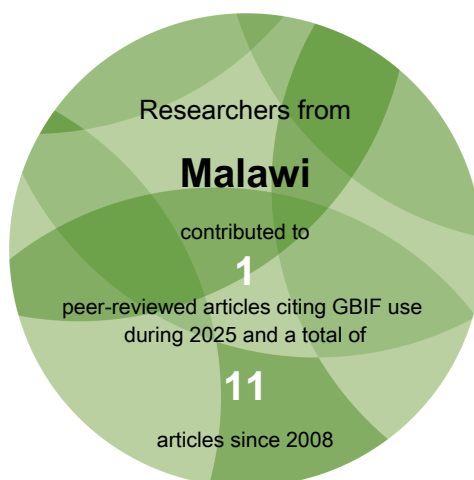


generated January 2026

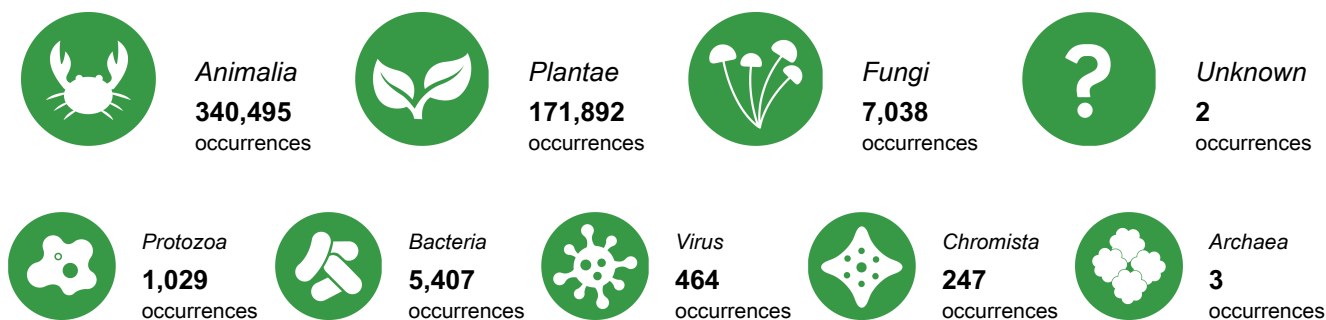
Malawi

This report provides a series of summary charts, statistics and other details about the mobilization and use of open-access species data through the GBIF network, relating to users and participating institutions in Malawi. These metrics show status at the time of report generation, unless otherwise noted. Taken together, the elements of this report can help guide and measure progress toward the information needs for biodiversity research, as well as for national commitments on biodiversity and sustainable development.

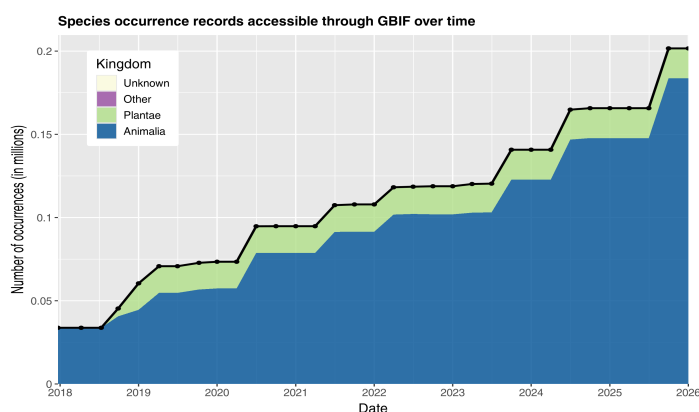
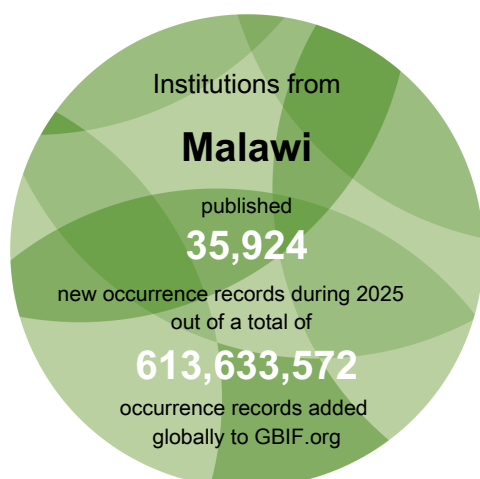
► Access and usage



