

1 **DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2023-2027**  
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3 For more than 20 years GBIF — the Global Biodiversity Information Facility — has  
4 provided anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth. GBIF has earned  
5 the reputation as the “most comprehensive, openly available... access point to known digital  
6 species occurrence data.”<sup>1</sup> The interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change  
7 have increased the requirements and urgency for data to inform research, policy and decisions from  
8 local to global scales.  
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11 **GBIF’s vision:** A world in which the best possible biodiversity data underpins research, policy and  
12 decisions.

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15 GBIF is expanding to include more and varied types of data and improved informatics  
16 services, in order to supply the biodiversity information that global research and policy require. Our  
17 community of people is also growing with new nodes, data publishers and data users. GBIF’s  
18 maturity has earned trust from the global community, and with trust comes responsibility and the  
19 expectation of leadership. The urgent need for solutions to multiple global crises compels GBIF to  
20 build a truly global network of people capable of facilitating the delivery of all potentially available  
21 biodiversity data through proven infrastructure.  
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24 **GBIF’s mission:** To mobilize the data, skills and technology needed make comprehensive  
25 biodiversity information freely available for science and decisions addressing biodiversity loss and  
26 sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> CODATA, the Committee on Data of the International Science Council, Pfeiffenberger H & Uhler P (2020) Twenty-Year Review of GBIF. <http://doi.org/10.35035/ctzm-hz97>

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Underpinning this mission are the values that have characterized GBIF’s first 20 years and will advance our work – values that apply to the Secretariat, to the global nodes network, to participants, to data publishing institutions, and to data users, that together embody the global GBIF community.

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**Trust and Transparency** – Expectations that all decisions and processes are open; that data is of the highest-possible quality and attributed; and that infrastructures are robust, documented and persistent

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**Collaboration and Collective Benefit** – A recognition that only through a spirit of collaboration can we fulfil GBIF’s mission by sharing skills, data, tools and experiences, avoiding duplication, and growing a global community of practice

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**Diversity and Inclusiveness** – A commitment to engage and welcome people from all countries, cultures, genders and backgrounds while recognizing all contributions to our global community

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**Innovation** – An ambition to lead by example in advancing open science and data services and in adopting novel techniques for collaboration and learning, recognizing that simplicity is often the best means of reaching our goals

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**Integrity** – An assurance that professional norms and scientific integrity are respected; and that data-sharing safeguards the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as potential risks to sensitive species

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## Strategic Priority Areas

We will achieve GBIF's vision and mission in different ways. To retain our ability to adapt to dynamic changes, the following priority areas offer broad guidelines rather than detailed directives.

High-quality data, world-class technical infrastructure and exceptional people will enable GBIF to achieve its strategic priorities. To date, our success in delivering information on the occurrence of species at a particular place and time has come from a governance structure that supports building communities of practice, enabled by state-of-the-art infrastructure to share, discover and access high-quality data retaining full provenance.

Building on our role as the leading global biodiversity data infrastructure enabling analysis, research and decision-making, GBIF must accelerate the pace of its work to meet the urgent challenges of the biodiversity and climate crises. We must continue to enhance our network's capacity, enrich its data and scale our infrastructure to accelerate understanding of biodiversity and support the transformative changes needed to achieve sustainability.

This strategic framework recognizes that biodiversity data is more complicated than 'just' the occurrence of species in time and space: organisms interact, co-occur, move, and evolve. This implies a need for richer and more varied types of data than GBIF has thus far supported. Recognizing GBIF's impact and its relevance to a growing demand of stakeholders, continued success demands that more and better-trained people adopt and share GBIF's mission, and that GBIF fulfils user requirements that range from simple to complex.

The strategic framework aims to deliver enhanced value and coherence through continued innovation that further enables our community and meets developing needs. Building upon the foundation delivered through our global network, the following strategic priority areas target the data, people and infrastructure necessary for improving our understanding, conservation and restoration of biodiversity in all its inherent complexity.

### **Priority Area 1: Building evidence-based foundations to advance scientific research and understanding of global biodiversity**

#### ***Objectives***

- Reduce knowledge gaps by helping the network to target and consolidate data coverage across thematic, taxonomic, phylogenetic, spatial and temporal dimensions.
- Enable, expand, and diversify uptake and application of GBIF-mediated data.
- Support the evolution of fundamental data-driven biodiversity research and its application across methods, scales, and disciplines in life and environmental sciences.

- 91 • Ensure meaningful data exchange and reuse of data through citations and measurements,  
92 promoting and consistently applying accepted standards that adhere to the highest  
93 expectations and best practices in open and data-intensive science.  
94 • Increase science relevance, promote recognition, expand involvement, and improve best  
95 data practice in academia and higher education.  
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97 **Priority Area 2: Enabling the network to meet future needs and challenges**  
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99 ***Objectives***

- 100 • Develop solutions that increase meaningful participation in the GBIF community by  
101 providing local capacity development and programme support and reducing linguistic  
102 barriers.  
103 • Optimize our impact by pursuing collaborations across a growing community of  
104 partnerships.  
105 • Manage resources efficiently, transparently, and strategically.  
106 • Foster greater openness and transparency through distributed open-source development of  
107 shared infrastructure, targeted data mobilization and use campaigns, and joint public and  
108 private partnerships.  
109 • Strengthen ties with existing voting participants and increasing national participation.  
110 • Leverage and diversify funding sources to direct financial support toward strategic growth,  
111 while maintaining core funding through voting participants.  
112 • Ensure a strong and stable foundation by securing ongoing commitment across existing and  
113 potential participant members.  
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115 **Priority Area 3: Supporting policy responses and knowledge transfer that address urgent**  
116 **societal challenges around planetary change**  
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118 ***Objectives***

- 119 • Develop high-impact programmes that frame themes related to the data needs for key  
120 societal challenges, including biodiversity loss, climate change, food security and human  
121 health.  
122 • Strengthen capacity for use of data to contribute to local, national, regional and global  
123 biodiversity-related goals, joining with partners to support application of data in policy-  
124 relevant information tools and products.  
125 • Work with intergovernmental policy partners to provide decision-makers with a more  
126 complete global view of biodiversity status and trends, including the use of GBIF-mediated  
127 data to generate indicators and to track essential biodiversity variables.  
128 • Enhance GBIF's relevance to policy and decision-makers by creating and maintaining  
129 deeper collaborative engagement, through multilateral environmental agreements, UN  
130 agencies and science-policy platforms.

- 131       • Refine messaging to help GBIF engage across a wider range of stakeholders.

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133   **Priority Area 4: Driving innovation to advance biodiversity-related knowledge**

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135    ***Objectives***

- 136       • Sustain and improve a robust technical infrastructure capable of providing the most  
137       accurate, up-to-date, interoperable and reusable data available.
- 138       • Evolve and adapt data standards and models to enable routine generation of increasingly  
139       complex, integrated and comprehensive biodiversity data.
- 140       • Improve data quality by ensuring rapid, efficient identification and resolution of errors and  
141       issues, including through user feedback.
- 142       • Strive toward becoming a real-time biodiversity monitoring infrastructure, reducing barriers  
143       and associated time-lags for integrating data into GBIF.
- 144       • Use the convening power of GBIF to continue to drive the coordination and advancement of  
145       the global biodiversity informatics community.