



# GB25

GBIF 25th Governing Board meeting  
KILKENNY, IRELAND 2018

To coincide with the 25th meeting of the Governing Board of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) held in Kilkenny, Ireland, the National Biodiversity Data Centre is hosting a public symposium on:

# Biodiversity loss in a changing world: local data, global action

**THURSDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**KILKENNY, IRELAND**

**National  
Biodiversity  
Data Centre**

*Documenting Ireland's Wildlife*



**GBIF**

Global Biodiversity  
Information Facility



# About the symposium

**T**he Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is a global science infrastructure which publishes empirical data on the world's biodiversity to support research and international conservation efforts. GBIF publishes more than 1 billion records of biodiversity from across the globe, including more than 2 million from Ireland. The National Biodiversity Data Centre serves as Ireland's GBIF Node.

This symposium is a unique opportunity to hear about GBIF and its global networks, and gain an insight into how some Irish initiatives use data to assist conservation action at the regional and local levels.

## Speakers



**Dr. Ciaran O'Keeffe**

**Head of Science and Biodiversity,  
National Parks and Wildlife Service**

Ciaran is Principle Officer with National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs. Ciaran has responsibility for the science and biodiversity within NPWS. In addition to other roles, Ciaran is a member of the Management Board of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



**Dr. Liam Lysaght,**

**Centre Director,  
National Biodiversity Data Centre**

Liam is Director of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and heads up a small team based in Waterford. The Data Centre is responsible for collation, management and dissemination of data and information on Ireland's biological diversity and operates some monitoring programmes to track change. He also serves as Head of Delegation for Ireland to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and is 1st Vice-Chair of GBIF's Budget Committee. He is a very experienced conservationist having worked in the nature conservation sector for 30 years. Previously he was employed as Wildlife Officer with the Heritage Council, an independent statutory advisory council, and earlier as a Park Ranger in two of Ireland's National Parks.



**Donald Hobern**

**Executive Secretary of the Global  
Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**

Donald is the Executive Secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is responsible for coordinating the activities of the global network for sharing biodiversity data including 54 countries and many international organisations. His career spans over thirty years in software development and biodiversity informatics. From 2007 to 2011, he worked for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as the inaugural Director of the Atlas of Living Australia. During the same period, he also spent three years as Chair of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG), the international organisation responsible for development of standards for exchange of biodiversity data.



**Dr. Thomas M. Orrell**

**Research Biologist,  
Smithsonian Institution**

Thomas is a research biologist in the National Museum of Natural History's Research Informatics Program, Smithsonian Institution. He is Deputy Director of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS.gov), a Research Associate in the Division of Fishes, and former NMNH Informatics Branch Chief. He is Co-Chair of the Catalogue of Life Partnership, a Catalogue of Life Global Team Member, Chair of the GBIF Science Committee and an active researcher. Thomas received his doctorate in marine science (with emphasis in systematic ichthyology) from the College of William and Mary. His research interests include biodiversity informatics; taxonomic information; evolutionary relationships, biogeography, and diversity of fishes; molecular systematics; and invasive species. Thomas is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.



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## Eugenio Gervasini

**Scientific/Technical Support Officer,  
European Commission DG Joint  
Research Centre**

Eugenio graduated in Agricultural Sciences at Milan University, and specialized in entomology, phytopathology, Integrated Pest Management and biological control of pests. He worked 15 years at the Lombardy Plant Protection Service (Northern Italy), where he was in charge of the diagnostic labs. In 2003, he joined the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) Directorate of DG SANTE in Grange (Ireland), where he carried out audits on national plant health control systems, and coordinated dossiers concerning Member States' national surveys for agriculture, forest and environment quarantine organisms. He joined the JRC European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN) Team in December 2014, where he is in charge of coordinating the Editorial Board, Citizen Science activities and communication.



## Dr. Deirdre Lynn

**Scientific Officer, National Parks  
and Wildlife Service**

Deirdre works in the Scientific Unit of the National Parks & Wildlife Service. Her remit includes Biodiversity monitoring and reporting at the national, EU and global level. She is also involved in policy formulation and review such as the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Sectoral Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and the Sustainable Development Goals. She forms part of the Irish delegation for the Expert Reporting Group under the EU Nature Directives and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its Scientific Subsidiary body.



