# CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

# 3rd Biodiversity Platform Digitization Project Call
# (2009-2010)

**Deadline for submission of expressions of interests: <u>October 31<sup>st</sup> 2008</u>**

## Background & Objective:

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform (<u>www.biodiversity.be</u>) 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, <u>www.gbif.org</u>), an international initiative facilitating worldwide dissemination of primary biodiversity data. Since digitization is often the limiting step in the diffusion of biodiversity information, we are interested in supporting small projects of digitization of biodiversity related collections/observational data. This project should serve as a showcase that illustrates the cost-efficiency of digitization processes and the usefulness of digitized 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. Background information on data quality can be found at the following address: <u>http://www.gbif.org/prog/digit/data_quality</u>.

The aim of the present 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Criteria

The projects will be reviewed by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform against the following criteria:

1.  This project should make use of cost- and time-efficient digitization procedures that can eventually serve as a model for other projects.
2.  Priority will be given to digitization of well-managed observations data or specimens collections with guarantee of continuity. Ideally, the collection should already be partly digitized in order to generate a meaningful result within one year.
3.  The data resulting from the project can be used to develop an attractive interactive website (with the help of the Platform IT team, if necessary) and will be linked to GBIF.
4.  The projects that demonstrate in a practical manner how digitized data from species and specimens can be utilized for scientific and/or practical applications, including important national and international topics are encouraged.
5.  Collaboration between research units and organizations in Belgium is encouraged.

**Budget:** The Belgian Biodiversity Platform has a sum of 40,000 euros available for digitization.

**Eligibility:** The present call for expressions of interests is open to researchers working at any Belgian research institute.

**Duration:** Projects will start in June 2009 and will conclude before June 2010 (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 2010.

**Timetable for the 2009-2010 Biodiversity Digitization Projects**:
In order to keep the initial application procedure as undemanding as possible, a two-steps approach will be used to select the Biodiversity Digitization Project that will be funded by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

| Activity | Date |
|---|---|
| 1. Issue of call for expression of interest | September 1st 2008 |
| 2. Deadline to submit expression of interest | October 31st 2008 |
| 3. Issue of invitation for full proposals | December 1st 2008 |
| 4. Deadline to submit full proposals | January 31st 2009 |
| 5. Public announcement of the successful projects | March 1st 2009 |
| 6. Start of Biodiversity Digitization project | June 1st 2009 |
| 7. End of Biodiversity Digitization project | May 31st 2010 |
| 8. Public presentation of the outcome of the project | September 2010 |

**Application Procedure:**

1. Expressions of interest should be no longer than 2 pages and should include:
   a. Abstract
   b. Short project description including: (1) the method(s) used for digitization; (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 digitized records foreseen
   e. Detailed budget (split into salaries, equipment, travel,…) including other possible resources.
   f. Outline of the requested Platform IT support
   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)
4. Any queries about the Biodiversity Digitization Project or BioBEL can be addressed to aheugheb@ulb.ac.be