NBII and GBIF
Biological Information Across Boundaries

The NBII and GBIF are united by a common set of principles.

Through the years, the award-winning U.S. National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) has played a key role in a variety of international biodiversity information initiatives. The NBII is the United States' national resource for international cooperation at the bilateral, regional, and global levels. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is one of the most important of these initiatives.

NBII and GBIF: Complementary Initiatives

Although the geographic coverage and thematic scope of the two initiatives differ, their goals overlap: both aspire to design, implement, coordinate, and

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is an international scientific effort to bring massive amounts of genetic, taxonomic, geographical, and ecological data about organisms to the desktop of anyone with access to the Internet. Central to GBIF is the *Catalog of Life,* a standardized electronic index providing uniform taxonomy and nomenclature for all known living organisms. Through this index, users of the GBIF portal will employ cutting-edge information technology to find their way, interactively and in real time, through millions of biodiversity records on the three billion specimens located in the collections of natural history museums, herbaria, and microorganism repositories located around the globe.
For more information on GBIF, go to <http://www.gbif.org/>.

The U.S. **National Biological Information Infrastructure** (NBII) is a Web-based system that provides access to the diverse biological databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by its partners in federal and state government agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private industry. For more information on the NBII, go to <http://www.nbii.gov/>.

promote the compilation, linking, standardization, digitization, and dissemination of biodiversity data. Likewise, the NBII and GBIF are united by a common set of principles. Both seek to make biodiversity data freely and quickly available to a broad range of consumers. To achieve this, they contribute to the development of a common set of informatics standards to ensure that the retrieval and exchange of information can take place across political, linguistic, and institutional boundaries. Both emphasize respect for intellectual property rights: participants retain the rights and control over their data.

The ambitious GBIF work program is carried out through various subcommittees and the Secretariat in Denmark. As a network of affiliated national and regional databases and informatics initiatives, GBIF is entirely supported by its members. The United States, as a charter member, has agreed to share biodiversity information by constructing a U.S. GBIF node and by making financial contributions. The NBII Program Office at the U.S. Geological Survey provides the Head of the U.S. delegation and the Chair of the Science Subcommittee on the Electronic Catalog, and NBII experts provide input to the GBIF work program.

The NBII also supports the participation of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) in GBIF activities. ITIS, itself a member of GBIF, is a vital component of the GBIF Catalog of Life.

The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) is also a member of GBIF, and the NBII Program Office provides the Head of the IABIN delegation to GBIF. IABIN supports the GBIF objectives of sharing, using, and coordinating data sets, and catalyzing new technologies applicable to biodiversity information. Efforts within the IABIN network to encourage compliance with appropriate standards will facilitate the incorporation of Western Hemisphere data into GBIF. In addition, through IABIN membership in GBIF, the nations of the Western Hemisphere have a voice in GBIF activities. For more information on IABIN, go to <http://www.iabin-us.org/>.

By sharing biological information across international boundaries, the NBII and GBIF together are advancing scientific knowledge, sustainable development, and quality of life.

For More Information

To learn more about the NBII and GBIF, please contact:

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