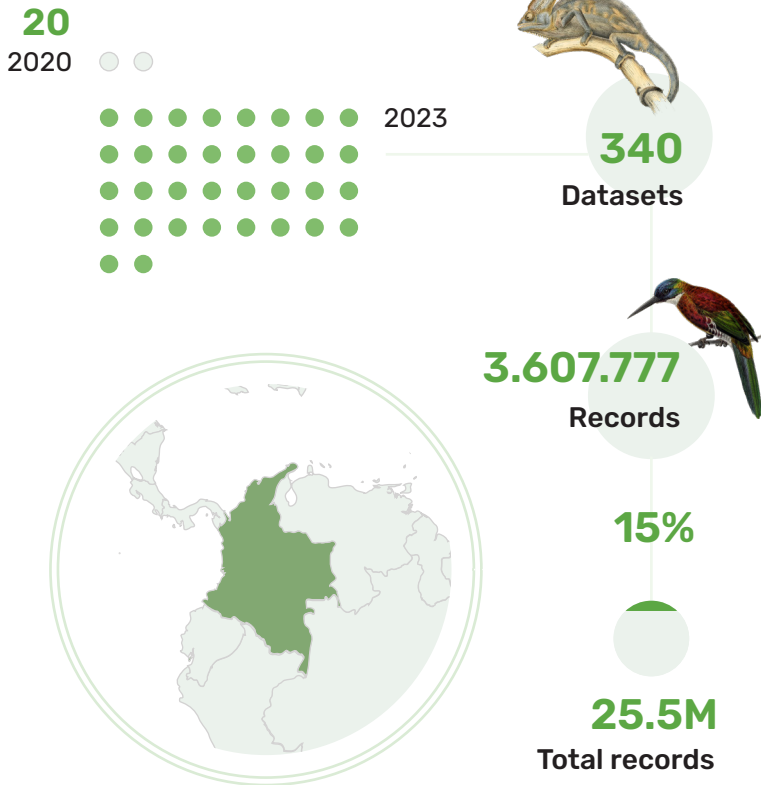


Colombia | Biodiversity and Development

Data mobilization



SiB Colombia is transforming biodiversity data

SiB Colombia (Sistema de Información sobre Biodiversidad) has the challenging role of compiling and sharing Colombia's vast biodiversity data – data covering lush rainforests and high-altitude Andean landscapes containing many unique species.

Setup in 1994, SiB Colombia has long gathered data from plants and animal studies by universities and NGOs, but this was the tip of the iceberg in such a biodiverse country. However, it had another source with vast potential. Companies in Colombia that impact the environment – mining, infrastructure, forestry, tourism – must do an environmental impact assessment, including an inventory of biodiversity which must be shared with a national data repository.

This was not working as well as it could. Whilst businesses had vast data on areas no one else had surveyed, it was not well curated, and was effectively being dumped into a black box in inconsistent formats.

Helping business share data

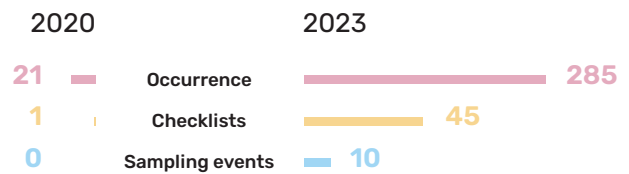
The solution was the **Open Data Alliance on Biodiversity** from the Business Sector, launched in 2020 to help businesses share (or reshare) their data in standardised formats. This was delivered through a collaboration between SiB and the National Association of Colombian Enterprises (ANDI), which represents 1,200 of the country's large companies.

This partnership provided SiB with a direct route to Colombia's businesses, through which it could highlight the benefits of data sharing, deliver training, and provide guidance and technical support for structuring and sharing data in GBIF's data standards.

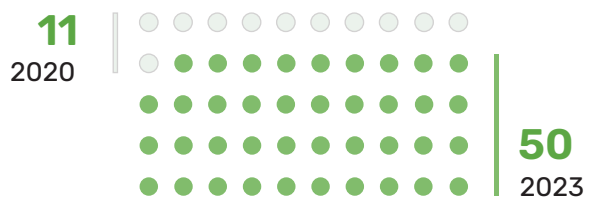
"We just follow the SiB publication model, which is very simple, and we have technical assistance from SiB throughout"

Alejandro Giraldo, Grupo Energía Bogotá

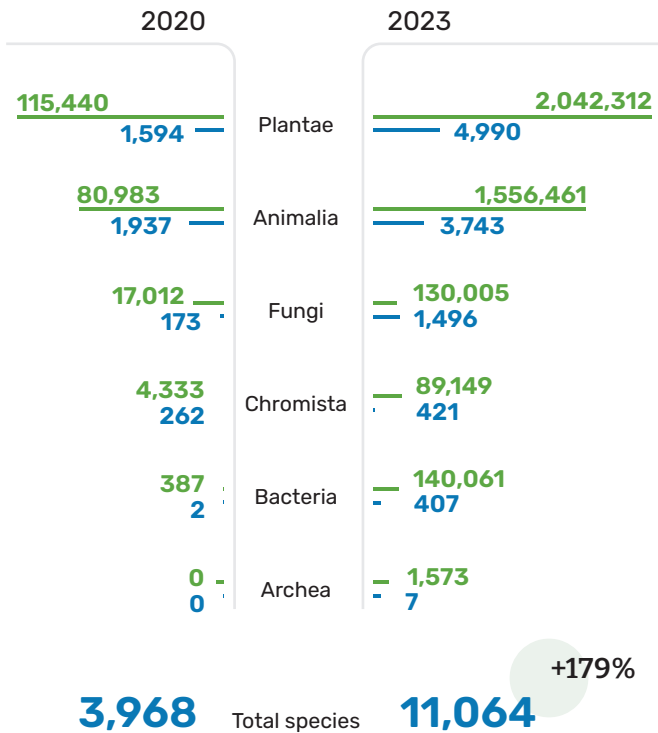
Dataset types



Companies



Taxonomic contributions



Impact

*"We found a **Greenland shark** deep in the Colombian ocean. We didn't think it was possible. Only an impact report from an oil company could have made such a discovery"*

Ricardo Ortiz, SiB Colombia

As of March 2024, SiB had received over 340 published data sets from business, and over 3,600,000 biological records - an 8,000% increase on 2019.

Colombia's biodiversity makes it a hotspot for scientific research into conservation, climate change, evolutionary biology, and medicine. Data from business has already been cited hundreds of times in published papers around the world - covering topics from **how plants could be used for antimalarial drugs** to **identifying tree species at risk of extinction** - as well as many policy papers. This would have been impossible just two years ago.

Programme success

The programme has been met with excitement by businesses, who didn't realise the treasure trove of information they were sitting on. SiB now has 51 businesses sharing data, representing 24% of data publishers from Colombia, and making Colombia the second largest contributor to GBIF (after the US). New programmes are now being rolled out to create new trainers in businesses, and so build capacity to report even more data. SiB also publishes a **ranking** to spur competition.



Data used in

802

Peer-reviewed publications

E-learning - Capacity enhancement

5
Courses



21
Modules

291
Participants

130
Organizations

330
Certificates