G20 Research and Innovation Working Group

Deliverable 4.2 - The G20-GBIF facilitation process for species cataloging and expansion of open biodiversity databases

The G20 champions the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) mission to facilitate open data on biodiversity for a sustainable Amazon and all regions globally. The G20 is committed to engage in GBIF's efforts by any possible means, including endorsement of the full membership, so that GBIF can continue to work effectively as an intergovernmental infrastructure and network that provides data in support of national policy objectives.

The G20 recognizes the importance of open data for biodiversity research and promotes international cooperation to enhance national capacity for meeting national biodiversity policy and research goals. The G20 supports further mobilization of biodiversity data, peer training in biodiversity informatics, and an inventory of the biodiversity data sources. In particular, the G20 calls for:

- Expanded data mobilization (species cataloguing) and human capacity development for policy-relevant biodiversity data through the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme;

- Updated inventories of the world's herbaria and natural history museums in Global Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl).

Data mobilization and capacity development

The G20 appreciates the GBIF's Biodiversity Information for Development programme, which since 2017 has increased the biodiversity data available from and to underserved regions and improved the data skills of hundreds of researchers from regions with abundant and/or unique biodiversity. BID's outputs have supported national efforts to meet the UN Sustainable Developmental Goals in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean on protected areas, threatened species and invasive alien species. The G20 encourages the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in project design and execution and the safeguarding of traditional and local knowledge.

The G20 appreciates the continuation of the funding provided for BID by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA). The G20 welcomes the expansion of BID to the Amazonian countries through the World Bank's Amazonian Sustainable Landscape program. The G20 appreciates GBIF's effort to acquire longer-term funds from the Global Environment Facility to fund its multiyear global road map. This data mobilization and capacity development will assist nations to meet the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other national policy and research objectives.

Scientific collections

Natural history museums form a critical foundation for biodiversity knowledge. The specimens they hold shape our understanding of the implications of climate change and biodiversity loss. GBIF's Global Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl) serves as an infrastructure for inventorying these key knowledge resources, but basic information about many scientific collections is lacking. The G20 acknowledges regional and national initiatives to populate and improve the information in GRSciColl. Such updates improve all nations' ability to identify resources that fill gaps in global knowledge of biodiversity. The G20 welcomes global collaboration among natural history museums and herbaria. In particular, the G20 encourages the digitization of biodiversity collections so that such data are freely available, ensuring that this work respects the rights of Indigenous People and local communities including through the recognition of their knowledge systems.