



Latin American Regional Nodes Meeting

4 - 6 april, 2016 - Montevideo, Uruguay

Meeting Report

Agenda

The agenda for the Regional Nodes Meeting was elaborated between Daniel Amariles (Latin America Nodes Regional Representative), Ana Laura Mello and Andrés Carvajales (GBIF Uruguay), and GBIF Secretariat. Basically, the agenda (Annex 1) includes the topics discussed in the Nodes Committee and the GBIF Strategic Plan. The meeting started with a presentation of the GBIF Secretariat and country's presentations about nodes situations.

Outcomes

Nodes situation and SWOT Analysis

After the country's presentations the group elaborated a SWOT analysis (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15JHREZaW6N3alu4y3DmjhGraw6CxBjxUtzZ0zGf1GiU/edit#gid=0>) to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats between the region.

This non-traditional matrix of SWOT Analysis helped to:

1. Easily detect what topics are most difficult to address for most of the nodes by looking at for a row at the time, and also to determinate which of the nodes can be the agent that may support that topic
2. List the topics to address for each node.

The general concerns of the nodes in Latin America that were detected from the matrix are mainly:

- Data portals, the discussion of the second day will clear the path for those nodes
- The staff turnover issues are not easily to address, but promoting biodiversity informatics curriculums into the academy will definitely support the hiring of professional with good training and it will reduce the learning curve that has to assume the nodes staff.
- The lack funding is a natural threat for all the nodes, what means that applying for calls that funds projects related to the work plan may be convenient.
- Automated data quality check is a desire for all the nodes. The region will like to run a project that can speed up an implementation to address this issue.
- Gap analysis is also a common concern, the review of the draft “Best Practice Guide for Data Gap Analysis for biodiversity stakeholders” is a common task for the nodes in order to establish a process that consider the guidelines presented there.

Other concerns during the sessions:

Cuba needs technical support in order to have the registration credentials for the organization to publish data in the IPT. The way in which this registration request is made was mentioned, also the possibility to be endorsed by the Nodes Committee.

It is noted that in Latin America we still needed the make efforts for collection digitization. There are a big source of data that is not available.

Strategies to give incentives for publishing without using to the model of “buying a records” is need. *Data papers* is not a wide used model to achieve that and of course it was recommended.

Even if there are few example of datasets coming from the private sector, it is well know that is a group that are not very willing to make their data as an open access resource.

Establish a regional helpdesk, starting by publishing in the regional web page the experts of each country that can provide support to specific topics.

Topics from Nodes Committee and GBIF Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Manuel Vargas presented the Nodes Committee topics and priorities for the Strategic Plan. The objective of this presentation was to guide the posterior discussion of each topic in particular.

1- Digitization and repatriation

The countries discuss their plans for promoting and supporting the biological collections digitization. All participant agreed in conducting a regional consultation to know and evaluated the condition of the collections and their needs to systematize and digitization. This consultation will be in the context of the Task force on bio-collections data. The consultation will help us to:

- Recognize the state of collections and digitization
- Identify priorities for the region
- Feedback to GBIF

¿Se puede financiar las colecciones para los procesos de sistematización y digitalización?

Se propone continuar con la financiación estos procesos para aumentar la disponibilidad de estos datos.

Explorar la opción de financiamiento por parte del sector privado

- Disminución de impuestos
- Programa adopta tu logo, en donde las empresas pueden financiar programas que apoyen la digitalización de especies.
- Vender los nombres de científicos de las especies a celebridades y marcas interesadas en financiar las colecciones con el fin de promover la conservación.

2- Nodes Data Portals

The objective of this session was to explore the current state of the nodes data portals, which are open source within and outside the region, which nodes are developing data portals, and which nodes are interested in adopting a portal.

There are several situations between the region. Argentina and Costa Rica are developing theirs data portal based on ALA although is more complex than other IT developments. Both

countries offered technical cooperation. Work will continue for exploring and moving forward the implementation of geographic module.

Uruguay and Brazil bases the development of its data portal in Canadensys IT, but Uruguay still has infrastructures weaknesses. Brazil also used ALA code to resolve specific needs. Chile and Mexico have their own data portal development. Chile is looking forward a fast interface to administrate datasets. They are also interested in explore Canadensys IT.

