

TDWG 2016 - About the Conference

Standards for the description and exchange of biodiversity information help promote research, support decision-making for conservation and planning, and provide a means of communicating observations by both professional and citizen scientists across taxa and political boundaries. TDWG standards are an integral foundation of the largest biodiversity information sources, but given the wealth and diversity of information collected for plants, animals, and fossils, we must extend and refine our standards to achieve greater information integration that furthers knowledge discovery and biodiversity conservation.

This year, the Costa Rica Institute of Technology (CTEC) and the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio) will host the **TDWG annual conference in La Fortuna, Costa Rica, December 5-9, 2016**. The focus is not only on supporting research, decision making, and communication of biodiversity information, but also on how standards can support innovative research. Scientific innovations often "stand on the shoulders of giants," but they can also be **disruptive** -- causing major changes in the way that science works. To what extent do our standards promote innovation, and does the most innovative research show us where our standards need to be refined and extended? Current research, both in Computer Science (e.g., deep learning, computer vision, ambient computing) and Biodiversity Sciences, offers excellent opportunities for multidisciplinary innovative synergies among researchers, decision makers, students, and citizen scientists.

Conference Theme:

"Standards Supporting Innovation in Biodiversity Research and Conservation"

Symposia and workshops addressing the theme are encouraged, but other topics are also welcomed, such as:

- semantics and ontologies (e.g., sampling, traits);
- biological field station data management;
- standards for open data;
- citizen science;
- data visualization;
- data quality assessment and improvement;
- agricultural biodiversity;
- conservation informatics;
- phyloinformatics;
- ePublications; and
- standards for image processing (e.g. computer vision for organismal identification).

Abstracts for invited and contributed presentations will be accepted through **6 September 2016**. See [Call for Papers](#)

- some symposia are open for a additional presentations, see [Categories for Invited and Contributed Abstracts](#)
 - these are marked with the "open submissions" checkbox checked.
 - Sessions/tracks that are full, are shows with the "open submissions" checkbox blank;
- symposium organizers have been given the authority to accept or decline additions to their tracks.
- symposium organizers are responsible for reviewing and editing abstracts for presentations in their sessions;
- the program committee will review all abstracts for all other types of contributions.
- space for contributed presentations is limited and authors may be asked to present posters instead
- authors will receive an email confirmation of the successful receipt of their abstract; failure to receive this confirmation may mean that you did not complete the process.
- the program committee will notify authors within 2-3 weeks that their submission has been accepted, accepted pending modifications, or declined.

With best regards,

Erick Mata Montero, Program Co-Chair
Gail Kampmeier, Program Co-Chair

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