JNCC OTs GIS meeting

Turks and Caicos

GIS Training Course

Acquiring and importing data from GBIF

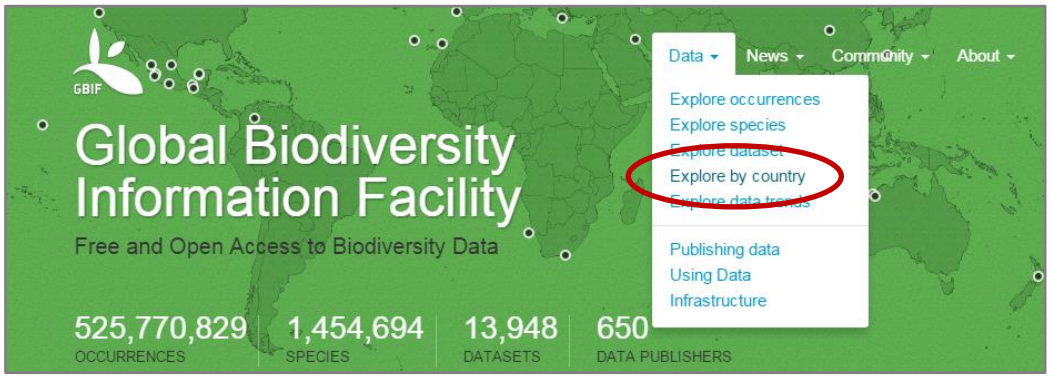
1 Data Acquisition

1.1 Downloading from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility

- Navigate to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility website through your web browser.

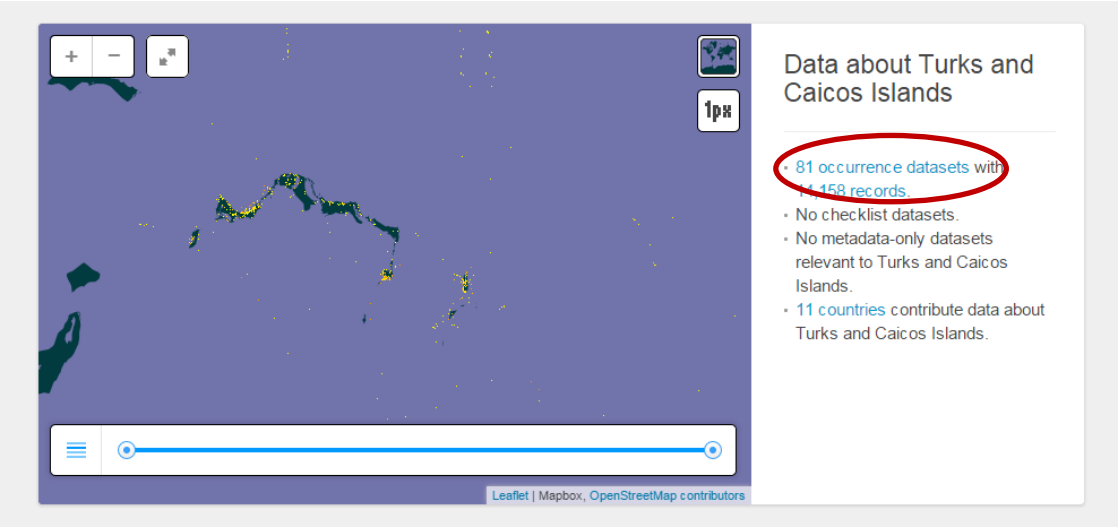
http://www.gbif.org/

- Register to create an account; you will then to able to download free data.
- Once you have registered, hover over the data tab along the top and select Explore by country:

