

BeGenDiv description:

The **BeGenDiv** is an inter-institutional initiative to take full advantage of novel approaches of high-throughput sequencing and genome analysis in biodiversity research. It has been idealized and created by a Consortium of six institutes located in the Berlin area:

1. Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem (FU-BGBM)
2. Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und Binnenfischerei (IGB)
3. Leibniz-Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung (IZW)
4. Museum für Naturkunde (MfN, Leibniz-Institut/Humboldt Universität)
5. Freie Universität Berlin, Institute of Biology (FU-IfB)
6. Universität Potsdam, Institute for Biology (UP-IBB).

The Center offices and laboratories are located at the Botanical Museum (Freie Universität, Berlin). The Center's core staff consists of three permanent members, each one affiliated to a different Leibniz Institute involved in the Consortium. Center staff comprises one technical biologist and two genomics scientists. From Jul/11, project-related staff will start joining the Center, including Postdocs, PhD students and technicians normally affiliated to one of the above Institutes.

We currently have more than 20 projects ongoing in collaboration with the member Institutes. As the genomics specialists, we design the project together with the partners and participate by performing or supervising all steps up to the conclusion of the project. All projects demand bioinformatics analyses with different levels of complexity, and involve sequencing data produced to answer relevant biological questions. The Center is open for collaboration in Bioinformatics, and we are happy to involve, whenever possible, groups that are more focused on informatics and/or mathematics.