



**Memorandum of Cooperation  
between  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the  
GBIF Secretariat**

This Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is between the following two parties -

(a) **IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**, an international organization, with headquarters located at Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland (hereafter “IUCN”) [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

and

(b) The Secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, an international organization, with headquarters located at Universitetsparken 15, Copenhagen, Denmark (hereafter “GBIFS”) [www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)

herein referred to jointly and severally as the “Parties” and “Party”, as the context may reasonably indicate or require

**Preamble**

**Whereas** the Parties have engaged in substantial cooperation activities pursuant to general and specific memoranda of understanding involving various programmes and offices, addressing issues such as biodiversity, environmental law, information management, species conservation and regional cooperation”.

**Whereas** the mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

**Whereas** IUCN pursues its objectives through an integrated programme of activities formulated, coordinated and implemented by its Members and Components; and delivers conservation and sustainability at both the global and local levels.

**Whereas** the GBIFS was founded in 2001 as an intergovernmental scientific infrastructure aimed at providing free and open access to biodiversity data, via the Internet. It offers a single online access point to around one billion biodiversity records from over 30,000 datasets published by some 1,200 institutions. GBIF operates through a network of national and thematic nodes, and a secretariat based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Whereas** GBIF and IUCN have undertaken a number of collaborations in past years on a range of issues involving exchange of data and information, and through specific applications and wish to continue their collaboration.

**Now therefore** the Parties agree as follows:

## A. Objective of this MoC

To strengthen technical and institutional collaboration between GBIF and IUCN with a view to improving the visibility, timeliness and usefulness of data and information exchanged between the two networks, thus adding value to their respective products and services.

GBIF and IUCN agree that their respective strengths and specialisms can be used to add significantly to the value of the products and services of both networks, with the strategic implementation of efficient linkages that remain up to date and functional. The objective of this agreement is to identify a number of key joint developments that will, among other things:

- improve the transparency and persistence of data underlying IUCN Red List assessments and other products;
- ensure that species-level information available through GBIF, in particular relating to extinction risk, is more visible and up to date;
- improve the visibility of point occurrence data derived from a wide range of databases as an additional evidence layer in IUCN knowledge products; and
- make best use of the wide range of occurrence data shared from diverse institutions in the process for identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

## B. Activities of Collaboration:

Through this MoC, the Parties agree:

- to ensure republication of each version of the IUCN Red List as a taxonomic checklist for inclusion in the GBIF index
- to use the IUCN Red List API to display up to date extinction risk status harvested automatically from the IUCN Red List in the main species pages on GBIF.org using the IUCN Red List scale, with a view to enabling future developments to filter occurrence data by extinction risk when time and resources allow
- to address any anomalies that currently cause IUCN Red List-derived information to display inconsistently or inaccurately on GBIF.org
- to explore use of IUCN Red List species ranges on GBIF.org background map layers, including links to IUCN Red List Terms & Conditions, on the understanding that no functionality will be introduced to enable downloads by third parties of IUCN Red List spatial data from GBIF.org
- to explore the potential for visualization of, and for facilitation of access to, vouchered occurrence records for IUCN Red List assessed species on the IUCN Red List website, through restoring and improving the interface between the GBIF API and IUCN Red List website, and explore functionality to display historical data in batches by date to addresses shifts in distributions over time
- to explore publication of validated point data underpinning IUCN Red List assessments as 'reference datasets', using GBIF-developed tools and exchange protocols, including a persistent Digital Object Identifier (DOI), with a view to displaying them with full attribution of original sources both on the IUCN Red List website and GBIF.org
- to explore development of an option for exporting data from GBIF in an IUCN format (ie, in a spatial format that includes all the accompanying attribute fields,

even if these fields are not necessarily all coded up); this would avoid situations where exported point data from GBIF are submitted in support of their assessment, despite not meeting Required and Recommended Supporting Information for the IUCN Red List

