2025 BID call for proposals: Latin America & the Caribbean

*Deadline for submissions: **27 May 2025***

GBIF—the Global Biodiversity Information Facility—seeks concept notes from eligible organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for project funding through the **Biodiversity Information for Development (BID)** programme.

Funded by the European Union through the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the BID programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of institutions and countries to mobilize biodiversity data, making it openly available to inform decision-making and to support the knowledge needs of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**.

Selected projects should address critical gaps in biodiversity data by mobilizing data, promoting its application in research and policymaking, and building sustainable networks and communities of practice committed to sharing open data on biodiversity.

Objectives of the call for proposals

Concept notes should describe projects that support biodiversity data mobilization by:

- Making existing sources of biodiversity data accessible through GBIF to address knowledge gaps and meet regional information needs
- Enhancing institutional, national and regional capacity for managing and using biodiversity information
- Supporting the application of biodiversity data in support of research and decision-making
- Developing and strengthening sustainable institutional, national, and regional partnerships for biodiversity data sharing and reuse

Grant types and funding

Two types of grants are available:

1. Institutional-level biodiversity data mobilization grants

   Purpose: Strengthen institutional capacity and mobilize policy-relevant biodiversity data

   Funding: Up to €30,000

   Implementation Period: 24 months

2. Multi-institutional biodiversity data mobilization grants

   Purpose: Build or strengthen collaborations between institutions to mobilize data for research and policy addressing national or regional priorities

   Funding: Up to €60,000

   Implementation Period: 24 months

   Detailed project budgets submitted by applicants and approved by the selection panel will determine the exact funding amounts.

Eligibility criteria

To apply, applicants must:

- Be legal entities (e.g. research institutions, universities, museums, non-governmental organizations or government agencies) registered in eligible Latin American and Caribbean countries (see full list below). Organizations with a legal presence in an eligible country (e.g. a branch or regional office), but headquartered in a non-eligible country, will be considered eligible provided they submit their application through their local entity.
- Propose projects aligned with the objectives of the BID call for proposals
- Ensure all proposed activities are not for profit
- Ensure that all data mobilized is published under a **CC0 1.0** waiver or **CC-BY 4.0** licence

Descriptions of both grant types specify additional eligibility criteria.

Application process and timeline

Step 1: Submission of concept notes

- Submit concept notes in English through the **GBIF Grants Portal** by **27 May 2025** midnight CET / 23:00 UTC.
- GBIF Secretariat staff will screen applications for eligibility, relevance and alignment with objectives of the BID call for proposals.
- Eligible and in-scope applications will undergo two independent reviews and scoring, followed by an expert panel's selection of a shortlist of applicants invited to submit a full proposal.

Step 2: Submission of full proposals

- The GBIF Secretariat will invite shortlisted applicants to submit full proposals in **Q3 2025**.
- Full proposals must include detailed project plans, budgets and letters of support. In addition, applications led by a legal entity and/or involving partners from countries or organizations that already participate in GBIF must include a statement of endorsement from the GBIF Head of Delegation or node manager.
- Proposals will undergo two independent reviews and scoring, followed by final selection by an expert panel.
- Projects not selected for funding may be placed on a reserve list for future consideration within the BID programme.

Step 3: Project implementation

- Projects selected for funding are expected to start on **1 February 2026** and will run for a maximum of 24 months.
- Selected projects will be required to send one representative to a data mobilization capacity enhancement workshop and obtain a skills certification. This workshop is expected to take place during **Q2 or Q3 2026**, and the cost of participation will be met separately from GBIF/BID funds (applicants need NOT include this in the project budget).

Evaluation criteria

Two independent reviewers will review and score concept notes and full proposals based on:

3. **Relevance:** Alignment with objectives of the BID call for proposals and regional needs identified in the report of the BID engagement meeting and regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean and/or relevant sources clearly identified by the applicant.

4. **Impact:** Contribution to regional or national biodiversity data priorities

5. **Sustainability:** Potential to deliver long-term benefits for biodiversity. Institutions that have previously received BID programme support should demonstrate how their proposed actions build upon past achievements to sustain and enhance their impact.

6. **Cost-effectiveness:** Number of beneficiaries/partners included in the proposal, efficient use of resources, including co-funding. Co-funding contributions below 25% of the total budget will be regarded as poor value for money.

7. **Collaboration:** Inclusion of diverse project partners and promotion of best practices.

8. **Response to feedback** (at full proposal stage only): Response to feedback shared by the selection panel following the concept note stage.