► Data availability in Malawi



► Data mobilization

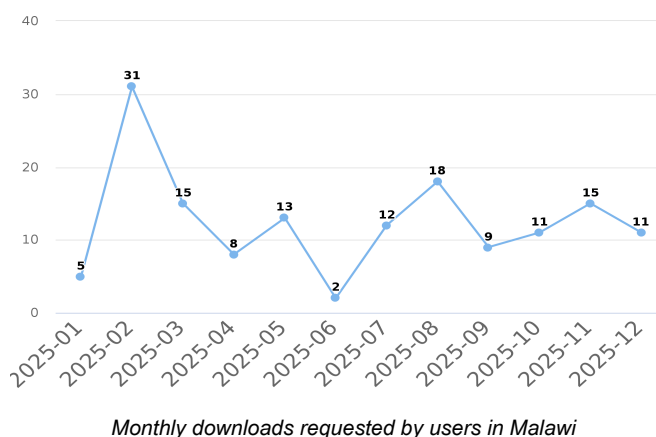
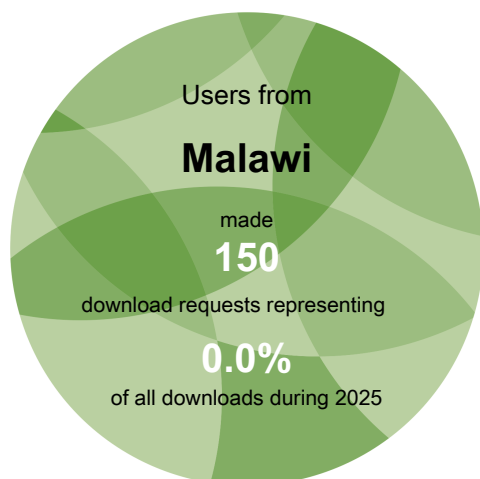


Number of records published by institutions in Malawi,
categorized by kingdom



Access and usage

Data downloads on GBIF.org from users in Malawi



Recent peer-reviewed articles using GBIF-mediated data by co-authors based in Malawi

The GBIF Secretariat maintains and reports on an ongoing literature tracking programme, giving priority to substantive uses of GBIF-mediated data in peer-reviewed literature while identifying the countries or areas of the authors' institutional affiliations. The citations below represent the five most recent journal articles with at least one co-author from Malawi.

Those interested in assisting the Secretariat in identifying additional peer-reviewed uses of GBIF-mediated data may forward relevant citations to comms@gbif.org.

Kokou, Ulemu, Atakpama *et al.* (2025) Climate change reduces and shifts suitable habitats of *Uapaca kirkiana* Müll. Arg. to higher altitudes in Malawi. *Trees, Forests and People*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tfp.2025.100884>

Kokou, Salumu, Balde *et al.* (2024) Modelling the Current and Future Spatial Distribution Area of *Adansonia digitata* L. in the Context of Climate Change in Malawi (Southern Africa). *Journal of Agricultural Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.5539/jas.v16n9p41>

Wogan, Voelker, Jain *et al.* (2024) Niche dynamics modulate population connectivity between disjunct ranges of the Cape Robin-chat (*Cossypha caffra*) supporting an aridlands species pump. *Frontiers of Biogeography*.
<https://doi.org/10.21425/fob.17.132679>

VOELKER, WOGAN, HUNTLEY *et al.* (2024) Climate cycling did not affect haplotype distribution in an abundant Southern African avian habitat generalist species, the familiar chat (*Oenanthe familiaris*). *Integrative Zoology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1749-4877.12879>

Cahen, Magombo, Gillespie. (2024) *Tragia grandistipularis* (Euphorbiaceae), a new species from Malawi. *Kew Bulletin*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12225-024-10197-1>

See all research from this country or area
gbif.org/country/MW/publications/from



Data availability

Total data available for selected taxonomic groups in Malawi



Mammals
12,986
occurrences



Birds
229,809
occurrences



Bony fish
16,412
occurrences



Amphibians
5,759
occurrences



Insects
58,549
occurrences



Reptiles
7,928
occurrences



Molluscs
2,443
occurrences



Arachnids
4,264
occurrences



Flowering plants
164,916
occurrences



Ferns
4,120
occurrences



Gymnosperms
512
occurrences



Mosses
1,032
occurrences



Sac fungi
3,606
occurrences



Basidiomycota
2,847
occurrences

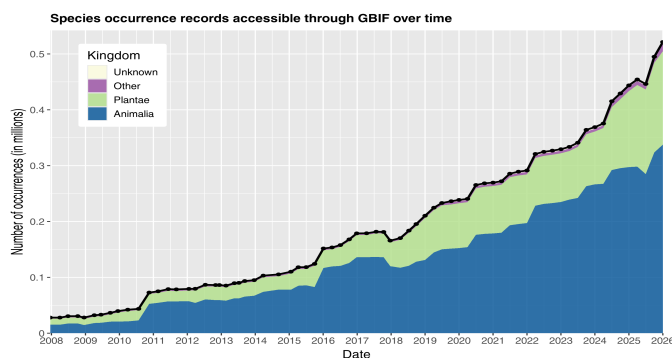
Mammals = Class *Mammalia*
Birds = Class *Aves*
Bony fish = Superclass
Osteichthyes p.p.
Amphibians = Class *Amphibia*

