

## Invitation to provide consultancy services

### CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A FUNDING PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY'S GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

#### Summary

The GBIF Secretariat seeks proposals from consultants with expertise in resource mobilization to 1) research and draft a written assessment of the landscape of external funding for GBIF's capacity development and expansion programmes and 2) outline a strategic plan for GBIF to pursue these funds. The assessment and plan will be informed by the [Biodiversity Information for Development \(BID\)](#) programme (2015-2019) and by the consultant's own work.

#### Background

GBIF—the Global Biodiversity Information Facility—is an international network and research infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere open access to data about all types of life on Earth. Coordinated through its Secretariat in Copenhagen, the GBIF network of participating countries and organizations, working through participant nodes, provides data-holding institutions around the world with common standards and open-source tools that enable them to share information about where and when species have been recorded. GBIF has aggregated over 1.3 billion occurrence records from our network; however, the data is not evenly distributed across the globe. GBIF has identified data gaps in many countries with high levels of biodiversity, which precludes a truly global assessment of biodiversity.

To overcome this data and capacity imbalance, the GBIF Secretariat manages and co-funds several funding mechanisms: [Biodiversity Information for Development \(BID\)](#), [Biodiversity Information Fund for Asia \(BIFA\)](#), and [Capacity Enhancement Support Programme \(CESP\)](#).

The aim of the four-year [BID programme](#), co-funded by the European Union's Development and Cooperation Directorate (DEVCO or EuropeAid) and GBIF, is to develop human capacity and increase the amount of biodiversity information available in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, to support research and decision making in these regions. BIFA provides supplementary support for existing activities within the GBIF network, addressing the needs of Asian researchers and policymakers through mobilization and the use of biodiversity data. GBIF also supports the Capacity Enhancement Support Programme (CESP), which facilitates knowledge transfer and collaboration at regional and global levels by current GBIF participants.

The projects have been successful in mobilizing new and unique biodiversity data from geographic areas that were lacking data. The work increased capacity for data mobilization and use in over a dozen countries, and brought numerous countries into the global community of biodiversity data science. The BID project alone has increased human and technical capacity for sharing biodiversity data in 32 countries, added over one million new records to GBIF, including the first country records in GBIF for nearly of 2,400 species, and BID partners reported on over 1,100 species in IUCN threatened categories.

The GBIF programmes have clearly met a global need for biodiversity data and a capacity enhancement; however, much more effort is needed to further develop capacity and mobilize data in countries with limited or emergent capacity to use and share biodiversity data. This call for proposals seeks information and plans to further GBIF's goal to increase data mobilization and use in under-served nations.

## The study

The GBIF Secretariat would like to understand the potential funding opportunities for the activities described above and advice on how best to position itself and compete for potential funds. GBIF requests that the study produce a **landscape study** to understand the funding space that GBIF occupies and how this space relates to the priorities of potential donors in areas such as biodiversity conservation, scientific capacity development, information technology for sustainable development, and compliance with international conventions for conservation, trade, and climate protection. This study should also include an **organizational assessment** to determine how best to strategically position GBIF to potential funders. This assessment would include **communications advice** on how to present GBIF to funders via multiple platforms. A key deliverable will be tailored **support cases** developed with GBIF to engage targeted funders and articulate GBIF's value to specific funders.

Potential funders could include governmental development organizations, private foundations and international organizations. The geographic range of GBIF work is global; however, funders that target geographic areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, Asia or Latin America are also valuable to meet GBIF's goal to support biodiversity conservation in less-developed nations.

The ideal contractor would have:

- Experience with funders working in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Experience with international biodiversity community
- Expertise in managing international economic sustainable development programmes
- Strong networks and contacts in international development foundations, government agencies, and philanthropy networks in the United States, Europe and elsewhere
- Experience planning and executing strategies for acquiring grants and for influencing funding priorities in bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies.
- Experience in organizational assessment
- Experience in developing fund-raising support cases and communication messages

More information on the current GBIF programmes can be found at:

- <https://www.gbif.org/programme/82243/bid-biodiversity-information-for-development>
- <https://www.gbif.org/programme/82219/capacity-enhancement-support-programme>
- <https://www.gbif.org/programme/82629/bifa-biodiversity-information-fund-for-asia>
- BID assessment report available upon request

**Deadline for proposal submission: 25 October 2019**

**Expected start of contract: 1 December 2019**

**Delivery of final draft: 30 April 2020**

## Your proposal

Please include the following in your proposal submission:

1. A summary of the approach you will take to the work, your questions or potential modifications to improve the scope, and a potential outline for the report (no more than three pages)
2. A quotation in euros for the amount you would charge for this work
3. A full CV or similar
4. Examples (non-confidential summaries, attachments, or links) of products from two projects you have led in the past five years that are relevant to this proposal.

If you have any questions relating to the specifications for this contract, please contact Joe Miller ([jmiller@gbif.org](mailto:jmiller@gbif.org)). Proposals should be sent to the same address.