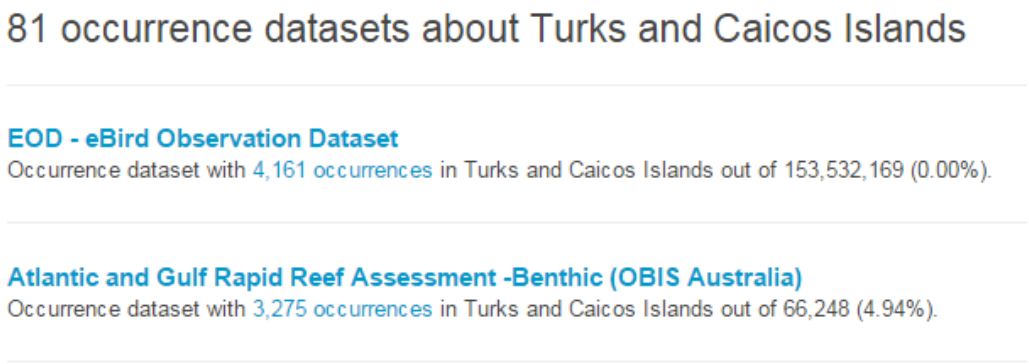


- On the following page find the Turks and Caicos Island link:

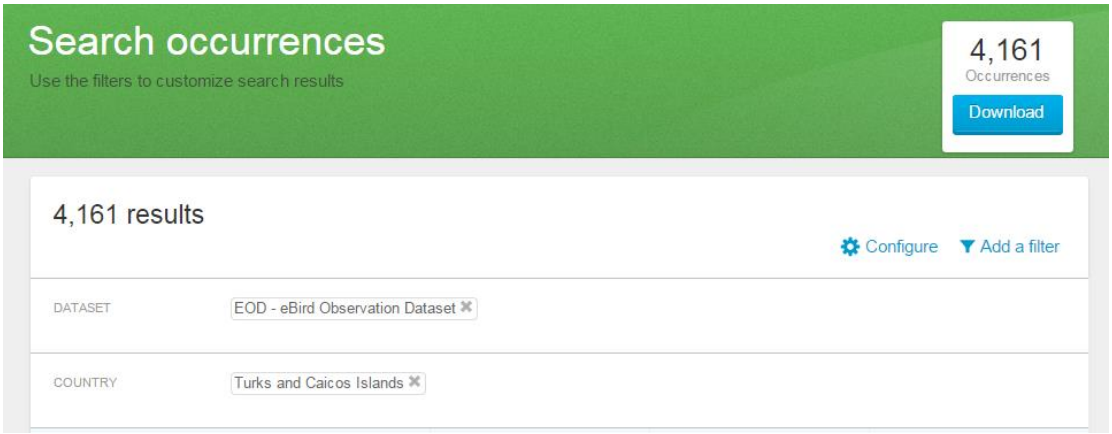
- Click 81 occurrence datasets (Note that this number may change as more contributions are made to the website):



- To download the data, click the occurrences link for the EOD - eBird Observation Dataset

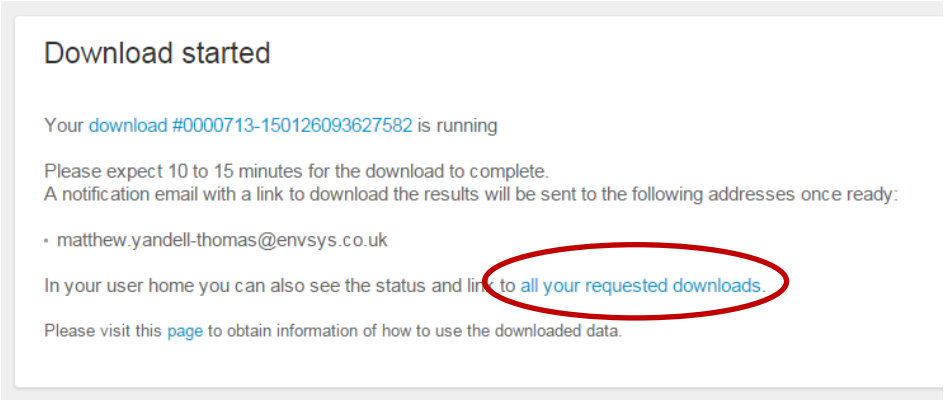


- Select download in the top right corner:

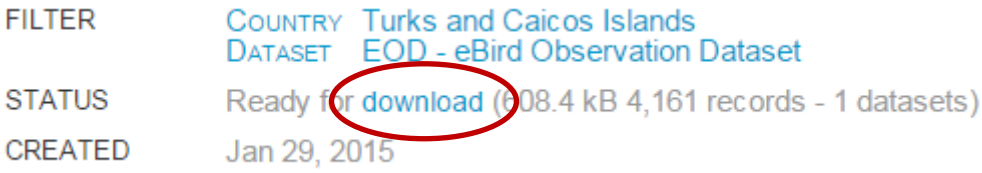


Your request will take a few moments to process.

