

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

The Encyclopedia of Life

And

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat

Introduction

This Memorandum of Cooperation provides the basis for the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat (GBIFS) to work together to develop and share critical biodiversity informatics infrastructure. In particular, GBIF will allow the Encyclopedia of Life to access its specimen and observational information and to incorporate GBIF's web services in the Encyclopedia. In return, GBIF will have access to the resources of the Encyclopedia of Life, including species pages, scanned literature, and informatics tools. In addition, EOL and GBIF will continue to collaborate on the development of shared software tools, procedures and protocols, including online registries of biodiversity resources, the Global Names Architecture and the Species Profile Model.

The Parties

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility is the world's premier source for information on biological specimen and observational data, providing on-line access to more than 135 million data records from around the world. GBIF's current programmes include:

- *Data Access and Database Interoperability*—developing standards and tools for integrating biodiversity data from disparate sources and for enabling the use of biodiversity data for science, policy and society.
- *Digitisation of Natural History Collections*—providing tools, protocols and seed funding for digitising of specimen and observational data
- *Electronic Catalogue of Names of Known Organisms*—working with important partners to prepare a taxonomic infrastructure accommodating the scientific names associated with the 1.8 million known species.
- *Outreach and Capacity Building*— GBIF aims to provide software tools and training to bridge biodiversity information technology gaps for all countries around the world. GBIF also addresses scientific and technical collaboration in many areas, including repatriation of data and intellectual property rights.

- *Nodes*—developing regional and local capacity to serve and use GBIF data.

GBIF originally proposed two additional programmes: Species Banks and a Digital Library of Biodiversity Literature.

GBIF's membership is composed of countries and relevant international organisations and the Secretariat is GBIF's global coordinating body. GBIF relies on collaborative partnerships to accomplish most of its goals.

The Encyclopedia of Life is an informal consortium of institutions and organizations dedicated to building an on-line Encyclopedia of Life composed of content-rich multi-media web pages for each of the named species on Earth. Currently, the EOL is composed of five working groups:

- *Species Sites Group*—defines the composition of information on species pages; works with the scientific community to identify potential sources of information (such as FishBase) for the species pages and to authenticate the information on the species pages; establishes licensing agreements with data providers.
- *Biodiversity Informatics Group*—conceptualizes and prepares the software needed to host and to search the species pages; applies taxonomic intelligence to the scientific names on the species pages and in the literature.
- *Scanning and Digitization Group*—working with the Biodiversity Heritage Library, a consortium of many of the world's largest natural history libraries, digitizes and marks up the world's biodiversity literature.
- *Education and Outreach Group*—exploits the EOL's potential by exploring and promoting its educational uses.
- *Biodiversity Synthesis Group*—holds synthesis meetings to help reach taxonomic consensus on megadiverse groups; develops tools for analyzing and synthesizing information across species pages.

In many ways, EOL is an extension of GBIF. EOL will in fact be implementing GBIF's two undeveloped programmes: EOL's Species Sites are equivalent to GBIF's proposed SpeciesBank programme, and the Biodiversity Heritage Library is building GBIF's proposed Digital Library of Biodiversity Literature. EOL is also heavily reliant on many other GBIF developments, including standards and protocols, software, and the specimen and observational data that GBIF serves.

EOL's membership is composed of universities, museums, and other similar organizations. Like GBIF, EOL is a facilitating and organizing activity that relies on partnerships with others to accomplish most of its goals.

Objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation

To establish a framework for co-operative work between the ongoing EOL and GBIF programmes. GBIF will provide access to specimen and observational data and to various web services, such as tools for mapping georeferenced point data. EOL will provide access to species information, in a standardized, easy to use format, and tools and web services for sorting and analyzing species-level data. Further cooperative activities may include

1. Identifying and implementing collaborative projects of value to both organizations. Examples include the Global Names Architecture and the TDWG/GBIF/EOL Species Profile Model.
2. Considering the sharing of personnel, such as detailing individuals to work with or at the other organization on topics of interest to both.
3. Developing joint workshops and meetings.

All such specific activities will be drafted as Addenda to this MoC with details, including personnel, funds and objectives captured on a case-by-case basis.

Conditions of Use

1. Both parties agree that they will clearly label the source of all content and require users to indicate those sources in any subsequent re-use. For EOL-supplied data, GBIF will indicate that the information came from the EOL and will include all further attribution metadata. For GBIF-supplied data, EOL will require users to meet GBIF's standards of attribution for its data providers and its Portal.
2. Each party agrees to fully acknowledge the other (verbally and by including logos) when citing or promoting jointly developed products.

Amendments and Modifications

Either party may amend this Memorandum of Cooperation by notifying the other party in writing and with the agreement of the other party.

Non-exclusive Agreement

This Memorandum of Cooperation is non-exclusive, and in no way restricts either EOL or GBIF from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private initiatives, organizations, or individuals.

Signatures

For GBIFS

Signature



Date:

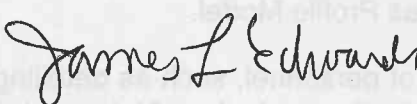
20/11/07

Name: Nicholas King

Title: Executive Secretary, GBIF

For Encyclopedia of Life

Signature



Date:

17/2/07

Name: James L. Edwards

Title: Executive Director, EOL