from Greenland](#)

Publisher: [Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University](#)

Total records: 336

Macroarthropod specimens captured in pitfall traps in Isua, Greenland

[Danish true bugs](#)

Publisher: [Danish Biodiversity Information Facility](#)

Total records: 9,789

Specimens of Danish bugs stored in the Natural History Museums in Aarhus and Copenhagen.

## Ireland

[Grey seal distribution](#)

Publisher: [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#)

Total records: 48,944

GPS observations from the tagging of grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) along the Irish coast.

## Israel

[Large mammals from camera traps](#)

Publisher: [Hamaarag](#)

Total records: 7,667

Camera-trap observations of large mammals from Hamaarag – Israel's National Nature Assessment Programme.

*Note: Sampling event dataset*

## Kenya

[Checklist of endangered species from the coastal region of Kenya](#)

Publisher: [National Museums of Kenya](#)

Taxa: 182

This checklist of endangered species in the coastal forests of the country is Kenya's first published dataset.

## Madagascar

Species observations from the Mahafaly plateau

Publisher: [Museum für Naturkunde Berlin](#)

Total records: 10,634

Observations of [birds](#), [Madagascan tortoise tick](#), [blind cave fish](#), [Grandidier's mongoose](#) (*Galidictis grandidieri*), [Grey-brown mouse lemur](#) (*Microcebus griseorufus*), [plants](#), [reptiles](#), [yam](#), from the Mahafaly Plateau in southwest Madagascar.

## Netherlands

[Vogeltrekstation - Data from the ringing of nestlings](#) Publisher: [Vogeltrekstation - Dutch Centre for Avian Migration and Demography](#)

Total records: 157,978

Historical data from the ringing of nestlings by volunteers between 1911 and 1959, providing information on the timing of breeding seasons.

[Monitoring data from the North Sea](#)

Publisher: [Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility \(NLBIF\)](#)

Total records: 29,691

Observation records from benthic monitoring in the North Sea by the Zoological Museum Amsterdam, between 1990-2002.

## Norway

[Kinorhyncha – mapping the mud dragons of Norway](#)

Publisher: [Natural History Museum, University of Oslo](#)

Total records: 119

Observations of Kinorhyncha - a lesser known group of marine invertebrates, from a project to name and describe them in Norwegian waters.

[Vegetation data from alpine site](#)

Publisher: [NTNU University Museum](#)

Total records: 15,973

Sampling event plant observations from alpine sheep grazing experiment.

*Note: Sampling event dataset*

## Russia

Botanical collections of the Polar Alpine Botanical Garden

Publisher: [Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden-Institute of N.A. Avrorin KSC RAS](#)

Total records: 37,352

[Lichens, hepatics or liverworts and blue-green algae](#) (cyanoprocarvota) from the collections of the Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden Institute.

## Serbia

[Hoverflies in Serbia](#)

Publisher: [Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia](#)

Total records: 2,166

Data from long-term monitoring of hoverflies between 1970 and 2014 collected to identify core areas for their conservation. First data shared from Serbia.

*Note: This is the first dataset published from Serbia*

## South Africa

[Waterbird counts](#)

Publisher: [Animal Demography Unit, Department of Zoology, University of Cape Town](#)

Total records: 288,393

Citizen science observations from mid-summer and mid-winter water bird censuses in more than 400 wetlands around the country.

## Spain

[Bird census at the beach of Doñana Natural Space](#)

Publisher: [Biological Station of Doñana \(CSIC\)](#)

Total records: 888

Data from bird counts along a beach transect at the Biological Station of Doñana.

*Note: Sampling event dataset*

[Mammals in pellet samples](#)

Publisher: [University of Navarra, Museum of Zoology](#)

Total records: 73,574

Small mammal specimens, representing 36 species, collected from owl pellets.

[BrioCAT: Bryophytes of Catalunya](#)

Publisher: [Banc de dades de biodiversitat de Catalunya](#)

Total records: 33,318

Bryophyte observations from the biodiversity data bank of Catalonia.

## United States

[Culture collection of algae](#)

Publisher: [Culture Collection of Algae at University of Texas at Austin](#)

Total records: 2,813

Cultures of living algae from a collection initiated in the 1920's, composed of microscopic cells, filaments or colonial algae from soil and freshwater.

[LACM entomology collection](#)

Publisher: [Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County](#)

Total records: 184,364

Collection of phorid flies, primarily from North and South America

Specimens from the Illinois State Museum

Publisher: [Illinois State Museum](#)

Total records: 28,784

[Reptile and amphibian](#) specimens, [shark](#), [lamprey](#) and [bony fish](#), [birds](#) and [mammals](#), including many Midwestern species from the museum's collections.

[Afrotropical Mydidae](#)

Publisher: [National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution](#)

Total records: 1,754

Occurrence records of Afrotropical Mydas flies compiled from collection data for inclusion in the manual of Afrotropical Diptera.

[North American bumble bees](#)

Publisher: [ZooKeys](#)

Total records: 10,211

Data from a survey to document the status of bee pollinators in 41 of the 50 US states.

## Uzbekistan

[Geophytes of the Fergana valley](#)

Publisher: [Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan institute of the Gene Pool of Plants and Animals](#)

Total records: 1,201

Observations of 210 species of monocotyledonous geophytes representing nine families from the Fergana valley in eastern Uzbekistan.

*Note: This is the first dataset published from Uzbekistan*

## EVENTS

[Data publishing workshop 1](#)

31 March - 1 April 2016, Tamatave, Madagascar

[Data publishing workshop 2](#)

4-5 April 2016, Mahajanga, Madagascar

[8th European Nodes Meeting](#)

19-21 April 2016, Lisbon, Portugal

[20th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice \(SBSTTA 20\)](#)

25-30 April 2016, Montreal, Canada

[ALA Science Symposium 2016](#)

11-13 May 2016, Perth, Australia

[2016 conference of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections \(SPNHC\)](#)

20-25 June 2016, Berlin, Germany

[2nd International Conference on Biodiversity Biobanking](#)

21-24 June 2016, Berlin, Germany

[23rd meeting of the GBIF Governing Board \(GB23\)](#)

24-27 October, 2016, Brasilia, Brazil



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

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