

## Conferences and Events

### 2014 Call for Proposals of the GBIF Capacity Enhancement Support Program.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) actively supports actions to enhance the capacity of its Participants to provide free and open access to biodiversity data. The main goal of the Capacity Enhancement Support Program is to address specific capacity needs identified by participants by facilitating capacity transfer and collaboration at the regional and global levels. It builds on the previously successful mentoring and regional training support programs, effectively combining and replacing them, while supporting integrated projects still based on the same principles.

Submission of proposals to this call is a two stage process. Node Managers from GBIF participants are encouraged to contact potential partners and to submit short concept notes by 26 May 2014. A selection panel will assess those notes and will invite applicants to present full project proposals by 18 July. Selected projects will be announced 28 July.

This program will provide co-funding to GBIF Participants to support capacity enhancement projects. The maximum amount that can be requested through this call is twenty thousand Euros (20,000 EUR) per project. Participants are invited to present proposals based on one or more of the following four types of action eligible for support (please note that each type of action has a funding limit as well):

1. Mentoring activities: Interactions among two or more Participants where the core objective is the transfer of information, technology, experience and best practices in small groups. This component can be funded for a maximum of 15,000 EUR per project.

2. Regional training support: courses and workshops with a regional (multi-national) component. These actions can only support the regional component of a training event or initiative (e.g. the costs associated with the participation of representatives from other GBIF Participants in a proposed training event). This component can be funded for a maximum of 10,000 EUR per project.

3. GBIF advocacy actions: active participation in strategic events to promote GBIF. This should have the objective of increasing the GBIF membership and/or its relevance among

a community not sufficiently exposed to GBIF that can help to advance GBIF's mission. This component can be funded for a maximum of 2,000 EUR per project.

4. Documentation: production of key learning and promotional resources or their adaptation to the national or regional context (e.g. by translation or including local/regional point of view). This component can be funded for a maximum of 2,000 EUR per project.

For detailed information, please visit: <http://www.gbif.org/whatisgbif>

### CMS Announces Funding Opportunity from US: USFWS Grant.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) has issued a call for proposals for the forthcoming funding opportunity within the Wildlife without Borders program of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service International Conservation Funds. Proposals can be submitted to the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund (CEACF). The deadline for applying for this grant is 15 May 2014. The full notification can be found at <http://www.cms.int/en/node/5280>.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity strongly encourages Parties and partners to submit project proposals through this fund that not only contribute to the objectives of the CMS, but also contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 12, which states that *"By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those in most decline, has been improved and sustained"*, and other related targets.

The text of this notification is also available on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2014/ntf-2014-065-ias-en.pdf>

### Poster for the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2014.

In Notification 2013-094 ([www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2013/ntf-2013-094-idb-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2013/ntf-2013-094-idb-en.pdf)), dated 21 October 2013, the Secretariat announced the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) and its plans to develop outreach materials reflecting the designated theme of *"Island Biodiversity"*.

In addition to the electronic versions of the IDB logotypes that are available in all six United Nations languages at: [www.cbd.int/idb/2014/logo/](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2014/logo/), a poster commemorating the IDB is now available for downloading at: [www.cbd.int/idb/2014/](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2014/). The poster is available in a resolution suitable for printing.

The Secretariat of CBD is also in the process of finalizing an information booklet on this year's theme, which will soon be made available electronically. Parties and stakeholders are encouraged to reproduce the poster and disseminate it widely, and to make use of the promotional materials when organizing the IDB celebrations. CBD kindly remind you to keep the Secretariat informed of your IDB activities, in addition to other noteworthy activities organized by NGOs and other organizations in your countries so that these could be included on the webpage devoted to the 2014 IDB celebrations worldwide: [www.cbd.int/idb/2014/](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2014/).

#### **The First Global Soil Biodiversity Conference.**

The Earth's soils are living, dynamic interfaces that are habitats for millions of microbial and animal species. The activities of soil biota are critical to the well-being of human societies because their activities underpin the delivery of major ecosystem services. Without soil biota, the soil resource as we know would not exist, and the services that we rely on for sustainability would all but cease.

To meet the challenges of global changes while sustaining the productivity of our natural and managed lands requires not only knowing the role of soil biota, but also implementing that knowledge. It is therefore of utmost importance that we effectively synthesize and incorporate the growing scientific knowledge on the provision of vital ecosystem services by soil biodiversity into future regional and national management and policy plans.

- Discovery and observation: Assessing soil biodiversity to determine status and trends
- Tracking and monitoring: Understanding current, and predicting future distribution patterns of soil organisms
- Untangling the linkages: Elucidating relationships between soil biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services
- Assessing the pressures and threats: Impacts of global change on soil communities, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services
- Strategies for management and conservation: Practices to maintain and enhance ecosystem services provided by soil biodiversity
- Extending the knowledge base: The social and economic value of soil biodiversity
- Discussion panel: The development of policies at national and international levels for promoting ecosystem services delivered by soils

For the complete meeting details and to register visit: <http://colloque.inra.fr/gsb1>

**Compiled by Badamdorj Bayartogtokh**