

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Presentation at BIOLOG Statusseminar

Bonn, Germany, 6 Dec. 2001

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GBIF

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

GBIF

- GBIF - an international scientific co-operative project based on a multilateral agreement (MoU) between countries and international organisations, dedicated to:
- establishing an interoperable, distributed network of databases containing scientific biodiversity information, in order to:
- make the world's scientific biodiversity data freely available to all,
- with initial focus on species- and specimen-level data,
- with links to molecular, genetic and ecosystems levels

RATIONALE FOR GBIF

GBIF

- **The Biodiversity and Ecosystems information domain is vast, complex, and critically important to society.**
- **However, most existing Biodiversity and Ecosystems information is not yet dynamically accessible and therefore not fully useful.**
- **Recent technological and political developments provide opportunity for the development of Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Information Networks.**

The main GBIF work programs

GBIF

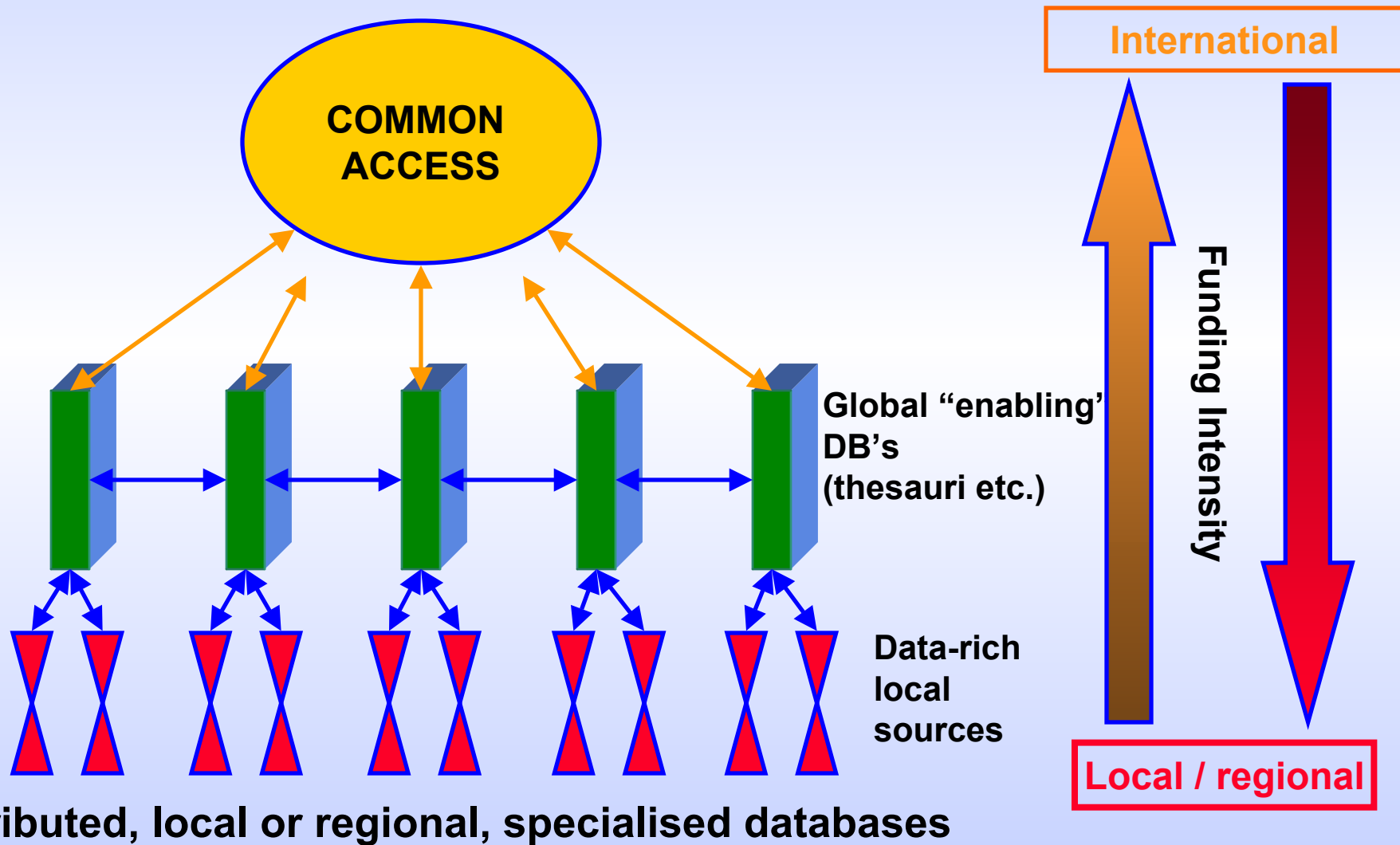
- **Data Access and Database Interoperability**
- **Electronic Catalogue of Names of Known Organisms**
- **Digitization of Natural History Collections**
- **Outreach and Capacity Building**
- “Species Bank”
- Digital Biodiversity Literature Resources

