

Global Biodiversity Information Outlook: Where do we stand?

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The Global Biodiversity information Facility (GBIF, <http://www.gbif.org/>), with support from the EU-funded CReATIVE-B project, the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, the JRS Foundation and the University of Copenhagen, organized the Global Biodiversity Informatics Conference in Copenhagen in July 2012. This conference brought together around 100 international scientists, informatics experts, policy makers, and others to explore opportunities to combine information technology, biodiversity science and social networks to improve our understanding of life on Earth.

The output from this conference was the *Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook* (GBIO, <http://www.gbif.org/resource/80859>). This document identified four broad focus areas for collaborative activity and, for each of these areas, five components needing further investment, standardization or progress.

The first area, *Culture*, addressed the cross-cutting issues around open access to data and engagement of expert communities as stakeholders and beneficiaries in the management of biodiversity information. The second area, *Data*, considered how to deliver and publish digital representations of the major repositories of historical knowledge and streams of contemporary scientific research which together represent our knowledge of biodiversity. The third area, *Evidence*, focused on the challenges around integration and ongoing evaluation of all of these data as components contributing to a seamless, well-managed data resource. Finally, the *Understanding* area identified major aspects of biodiversity for which analysis and modelled representations are required on the basis of this organized evidence.

Since GBIO was published, significant progress has been made around many of these components, partly as a result of general trends promoting open access and sustainable management of research data, partly owing to major national, regional or global investments in building infrastructures for biodiversity research.

However, a review of the GBIF components makes clear that a number of key issues remain unsolved and offer major opportunities for innovation and investment. This presentation will provide an overview of these opportunities.