

“Living datasets” of long term biodiversity monitoring: the importance of logging versions and snapshots

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The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) is specialized in long term monitoring research. This brings the challenge of large datasets that are being updated through time, what we call living datasets. This can be raw data stored in relational databases or important GIS map layers updated

through time. INBO researchers follow the INBO open data policy and publish this data on platforms such as Zenodo, GBIF and geopunt with the main goal making research more reproducible and making the living datasets more FAIR by logging them into INBO’s content management system PURE.



ZENODO: versioning with DOI's

- Each version receives of a DOI (can have different authors, new dataformats, other description)
- Overarching DOI for the data publication



GEOPUNT: selfmade versioning

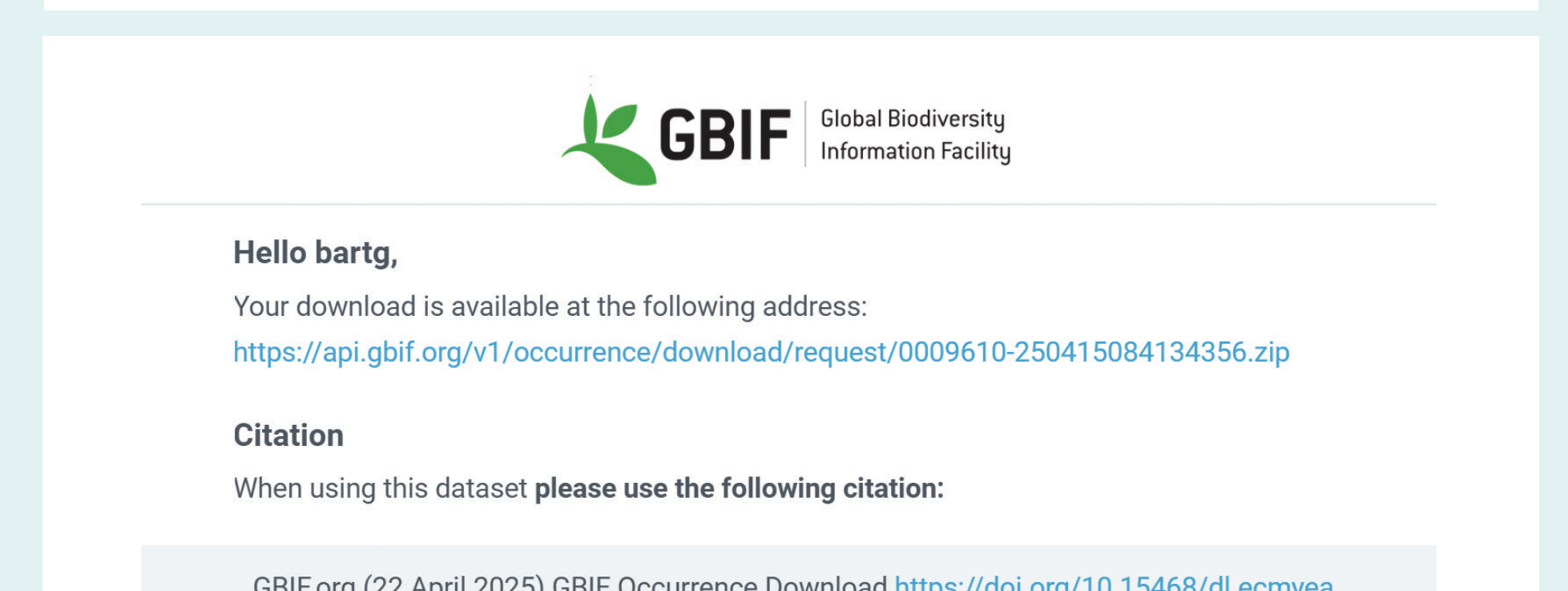
- Data publication -> URL (no DOI!!)
- Each version is a separate data publication -> no overarching DOI/URL
- Linkage between versions is self-made (title incl. “version”)

Scheers K., Smeekens V., Wils C., Packet J., Leyssen A. & Denys L. (2022). Watervlakken versie 1.2: Polygonenkaart van stilstaand water in Vlaanderen.

GBIF: hidden versioning

- Version URL (only via the Integrated Publishig Tool)
- Overarching DOI
- GBIF download DOI (holds authors; description; etc)

Version	Published on	Records	Change summary	DOI handle	modified by
1.13	2025-04-15 13:40:03	23,485	Adding 2024 data & reference, improving 4 taxonomic names' fuzzy (mis)matches, splitting eventTime from eventDate		Stijn Cooleman
1.12	2025-02-03 10:30:31	20,234	Adjusting metadata and Humboldt extension		Stijn Cooleman
1.11	2025-02-03 09:10:49	23,422	None provided		Dimitri Brosens



Discussion points

- When to log a version? When is a change significant?
- How about new versions in automatic scripted workflows?
- How to make sure all the new versions are findable in the content management system?

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