GBIF CHARACTERISTICS

GBIF

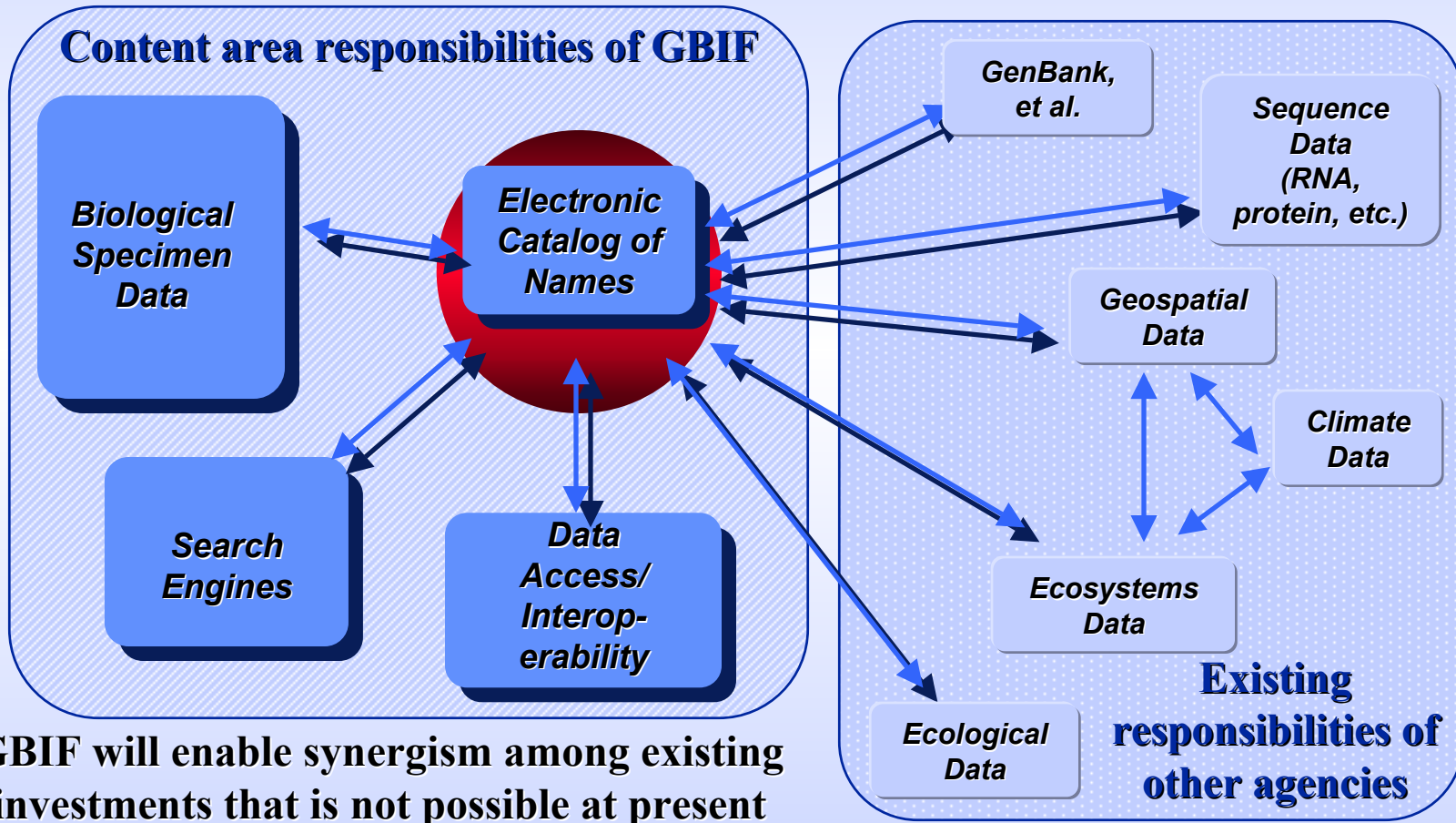
- **Equitable sharing of information and its benefits**
- **Providers retain control over their own data**
- **Protection of intellectual property rights**
- **Complement but not duplicate available biodiversity information networks**
- **Long-term, distributed, open facility architecture**

