

NBII Digital Image Library

Bringing your
images to a worldwide
audience...

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Digital Image Library <<http://images.nbii.gov>> is a new Web resource available to the general public. It makes available a diverse range of images related to nature and the environment from the NBII and other organizations. Our library collections contain images associated with plant and animal species, scenic landscapes, wildlife management, and biological study/fieldwork.

The Value of an Image Library

The mission of our digital image library is to provide a diverse library of biological images – offering a rich, Web-based resource of high quality images accessible and available to scientists, conservationists, decision-makers, educators, students and the general public worldwide.

Each image is dynamically linked to *metadata* – specific information about the image. The metadata record contains relevant and validated information about the image, such as scientific and common names, a description, and geographic location as well as photographer and contributing partner names. Additionally, most images are available for download in three file sizes: thumbnail, medium, and high-resolutions.

Well-documented images are key to recording and understanding the natural environment. Images are needed to:

- Aid identification,
- Complement museum specimens by



Photo Credit: José Luis Cartes/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

Toco Toucan (*Ramphastos toco*)
Paraguay



Photo Credit: John Mosesso, Jr./NBII

Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Alaska, United States

- showing colors of parts that fade in collections,
- Illustrate lessons, scientific papers, news articles, Web sites, presentations, proposals, brochures, reports, and posters,
- Provide a baseline for changing conditions when georeferenced, and
- Facilitate decision-makers empathizing with issues.

The NBII will make available online images from its own collections and from contributing partners. We envision most images being in the public domain. The image library continues to expand as new images are added. We invite you to participate.

Benefits to Contributing Partners

Because of the electronic information attached to an image, other potential



Photo Credit: John Mosesso, Jr./NBII

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)
Virginia, United States



Photo Credit: Fernando González Parini/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)
Camino a Bahía Negra, Paraguay

users conducting a search of the library can locate images on the wildlife and ecological issues that you have contributed. Your organization's name, and the photographer, are linked to the image, thus providing publicity – reaching a wider audience. Some other benefits to contributors include:

- Repository for contributors to transfer and organize their images which can then be accessed online,
- Images can be located and shared with ease,
- Secure, long-term storage,
- Eliminates image degradation,
- Reliable Internet service ensured,
- Robust search tool,
- Access to a broader audience,
- Strict Quality Control,
- Maintenance of rights and permissions,

(over, please)



- Capacity building for your organization,
- Training in cataloguing concepts and tools tailored to your needs,
- Images adhere to global standards, and
- Technical support to help transfer images and metadata.

How the Image Library Works

Image seekers may browse through our broad thematic categories or search for specific images contained in the library (see graphics above). By clicking on an image category you gain access to all the thumbnails within that category. Then by clicking on an individual thumbnail image, its metadata record and links to its other resolutions appear on a new page.

Image and Metadata Standards

As a general rule, images are digitized at the highest resolution appropriate to achieve the level of quality to maintain long-term preservation of the library collection. The NBII has developed guidelines that are based on global standards and current available technologies and equipment. Digitalization quality, image resolutions, and systematic file naming are all important for system compatibility,

interoperability, and demonstrating ownership of the digital asset.

Image metadata follow established guidelines adapted from the NBII Metadata Standard for Web Resource Cataloguing. Our metadata standards follow the global Dublin Core standard. Contributors are responsible for providing images with the appropriate validated metadata.

The NBII has developed electronic tools for cataloguing information for images and can provide partners the necessary training. We also provide tools and resources to upload, host, and search images. We are working to add multilingual functionality to our tools as well.

About the NBII

The NBII <www.nbii.gov> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a variety of audiences

including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other citizens.

For More Information

For more information about the NBII Digital Image Library, or to explore partnership opportunities, contact:

Gene Morris
Digital Image Library Program Lead
NBII National Program Office
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192 U.S.A.
Phone: 1-703-648-4351 (English)
E-mail: images@nbii.gov

Andrea Grosse
Projects Manager, International Programs
Phone: 1-703-648-4342 (Spanish, Portuguese, French, and German)
E-mail: agrosse@usgs.gov

Annette Olson, Ph.D.
Biodiversity Scientist
Phone: 1-703-648-4080 (English)
E-mail: alolson@usgs.gov

Find us on the Web at:
<<http://images.nbii.org>>.