

3 February 2021

Open call for nominations for 2021 GBIF Young Researchers Award

The call is now open for the [GBIF 2021 Young Researchers Award](#). The award fosters innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics by graduate students in master's and doctorate programmes at universities, whose studies rely on GBIF mediated data, in countries participating in the GBIF network.

The 2021 programme will provide €5,000 prizes recognizing the work of two early-career researchers preferably, one master's and one PhD candidate—nominated by the Heads of Delegation and Node Managers from [GBIF Participant countries](#).

South Africa, as a GBIF Participant Country, will nominate two candidates selected from the national applications submitted to the SANBI-GBIF Node until **31 May 2021**. The Department of Science and Innovation will engage with the SANBI-GBIF Node in selecting the two South African nominees to be presented by South Africa.

A jury organized by the [GBIF Science Committee](#) will select two award recipients from the pool of nominees whose names are received by the GBIF Secretariat by **21 June 2021**. The winners will be announced following the GBIF Governing Board 2021, in the last quarter of the year.

Eligibility

Candidates must be enrolled in a university graduate programme to be eligible for the award. Candidates must be either South African citizens or citizens of another country but students in a South African institution. Nominations can come from the GBIF delegation or node of **either** the candidate's country of citizenship **or** the country of the candidate's host institution.

Submission process and deadlines

Candidates should submit their application, together with completed documentation by email, to F.Parker@sanbi.org.za by 31 May 2021. Submissions of incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Award nomination packet

Candidates should prepare their proposal and nomination packets to include:

1. **Research summary** (200 words)
2. **Project description** (maximum 5 pages, 12-point Arial) that describes
 - a. The need for the research and the question(s) it addresses.
 - b. **The role of data accessed through GBIF in addressing these questions.** Research proposals must clearly demonstrate how the study incorporates data mobilized through GBIF. Students with questions about GBIF-enabled data should work with academic advisors, their GBIF national node, the GBIF Secretariat or members of the Science Committee to increase their understanding.
 - c. The research scope, plan, methodologies, relevant literature citations and timetable.
 - d. If relevant, a description or an excerpt from a data management plan that outlines how data

related to the research is published or will be prepared for publication through the GBIF network to GBIF.org.

3. **Curriculum vitae** of the student applicant including full contact information at the home institution.

4. **Supporting documents**

a. An official letter from the student's faculty mentor/supervisor certifying that the applicant is a student in good standing in the graduate programme of the university.

b. At least one, and no more than three, letters of support from established researchers active in a field that encompasses and incorporates biodiversity informatics (e.g., genetics, species composition and traits, biogeography, ecology, systematics, et al.)

Selection process and criteria

The [GBIF Science Committee](#) will review the nominations and select winners of the Young Researchers Awards.

The criteria for the awards include:

- Originality and innovation
- Use of and strategic significance for data accessed through GBIF
- Measurable effectiveness and impact in advancing biodiversity informatics and/or the conservation of biological diversity

Proposals that are not selected may be updated and resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years. Awardees are expected to acknowledge GBIF support when disseminating research results via peer-reviewed publications, presentations at professional meetings, and other media.

SANBI-GBIF looks forward to receiving your nominations.

Fatima Parker-Allie

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