GBIF structure and funding



The GBIF Portal

GBIF



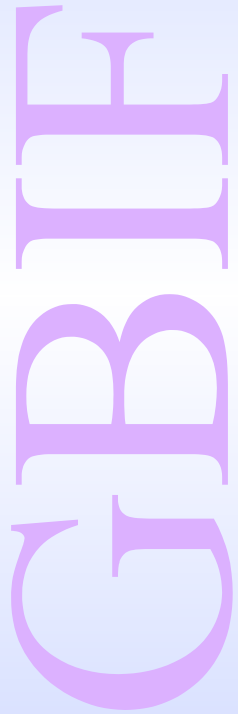
GBIF LINKAGES

GBIF works complementarily and synergistically with other biodiversity information efforts such as:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity: Clearing House Mechanism, Global Taxonomy Initiative**
- **Species 2000 / Integrated Taxonomic Information System / Diversitas / etc.**
- **Many national-level organizations such as CONABIO (Mexico), INBio (Costa Rica), BIOLOG (Germany) and regional initiatives (e.g. IABIN, ENBI, SABONET, etc.)**

GBIF

GBIF MEMBERSHIP



- **Voting membership is open to any country or economy that agrees to:**
 - **Sign MoU**
 - **Make required financial contribution**
 - **Share scientific biodiversity data via GBIF**
 - **Establish a national node**
- **Associate (non-voting) membership is open to any country, economy or organisation that agrees to:**
 - **Sign MoU**
 - **Share scientific biodiversity data via GBIF**
 - **Establish a node**

GBIF

Where we are now

GBIF established: 1st March, 2001

GBIF

- **9-11th March: 1st Governing Board Meeting (GB1)**
 - **Elected Christoph Haeuser Chair**
 - **Established Ebbe Nielsen prize**
- **15-17th June: GB2: Denmark (University of Copenhagen) selected to host the GBIF Secretariat**
- **11-12th September: GB3: GBIF Executive Secretary selected**
- **Science & Budget Committees established**
- **27 countries, 1 economy and 10 organizations have joined to date**

GBIF PARTICIPANTS

(as of 1 Dec. 2001)

- **21 Voting Participants:**

- Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA.

- **19 Associate Participants:**

- Austria, BioNET, Bulgaria, CABI, EC, ETI, Ghana, IABIN, ITIS, NatureServe, OBIS, Pakistan, Poland, Species2000, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Taiwan, UNESCO-MAB, UNEP (WCMC).

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GBIF ORGANIZATION

GBIF

- **Governing Board**
- **Science Committee**
- **Secretariat (at Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen)**
 - **Director + (eventually) ca. 12 staff**
 - **Organizes, co-ordinates, inspires, cajoles**
 - **Designs and runs GBIF portal**
- **National and other nodes**
- **"Real work" mainly done non-centrally**

DELIVERABLES - YEAR 1

GBIF

- **International workshops held to aid in developing the priority work programmes:**
 - **Data Access/Interoperability**
 - **Digitization of Collections Data,**
 - **Compilation of Catalogue of Names of Known Organisms**
 - **Outreach and Capacity Building**
- **GBIF portal is established**
- **Plan is developed for catalyzing development of Internet connections in all countries**

DELIVERABLES - YEAR 2

GBIF

- **Emerging standards for interoperability**
- **Specimen digitisation efforts underway**
- **Increase in rate of digitisation of biodiversity data**
- **At least 50 biodiversity databases agree to affiliate with GBIF**
- **Development of appropriate search engines has begun**
- **GBIF works with international development agencies to develop plan for installing GBIF hardware and software and for training individuals in their use**

OUT YEARS

GBIF

- **Further deliverables listed in GBIF Business Plan (on GBIF web page)**
- **Major review of GBIF at end of year 3 to determine its future**
- **Jim Edwards' vision:**
 - **Biodiversity data provided by GBIF and other sites will provide an enabling tool for biodiversity informaticists, who will be as sought after as genome informaticists (as measured by, e.g., ads in *Nature*)**

GBIF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

GBIF

- **Advertisement in 6 December *Nature* for:**
 - **Deputy Director for Informatics**
 - **Deputy Director for Management and International Relations**
 - **Four Program Officers**
- **Further details at GBIF web site**



The GBIF Homepage

URL: <http://www.gbif.org> +
<http://www.gbif.net>

GBIF

- Home
- Status of GBIF
- About GBIF
- History of GBIF
- GBIF Documents
- Governing Board
- Relationships
- Related links



Many thanks to Joachim Holstein, Staatliches Museum, Stuttgart, who designed and has managed the GBIF web site since its inception.