Cuba, Perú, and Ecuador have none data portal developments but they are interested in compare both ALA and Candensys to decide which IT is better for their needs and capacities.

The participants agreed on producing a comparison chart to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each development, considering its quality attributes, thematic attributes (priority areas: genetic resources, ecosystems), and known problems.

3- Linking users with science interface - decision making

Ana Laura Mello presented the IPBES platform which aims to strengthen scientific-policy interface between biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the welfare of human beings long term and sustainable development.

One highlighted aspect was the lack of information for the Latin America region to perform the platform's products.

4- Curriculum Biodiversity & Informatics

Nowadays, the capacities in biodiversity and informatics has developed as a result of the relationships between biodiversity and IT experts. There are not sufficient professionals in the area for attending to meet the demand, but also its recognized that employment in biodiversity and informatics is low.

Costa Rica: To share the contents of the courses that has been developed within the region or the advances of them. It is recommended to follow the discussion of the related TDWG group.

The participants agreed on documenting the requirements to increase the labor supply in Biodiversity Informatics and sharing the experience. Also agreed on following the development of this topic in TDWG.

5- Private sector and open data

About this topic there are different experiences in the region. Some information from private sector could be taken from environmental impact studies, but the quality of this data is questionable. Uruguay is considering to develop a pilot work plan to publish through GBIF data from environmental impact studies of wind farms.

In some countries, tourism sector promotes the generation of citizen science data mainly from birds.

Colombia has a data repository obtained from collect permissions. Finally, Brazil has a collaboration programme with the National Industry Confederation for publish their data (biological and geographic) through SIB-Br data portal, and also for identify areas to establish industries without affect priority areas for biodiversity conservation.

Opportunities for funding

Opportunities for funding, specially GBIF and CYTED calls, were presented.

The countries agreed on presenting two proposals of Concept Notes to GBIF Capacity Enhancement Call 2016

- Workshop Plinian Core in TDWG meeting
 - Leads: Colombia
 - Supports: Costa Rica
 - Participants: Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Perú, Uruguay, Ecuador, México

- Workshop Sample based data
 - Leads: Perú
 - Supports: Colombia, Costa Rica.















- Participants: Chile, Argentina, Uruguay













Also, the region be pending on BID Call (Sep-2016), this opportunity is mainly for Cuba, but other Latin American countries could be involved.

Actions for the Regional Work Programme

On the basis of what was discuss and agreed at the sessions, the regions defines a set of actions to be undertaken in the period 2016-2018 in connection with GBIF Strategic Plan.

Synthesis of tasks and commitments

Latin America Collections condition				
Responsible	Activity	Documentation	Date	Situation
 Daniel Amariles	Solicitar formulario consulta de GBIF	https://goo.gl/pwp9A7	19/04/2016	 Done
 All	Traducir consulta y diseñar formulario	https://goo.gl/QnkHZN	02/05/2016	 Pendent
 All	Distribuir y recibir respuestas		07/06/2016	 Pendent
 Daniel Amariles	Consolidar respuestas		10/06/2016	 Pendent
Digitization and repatriation				
Responsible	Activity	Documentation	Date	Situation
 Jose Carrasco	Conectar con IDIGBIO para digitalización y repatriación			 Pendent
 Daniel Amariles	Solicitar a GBIF facilitar la descarga de datos a repatriar		26/05/2016	 Done
Nodes data portals				
Responsible	Activity	Documentation	Date	Situation
 Manuel Vargas	Compartir documentos de evaluación de portales de 2013		28/04/2016	 Done

Private Sector				
Responsable	Actividad	Documentación	Fecha	Estado
 All	Revisar "Workshop Data from Environmental Impact Assessments"	http://goo.gl/rdaV9Q		 Pendent
 Rafael Fonseca	Compartir experiencia con el sector privado al GBIF Task Group			 Pendent
Biodiversity Informatics Curriculum and Training				
Responsible	Activity	Documentation	Date	Situation
 Daniel Amariles	Contactar al GBIF task group de este tema		19/04/2016	 Done
 All	Contribuir con el modelo de referencia en "BI"			 Pendent
 Daniel Amariles	Aplicar a la convocatoria de GBIF para Taller pre-TDWG de Plinian		11/04/2016	 Done
 Jose Carrasco	Aplicar a la convocatoria de GBIF para Taller Event-core		11/04/2016	 Done