- When your download is ready, you will be notified by email and you can go to your downloads page by clicking all your requested downloads link.



- Once at your download page, click download and it will start shortly



- This saves a .zip file on a location on your computer specified by you

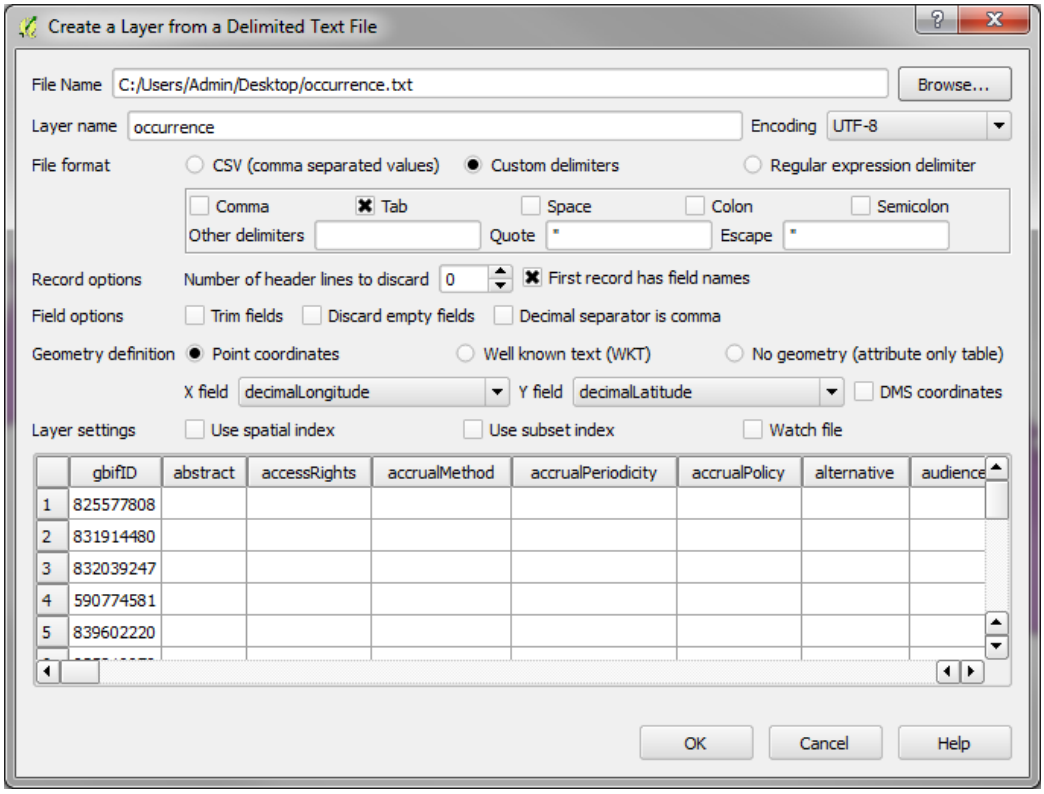
1.2 Importing data into QGIS

Much of the data downloaded from www.gbif.org will be in text file format.

- Navigate to the .zip file you downloaded earlier and extract the occurrence.txt.

- In QGIS, to add a table, pan to the left hand toolbar and select ,the 'Add delimited text layer' icon.

- In the dialog box that will appear:
  - Navigate to the occurrence.txt that you just extracted.
  - Select the **'Custom deliminters'** button and the **'Point coordinates'** options
    The custom delimiter in this case is **'Tab'**, **'X field'** is decimalLongitude and **'Y field'** is decimalLatitude.



- After clicking ‘OK’, the dataset will be displayed as a number of points:

Exercise

Examine your data: Does it relate to the habitat data we’ve been looking at? How could such a relationship be identified?

Try out selecting by locations or buffering.