Insects = Class *Insecta*
Reptiles = Class *Testudines*,
Sphenodontia, *Squamata* &
Crocodylia
Molluscs = Phylum *Mollusca*

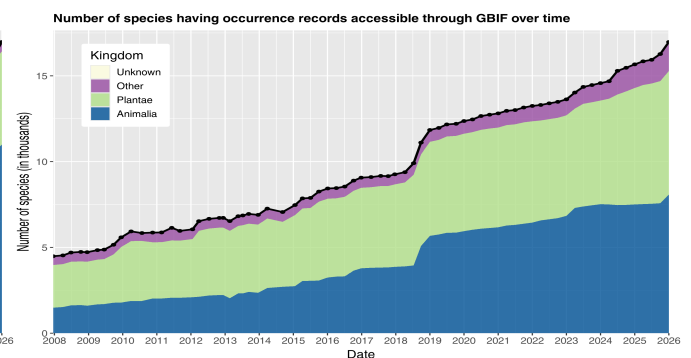
Arachnids = Class *Arachnida*
Flowering plants = Phylum
Magnoliophyta
Gymnosperms = Superclass
Gymnospermae

Ferns = Phylum *Pteridophyta*
Mosses = Phylum *Bryophyta*
Sac fungi = Phylum *Ascomycota*
Basidiomycota = Phylum
Basidiomycota

Change over time in records about biodiversity in Malawi



Occurrence records available about species occurring in Malawi



Species for which at least one occurrence record is available in Malawi

WHY MIGHT THE AMOUNT OF MOBILIZED DATA DECREASE?

Datasets are sometimes removed by publishers, but more often decreases in the number of records are due to the removal of duplicate records and datasets.

SPECIES COUNTS represent the number of binomial scientific names for which GBIF has received data records, organized as far as possible using synonyms recorded in key databases like the Catalogue of Life



Most recent datasets from publishers in Malawi

msc_biodiversityinformatics_studentprojectdata. *Published by Malawi University of Science and Technology*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/8w2uje>

mw_threatened_birds. *Published by Malawi University of Science and Technology*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/xsk9vh>

Mchinji Forest Reserve Sampling Event Data. *Published by National Herbarium & Botanic Gardens of Malawi*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/2qh2na>

Some Malawi Lycaenidae Butterflies Data Records. *Published by The Department of Museums and Monuments*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/f22fhy>

Economic Plants of Malawi. *Published by National Herbarium & Botanic Gardens of Malawi*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/dk46ed>

Endemic and Economically Useful Plant Species of Malawi. *Published by National Herbarium & Botanic Gardens of Malawi*

<https://doi.org/10.15468/bemw7c>

See all datasets from this country or area: gbif.org/dataset/search?publishing_country=MW

Newest publishers from Malawi

Malawi University of Science and Technology

The Department of Museums and Monuments

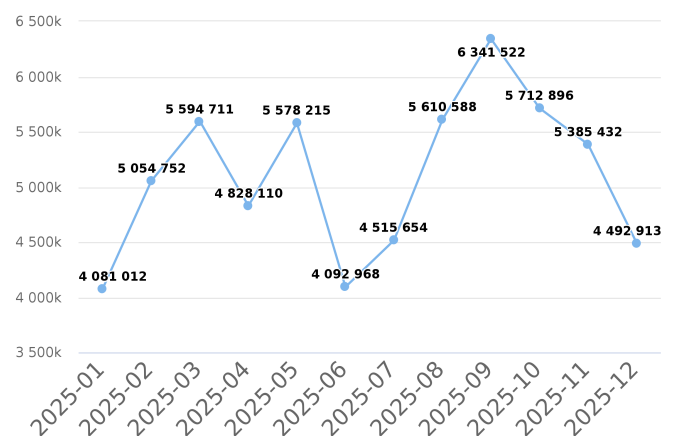
National Herbarium & Botanic Gardens of Malawi

Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi

Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre (MPGRC)

See all publishers from this country or area
gbif.org/publisher/search?country=MW