Each criterion will have equal weight in the scoring of proposals.

A selection panel composed of external experts assembled by GBIF will evaluate the proposals based on the reviewers' scores and comments, the balance of geographic, thematic and grant types representation, the balance of projects that build on the activities of previous grantees and those that are led by new institutions, and the potential for similar proposals to combine into a single submission ensuring the best overall impact of the annual funding round.

Based on the recommendations of the selection panel, the GBIF Secretariat retains the right to place projects not initially selected on a reserve list for future consideration. Being on this list means that, if opportunities arise, these projects may still be considered for BID funding. The reserve list will be valid until **31 December 2026**.

Eligible Countries

Applicants for the 2025 BID Latin America and Caribbean call must be based in one of the following eligible countries:

- Argentina
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador

- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Montserrat
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Venezuela

Reference materials

- Report of the BID engagement meeting and regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Analysis of the data currently available through GBIF for the BID-eligible countries and areas in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Previous projects funded under the BID programme
- Specific requirements for the BID datasets

Questions?

You can reach us in two ways:

- **Public forum** – If your question could benefit others, we encourage you to ask it on our public forum.
- **Email** – For private inquiries, you can contact us at bid@gbif.org.

Institutional biodiversity data mobilization grants for Latin America and the Caribbean

Purpose

Institutional biodiversity data mobilization grants aim to strengthen institutional data management capacity and mobilize policy-relevant biodiversity data to support national and regional priorities.

Specific grant objectives include:

- Building institutional capacity in eligible countries to manage and mobilize biodiversity data effectively
- Increasing the accessibility of open biodiversity data during and beyond the project period
- Promoting the application of biodiversity data to inform policies and decision-making processes

Projects must include activities in each of the following two areas:

1. Mobilizing biodiversity data

Activities in this area should focus on digitizing and sharing existing sources of biodiversity data through GBIF. Examples include:

- Establishing institutional data-publishing workflows that benefit the institution and encourage sustainable data mobilization efforts.
- Training data holders on best-practice data mobilization and management strategies.
- Compiling inventories of biodiversity data holdings, such as metadata catalogues.
- Digitizing and publishing biodiversity data from biological collections, monitoring activities, DNA metabarcoding, literature, citizen science projects, and other related areas.
- Validating and publishing relevant taxonomic checklists.

2. Supporting the integration of biodiversity information into research and policymaking processes

Activities in this area should demonstrate the practical use of open biodiversity data. Examples include:

- Organizing surveys or workshops to understand the biodiversity data requirements for specific use cases.
- Creating user groups to guide project implementation.
- Promoting the use of open biodiversity data in national-level or regional-level reporting and policies.
- Hosting workshops on biodiversity data analysis and use.
- Documenting and disseminating biodiversity data use cases and best practices in the region.

Funding

Maximum funding: €30,000 per project

Eligible costs:

BID programme funds may be used to cover staff time, travel, and costs associated with the organization of meetings and events, as well as limited costs for IT services and equipment. Expenses should be related to activities organized by the project within the two areas identified above.

Limited eligible costs of IT services and equipment:

BID funds may be used to cover up to a maximum of €3,000 of the costs of any IT services or purchases. Such equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- Computer equipment, such as laptops, desktop computers, servers, hard drives, and printers
- Software licences and subscriptions
- Digital cameras and scanners
- Other electrical equipment and electronics
- Lab equipment, including microscopes, sequencing equipment, etc.

Ineligible costs:

Fieldwork, new data collection, or laboratory research are not covered by BID funding but may be supported by other sources and included as part of the co-funding committed by the applicant.

The full grant will be awarded to the project lead organization. This organization will be responsible for managing the project's finances, operations, and delivering progress reports and supporting documents as required.

The exact amount of financial support for each selected project will depend on the detailed budget provided in the full project proposal. This budget must be submitted by the applicant and approved by the selection committee.

Eligibility Criteria

General Requirements:

- Applicants must be legal entities located in eligible countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Legal entities include national government agencies, GBIF Participant nodes and their host institutions, natural history museums and biological collections, research institutes, universities, and non-governmental organizations.
- Concept notes and full proposals must be submitted in English through the **GBIF Grants Portal** by the stated deadlines.
- All BID activities must be non-profit.
- Applicants must commit co-funding (in-kind or cash). Co-funding refers to real costs that are incurred by the applicants while executing the funded project's activities. Co-funding contributions below 25% of the total budget will be regarded as poor value for money.
- Data and outputs generated by the project must be shared openly accessible under **CC0 1.0** or a **CC BY 4.0** licence to GBIF.