- in collaboration with relevant partners in the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), to develop best practices in the use of occurrence data accessed through GBIF.org in the KBA process, including a data cleaning step and re-publishing of cleaned data through GBIF, and conversely, to explore introducing a mechanism to publish point data underlying identification of KBAs through GBIF, including appropriate attribution of original data sources
- to collaborate on capacity building in the use of occurrence data both for Red List assessments and KBA identification, for example through training modules within the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme ([www.gbif.org/bid](http://www.gbif.org/bid)) operated by GBIF with funding from the European Union
- to continue collaboration between GBIF and the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) to strengthen effective development of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASIP), in particular through publication of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) checklists on GBIF.org; and to explore use of the new EICAT invasiveness impact categories on GBIF species pages
- to initiate collaboration between GBIF and the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Species Monitoring Specialist Group on publication and access to monitoring data using GBIF-compatible tools and standards, building on, eg the 'objectives and outcomes' of the current audit of biodiversity monitoring at <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/biodiversity-monitoring-audit.html#>
- to collaborate on developing global indicators, such as a) an indicator of climate change impacts on terrestrial biodiversity, using data published through GBIF, as a contribution to filling gaps in indicators of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially for Aichi targets 10 and 15 (on climate-vulnerable ecosystems and restoration/resilience respectively); and b) an indicator of comprehensiveness of species sampling across individual species ranges and across multiple species within a geographic area, based on combining point occurrences from GBIF with species range maps from the IUCN Red List, especially for Aichi target 19

## C. General

### 1. Term, Termination and Modification

The MoC will be effective upon signature by the authorized signatories of both Parties and shall remain in effect until 31 December 2024.

The MoC may be modified or amended in writing upon the request of a Party with the concurrence of the other. Either Party may terminate its participation in the MoC with a written notice to the other Party three (3) months prior to such withdrawal at any time.

### 2. Supplemental Agreements

a. Collaboration activities to be carried out pursuant to any Supplemental Agreement will be:

- i. Subject to the availability of funds and resources;
- ii. Approved by the appropriate administrative authorities of each Party; and
- iii. Undertaken in accordance with the Parties' respective established policies and procedures.

### 3. Intellectual Property

Any materials, including software products and publications, produced as a result of this MoC will be accessible under the terms and conditions of use of the respective data sets.

Neither Party shall have the right to use the other Party's name, logo, trademarks in any medium and for whatever purpose, without the other Party's prior written consent in each instance of use.

### 4. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and the execution of this MoC, or any document or arrangement relating thereto, shall be settled by negotiation between the Parties. If the dispute is not settled by negotiation between the Parties or by another agreed mode of settlement, it shall, at the request of either Party, be submitted to one conciliator following procedures to be agreed by the parties.

### 5. Personal Data

The Parties undertake to process any personal data exchanged in the implementation of this MoC in compliance with the principles of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament. Personal Data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual

### 6. Representation

The MoC establishes a collaboration between the Parties. It does not establish any new or separate legal entity.

Nothing in the MoC alters the statutory authorities and responsibilities of the Parties, where these are applicable. It is intended to facilitate those authorities and responsibilities through cooperative action.

Neither Party shall have the authority to incur any liability or make any commitment on behalf of the other Party vis à vis any third party, contractually or otherwise, without the other Party's advance express written consent.

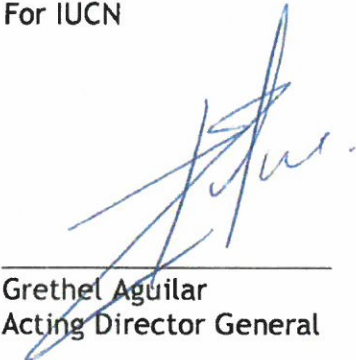
### 7. Non-enforceability

This MoC is a non-binding statement of the Parties' mutual understanding of their proposed collaboration framework. Therefore, and except for the obligations set forth under article C.3 and article C.5 above, this MoC is not intended to create, and does not create, any legally enforceable rights or obligations in respect of either Party, including any obligation on their part to enter into any Supplemental Agreement.



In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized to do so, have executed this MoC in the English language in two (2) counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.


For IUCN



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Grethel Aguilar  
Acting Director General

For the Secretariat of the Global  
Biodiversity Information Facility



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Joe Miller  
Executive Secretary