

Letter of Agreement between the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the International Council for Science (ICSU)

The purpose of this Letter of Agreement is to define the conditions under which the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (hereinafter GBIF) will contribute to the ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS) as a Regular Member. This document is not legally binding.

1. GBIF (www.gbif.org) was founded in 2001 as an intergovernmental scientific infrastructure aimed at providing free and open access to biodiversity data, via the Internet. It offers a single online access point to more than 600 million biodiversity records published from around 30,000 datasets by some 800 institutions. GBIF operates through a network of national and thematic nodes. The GBIF Secretariat is based in Copenhagen, Denmark and maintains a comprehensive data index and data download portal.
2. It is the intention of GBIF to contribute to ICSU-WDS, and to collaborate with its governing body, the WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC), in order to ensure the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and/or data services to the international science community and other stakeholders.
3. By joining as a Regular Member, GBIF will work towards achieving the common goals and objectives of ICSU-WDS as stated in the constitution. These are to
 - a. Enable universal and equitable access to quality assured scientific data, data services, products, and information
 - b. Ensure long-term data stewardship
 - c. Foster compliance to agreed-upon data standards and conventions
 - d. Provide mechanisms to facilitate and improve access to data
4. GBIF commits to fulfil the ICSU-WDS criteria for membership, including
 - a. Accepting the ICSU-WDS Constitution 2013 (Annex A)
 - b. Complying with the ICSU-WDS Data Sharing Principles (Annex B), which include a commitment to full and open exchange of data, metadata, products, and information deposited within ICSU-WDS
5. If GBIF, for any reason, is unable to continue its long-term commitment, then it should endeavour to find a mechanism to secure its data activities by transferring them to another ICSU-WDS facility or other suitable host organization.



ICSU

International Council for Science



ICSU
WORLD DATA SYSTEM

6. The resources required for the data activities of GBIF are the responsibility of GBIF's Voting Participant Countries, as described in the GBIF Memorandum of Understanding 2012 (Annex C). To ensure continuity, GBIF's Voting Participant Countries are expected to provide these resources on a long-term basis.
7. GBIF, as a Regular Member of ICSU-WDS, refrains from using the WDS logo and trademarks to make direct financial profit without explicit authorization from the WDS-SC.
8. This Letter of Agreement will enter into force upon signature by both parties. It is valid for an unlimited period from the date of signature.
9. This Letter of Agreement is to be signed between ICSU and GBIF by the respective heads of organizations or their authorized delegates.

SIGNED

(On behalf of ICSU)

Date: 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

Name: Mustapha Mokrane

Position: WDS Executive Director

SIGNED

(On behalf of GBIF)

Date: 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

Name: Donald Hobern

Position: GBIF Executive Secretary

ICSU World Data System
International Programme Office
 c/o NICT, 4-2-1 Nukul-kitamachi,
 Koganei, Tokyo 184-8795, Japan
 Tel: +81 42 327 6395

Donald Hobern
 Director
 GBIF Secretariat
 Universitetsparken 15
 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
 Denmark