



## LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OCEAN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY

The purpose of this non-binding Letter of Agreement is to specify the scope of cooperation between the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (hereafter referred to as "OBIS"), a project of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO which aims to be the most comprehensive data and information gateway on the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life to support its Member States in achieving a healthy and resilient ocean ecosystem, and the Secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (hereafter referred to as "GBIF"), an intergovernmental initiative whose Participants, including governments, economies and international organizations, collaborate to promote and facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data for use in research and policy.

OBIS and GBIF agree:

1. to cooperate under the aegis of the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) body on the continuing evolution and advancement of the Darwin Core data standard in use by both systems to promote maximum interoperability between the data systems;
2. to develop coordination at the governance level of both organizations by actively encouraging shared membership on advisory groups and technical working groups in both organizations by experts familiar with and involved in the science, technology, and operations of both GBIF and OBIS;
3. to actively encourage OBIS nodes and GBIF data publishers to publish marine data both to OBIS and to GBIF, using a single publishing step. For that purpose, GBIF and OBIS will encourage working relationships to be developed between relevant GBIF and OBIS data publishers and Nodes, promoting science and technology exchange and partnerships. OBIS will encourage OBIS Nodes to become GBIF data publishers, providing endorsement for them as needed. GBIF will encourage GBIF data publishers to flag relevant datasets containing marine observations and species occurrences with metadata for inclusion in OBIS;
4. to exchange data processing and enhancement technologies on matters of mutual interest through public, open source release of software, exploration of joint development projects between OBIS and GBIF;
5. to encourage shared staffing through temporary assignments, secondments, and other mechanisms at the Secretariat between the groups to promote common design, shared technological components, and improved methods;
6. to conduct, whenever possible, shared and collaborative training opportunities and capacity development programs with global partners, including exchange of knowledge and logistical information on data management and scientific analysis training events globally;
7. to cooperate on new funding opportunities jointly between GBIF and OBIS to promote the growth of biodiversity data and services available through both systems and building on the strengths of each;

8. to cooperate on shared attendance and collaborative representation in meetings of mutual interest in the use and application of biodiversity data in science and policy;
9. to align, to the extent possible, written guidance on the publication of data to OBIS and GBIF respectively;
10. to collaborate on the incorporation of novel data streams, including occurrence data based on genetic sequences, remote sensing, and other sources;
11. that this Letter of Agreement is without prejudice to agreements concluded by either party with other organizations and programmes;
12. this Letter of Agreement will come into effect upon its signature by the Co-Chairs of OBIS and the Executive Secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. It will remain in effect for five (5) years from the signing date and may be terminated by any of the parties by giving to the other a written notice six months prior to the proposed date of termination;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have signed the present Letter of Agreement

in duplicate.



Joe MILLER  
Executive Secretary, Global Biodiversity Information Facility

DATE 31 August 2020



Sky Bristol  
Co-Chair, Ocean Biodiversity Information System

DATE 31 August 2020



Martha Vides  
Co-Chair, Ocean Biodiversity Information System

DATE 31 August 2020