Specific requirements for Institutional Grants:

1. Projects must include activities in each of the two areas listed above.
2. The project lead organization must manage the grant and coordinate activities.
3. Applications must include a major component of data mobilization through the GBIF network. It is expected that at least 50% of BID funding is directed towards data mobilization activities.

For further questions, please contact BID@gbif.org.

Multi-institutional biodiversity data mobilization grants for Latin America and the Caribbean

Purpose

The Multi-institutional biodiversity data mobilization grants aim to support collaborations between institutions to increase the availability and use of open biodiversity data for research and policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specific objectives include:

- Establishing or strengthening institutional collaborations to mobilize policy-relevant biodiversity data for decision-making and to support the knowledge needs of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Increasing the accessibility of open biodiversity data during and beyond the project period.
- Supporting the use of biodiversity data to address national or regional priorities.

Projects must include activities in each of the following three areas:

1. Building and expanding data-sharing networks

Activities in this area should focus on creating or strengthening sustainable collaborations for biodiversity data sharing. Examples include:

- Strengthening collaborations in networks coordinated by GBIF Participant nodes.
- Developing strategies to establish new GBIF Participant nodes.
- Conducting surveys or studies to assess data holdings and user needs to inform a collaboration strategy.
- Organizing workshops to foster collaboration between institutions.
- Establishing data-publishing workflows.
- Training stakeholders on data mobilization and management.

2. Mobilizing biodiversity data

Activities in this area should focus on digitizing and sharing existing sources of biodiversity data through GBIF. Examples include:

- Compiling inventories of biodiversity data holdings, such as metadata catalogues.

- Digitizing and publishing data from biological collections, monitoring activities, DNA metabarcoding, literature or citizen science projects, and other related areas.
- Validating and publishing relevant taxonomic checklists.

3. Supporting the integration of biodiversity information into research and policymaking processes

Activities in this area should demonstrate the practical use of open biodiversity data. Examples include:

- Organizing surveys or workshops to identify specific biodiversity data needs.
- Creating user groups to guide project implementation based on priority themes.
- Promoting the use of open biodiversity data in national-level or regional-level reporting and policies.
- Hosting workshops on data analysis and application.
- Documenting and disseminating use cases and best practices in the region.

Funding

Maximum funding per project: €60,000

Eligible costs:

BID programme funds may be used to cover staff time, travel, and costs associated with the organization of meetings and events, as well as limited costs for IT services and equipment. Expenses should be related to activities organized by the project within the three areas identified above.

Limited eligible costs of IT services and equipment:

BID funds may be used to cover up to a maximum of €6,000 of the costs of any IT services or purchases. Such equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- Computer equipment, such as laptops, desktop computers, servers, hard drives, and printers.
- Software licences and subscriptions.
- Digital cameras and scanners.
- Other electrical equipment and electronics.
- Lab equipment, including microscopes, sequencing equipment, etc.

Ineligible costs:

Fieldwork, new data collection, or laboratory research are not covered by BID funding but may be supported by other sources and included as part of the co-funding committed by the applicant.

The full grant will be given to the consortium's lead organization. This organization will be responsible for managing the project's finances, operations, and delivering progress reports and supporting documents as required.

The exact amount of financial support for each selected project will depend on the detailed budget provided in the full project proposal. This budget must be submitted by the applicant and approved by the selection committee.

Eligibility Criteria

General requirements:

- Applicants must be legal entities located in eligible countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Legal entities include national government agencies, GBIF Participant nodes and their host institutions, natural history museums and collections, research institutes, universities, and NGOs.
- Concept notes and full proposals must be submitted in English through the **GBIF Grants Portal** by the stated deadlines.
- All BID activities must be non-profit.
- Applicants must commit co-funding (in-kind or cash). Co-funding refers to real costs that are incurred by the applicants while executing the funded project's activities. Co-funding contributions below 25% of the total budget will be regarded as poor value for money.
- Data and outputs generated by the project must be shared openly accessible under **CC0 1.0** or a **CC BY 4.0** licence to GBIF.

Specific requirements for Multi-Institutional Grants:

- In addition to the lead organization, projects must involve at least two partner institutions from eligible countries within the Latin America and Caribbean region.
- Projects must include activities in each of the three areas listed above.
- Applications must include a major component of data mobilization through the GBIF network. It is expected that at least 50% of BID funding is directed towards data mobilization activities.
- The lead organization must manage the grant and coordinate activities.

For further questions, please contact BID@gbif.org.