## Jeffrey Manuel

**Director, Biodiversity Information  
and Planning, South African National  
Biodiversity Institute**

Jeffrey is the Director of Biodiversity Information and Planning at the South African National Biodiversity Institute. His primary expertise lies in spatial analysis & prioritisation supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity science and information into environmental management and policy.



## Dr. Úna FitzPatrick

**Senior Ecologist,  
National Biodiversity Data Centre**

Úna has a Ph.D. in botany. She worked on a project on the conservation of Irish bees before joining the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2007 where she has responsibility for plant and pollinator databases. She is the chair of the steering group that produced the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and oversees its implementation.



## Dr. Tomás Murray

**Senior Ecologist, National Biodiversity  
Data Centre**

Tomás has 15 years of research experience on insects investigating how their ecology, diseases and genetics impact their survival. He now works for the National Biodiversity Data Centre co-ordinating national citizen science monitoring schemes for insects and development of National Biodiversity Indicators.



## Amanda Pedlow

**Heritage Officer, Offaly County Council**

Amanda is the Heritage Officer with Offaly County Council in the midlands of Ireland. Her role is to implement the Offaly Heritage Plan 2017-21 in partnership with Council staff, many agencies and communities. The brief is broad covering archaeology, architecture, geology, heritage objects, inland waterways in addition to wildlife and landscapes. One objective of this plan is to promote citizen science biological recording, availing of the services provided by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



## Dr. Simon Berrow

**Chief Science Officer, Irish Whale and  
Dolphin Group**

Simon has been working on cetaceans in Ireland since 1987. He is founder member, and current Chief Science Officer, of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group which was established to co-ordinate long term recording schemes by empowering the potential of citizen science. The data from these schemes support the development of conservation policies and best practice guidelines for the conservation and management of cetaceans in Ireland. Simon is also a lecturer in the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology contributing to the Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology degree and Masters programmes. He has over 100 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals to his name and sits on a number of scientific committees.



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority





# Programme

**9:15** Liam Lysaght - National Biodiversity Data Centre  
*Opening Symposium*

**9:20-9:30** Ciaran O'Keeffe - National Parks and Wildlife Service  
*Welcome address*

## GBIF as a global biodiversity data infrastructure

**9:30-10:15** Donald Hobern - Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)  
*GBIF supporting global biodiversity conservation - challenges & opportunities for participating countries.*

**10:15-10:45** Thomas Orrell - Smithsonian Institution  
*GBIF's value as a research infrastructure; opportunities for Ireland.*

**10:45-11:00** Discussion

## Refreshment break

## Reporting needs for biodiversity policy

**11:30-12:00** Eugenio Gervasini - DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission  
*Data needs for implementing the EU legislation (Regulation) on Invasive Alien Species*

**12:00-12:30** Deirdre Lynn - National Parks and Wildlife Service  
*The National Biodiversity Indicators - Tracking policy implementation in Ireland.*

**12:30-12:45** Discussion

## Lunch

## Supporting conservation at regional and national levels

**14:00-14:30** Jeffrey Manuel - South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)  
*Supporting biodiversity conservation in Africa.*

**14:30-15:00** Liam Lysaght - National Biodiversity Data Centre  
*Supporting biodiversity conservation in Ireland.*

**15:00-15:20** Una Fitzpatrick - National Biodiversity Data Centre  
*The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 - from data capture to conservation action.*

## Refreshment break

## Biodiversity and local engagement

**15:45-16:10** Tomás Murray - National Biodiversity Data Centre  
*Tracking ecosystem change through citizen science.*

**16:10-16:30** Amanda Pedlow - Offaly County Council  
*Promoting biodiversity engagement at a local level.*

**16:30-16:50** Simon Berrow - Irish Whale and Dolphin Group  
*Mobilising citizen science for marine recording.*

**16:50** Discussion

**17:10** Close