Occurrence records downloaded from GBIF.org, published by institutions in Malawi

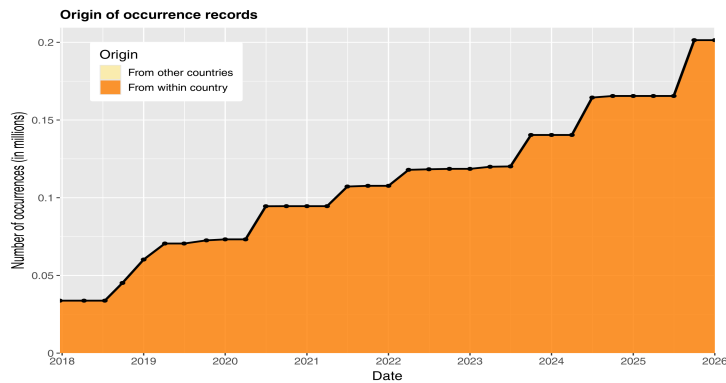


Number of occurrence records downloaded via
GBIF.org published by institutions in Malawi

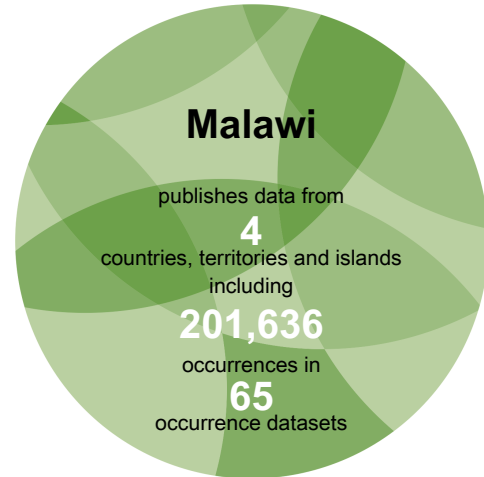


Data mobilization

Data sharing with country or area of origin by national institutions in Malawi



Data sharing with country or area of origin



The chart above shows the number of records shared over time by publishers within Malawi, with separate colours for records about species occurring within undefined and those occurring elsewhere.

Top data contributors about biodiversity in Malawi

Rank	Country or area	No. of occurrences
1	Malawi	199,664
2	United States of America	95,324
3	United Kingdom	74,173
4	South Africa	46,274
5	Netherlands	28,044
6	International organization or unknown country	20,851
7	Belgium	17,726
8	Germany	14,371
9	Sweden	9,935
10	Colombia	6,491

Table 1. Ranking of countries or areas contributing data about Malawi

Top datasets contributing data about Malawi

EOD – eBird Observation Dataset. 167,420 occurrences in Malawi. (Last updated 29 Oct 2025)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - Herbarium Specimens. 49,387 occurrences in Malawi. (Last updated 2 Jan 2026)

iNaturalist Research-grade Observations. 32,617 occurrences in Malawi. (Last updated 31 Dec 2025)

SAFRING: Historical Bird Ringing Records (2005-2009). 27,322 occurrences in Malawi. (Last updated 22 Nov 2017)

Tropicos MO Specimen Data. 20,492 occurrences in Malawi. (Last updated 31 Dec 2025)

See all contributing countries and areas or datasets: gbif.org/country/MW/about



Malawi participates in the following projects coordinated by GBIF

Mobilizing endemic and economically useful species data for policy and protection

Capacity Enhancement Support Programme, 2020–2021

Technical training for data managers at key institutions to ensure the availability of data for target species

<https://www.gbif.org/project/2du1KSeBHxlcZF9krfPZvp>

GBIF Malawi advocacy action

Capacity Enhancement Support Programme, 2015–2016

Through this project, Malawi will conduct a desk and online survey to identify training and infrastructure needs at organizational and individual level on data management for biodiversity management.

<https://www.gbif.org/project/82210>

Engaging the private sector for biodiversity data mobilization across Southern Africa

Capacity Enhancement Support Programme, 2025–2027

<https://www.gbif.org/project/CESP2025-008>

Status and spatial diversity of Sorghum wild species in Malawi

BID: Biodiversity Information for Development, 2017–2019

This project aims at halting genetic erosion and safeguard the species for present and future use and specifically, to (i) establish the distribution of *S. versicolor* Anderson, *S. halepense* (L.) Pers, *S. sudanense* (Piper) Stapf and *S. arundinaceum* (Desv.) Stapf. in Malawi; (ii) establish the spatial diversity of these crop wild relatives (iii) assess the state of vulnerability of the species; and (iv) propose conservation plan to safeguard the threatened species.

<https://www.gbif.org/project/3lbgi31EzKqKqcO8MqMUmS>

Strengthening Malawi's Biodiversity Information Facility

BID: Biodiversity Information for Development, 2017–2019

The objective is to develop and manage a comprehensive national biodiversity database using BRAHMS, through training of NHBG technical staff and its local partners; including Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) which is a central user of biodiversity information, particularly at policy level.

This project will strengthen the biodiversity information infrastructure of Malawi.

<https://www.gbif.org/project/6vsEqjdu6IUGaqKK8Wyyrne>

See all GBIF projects

[gbif.org/resource/search?contentType=project](https://www.gbif.org/resource/search?contentType=project)