CALL FOR PROPOSALS

4th Biodiversity Platform Digitisation Project Call
(2010-2011)

Deadline for submission of project proposals: <u>January 31st 2010</u>

<u>Background & Objective</u>:

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform (www.biodiversity.be) aims at promoting biodiversity data exchange between scientists in Belgium and abroad as well as with field actors and decision makers. The Platform acts as the national node for GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility, www.gbif.org), an international initiative facilitating worldwide dissemination of primary biodiversity data, and has recently launched a dedicated data portal providing access to data pertaining to Belgium. Since digitisation is often the limiting step in the diffusion of biodiversity information, we are interested in supporting small projects of digitisation of biodiversity related collections/observational data. This project should serve as a showcase that illustrates the cost-efficiency of digitisation processes and the usefulness of digitised data for scientific and/or practical applications. In addition to financial support, the Platform also provides free IT support for the implementation of the project. Training manuals and background information on data quality and best practices can be found at the following address: http://www.gbif.org/participation/training/resources/gbif-training-manuals/

The aim of the present 4th call is similar to that of the previous calls and aims to increase the Belgian contribution to the GBIF and to increase the available data mass for analysis in support of a policy aimed at sustainable development.

<u>Criteria</u>

The projects will be reviewed by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform and will be subjected to an independent, external peer review process. In case of equal scores, priority will be given to projects that:

1. make use of cost- and time-efficient digitisation procedures that can eventually serve as a model for other projects;
2. demonstrate, in a practical manner, how digitised data from species and specimens can be utilized for scientific and/or practical applications, including important national and international topics are encouraged;
3. build on collaboration between research units and organizations in Belgium.

Budget: The Belgian Biodiversity Platform has set aside budget of 40,000 euro available for this call.

Eligibility: The present call for proposals is open to researchers working at any Belgian research institute.

Duration: Projects will start in June 2010 and will conclude before June 2011 (1 year). A major deliverable of the projects will consist of a public presentation of the results during a workshop to be held in September 2011.

Timetable for the 2010-2011 Biodiversity Digitisation Projects:
In order to keep the initial application procedure as undemanding as possible, a two-steps approach will be used to select the Biodiversity Digitisation Project that will be funded by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

Activity	Date
1.Issue of call	December 1st 2009
1.Deadline to submit proposals	January 31st 2010
1.Public announcement of the successful projects	March 1st 2010
1.Start of Biodiversity Digitisation project	June 1st 2010
1.End of Biodiversity Digitisation project	June 1st 2011
1.Public presentation of the outcome of the project	September 2011

Application Procedure:

1. Project proposals should be no longer than 5 pages and should include:
   a. Abstract
   b. Short project description including: (1) the method(s) used for digitisation; (2) the origin of the collection(s) used; and (3) the quality and status of the material
   c. Timeline for the project
   d. Expected outcome of the project including the total number of digitised records foreseen
   e. Detailed budget (split into salaries, equipment, travel,…) including other possible resources.
   f. Outline of the requested Platform IT support (e.g., tools, consultancy, database design, data cleaning, website development, GIS,…)
   g. Proposition of partnership(s), if applicable
2. No CV needs to be added, evaluation will rely on the personal information contained in BioBEL database (http://biobel.biodiversity.be).

3. Proposals should be sent in electronic format (preferably pdf files) to the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (aheugheb@ulb.ac.be)

Any queries about the Biodiversity Digitisation Project or BioBEL can be addressed to aheugheb@ulb.ac.be