MEETING EVALUATION

Topic	SCORE (from 1 to 5)
Personal willingness to contribute to discussions	5
Willingness to contribute to group discussions	5
Personal Preparation for the meeting	4.3
Guidelines for the preparation of the contents of the meeting	4.2
Personal willingness to take into account the interests of other participants	4.8
Willingness of the group to take into account their interests	4.8
Role played by the facilitator	4.8

How the working sessions were conducted	4.8
Satisfaction with the main results of the meeting	4.7
Willingness to collaborative work in the future	5

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

- Do you think that should be taken into account other topics?

Participants agree that the topics of the meeting agenda were sufficient taking into account the time framework.

- What other preparation activities should have been developed in the prior?

Some participants considered that preparation activities could have included more inputs for a technical discussions.

- SWOT analysis

Participants agree that SWOT analysis was very useful for learning about the situation of each country, identifying topics for future collaboration and guiding the rest of the regional meeting.

- Digitization and repatriation

Some participants think that it would have been helpful to discuss more in detail the repatriation process.

- Data Portals

This session allowed to know about the situation of other countries and discuss advantages and disadvantages of each data portal system. Some participants think that more discussion is necessary in this topic (leveling information and future collaboration).

- Linking users with science interface - decision making

This session was informative. It is necessary more entailment with decision making sector.

- Curriculum Biodiversity & Informatics

We have to discuss how to increase the market demand for this kind of professionals. The session was interesting and important, maybe the strategy is to build capacity between biologists or develop short courses for IT professionals.

- Private sector and open data

This topic do not have too much impact in the short term. It is important but depends on governmental politics. We need to discuss this topic more in detail, it is an interesting work area to develop.

- Opportunities for funding

This is a very important topic. We have to be creative.

Meeting arrangements

	SCORE (from 1 to 5)
Meeting venue	4.5
Agenda implementation	4.8
Food and coffee breaks	4.6
Accommodation	4.8

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE MEETING

Costs incurred during the meeting agreed to the provisions of the agreement between the GBIF Secretariat and the National Directorate of Environment of Uruguay.

Funds for the Regional Nodes Meeting organization

Budget line	Budget funds from GBIF (EUR)
International travel (air tickets for delegates from Argentina, Brazil*, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, México, and Perú)	5084
Local travel (airport - hotel transportation for delegates from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, México, and Perú)	248
Accommodation (hotel rooms for delegates from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, México, and Perú)	1445
Meeting logistics	
o Venue (meeting room)	426
o Meals and refreshments (lunch, dinner, and coffee break)	1279
o Local transportation	--
Meeting materials	--
Total funds	8482

* At last moment Brazil Node Manager can not attend the meeting

Funds for the participation of Cuba and Ecuador

Budget line	Cuba (EUR)	Ecuador (EUR)
International travel (air ticket)	1161	1024
Local travel (airport - hotel transportation)	49	36
Accommodation (hotel room)	301	241
Meals and refreshments (lunch, dinner, and coffee break)	129	109
Other (hotel room during trip)		120
Total funds	1620	1530

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Participant	Name	Role / position	Email	Membership status
Argentina	Anabela Plos	Node manager	plos@macn.gov.ar	Voting Participant
Chile	Charif Tala	Node manager	ctala@mma.gob.cl	Voting Participant
Colombia	Daniel Amariles	Node manager	damariles@humboldt.org.co	Voting Participant
Costa Rica	Manuel Vargas	Node manager	mvargas@inbio.ac.cr	Voting Participant
Mexico	Patricia Rivera Ramos	Node manager	patricia.ramos@conabio.gob.mx	Voting Participant
Peru	Jose Carrasco	Node team	jcarrasco@minam.gob.pe	Voting Participant
Uruguay	Javier Alfredo González	Node manager	jagonz@internet.com.uy	Voting Participant
Uruguay	Ana Laura Mello	Additional delegate	ana.mello@mvotma.gub.uy	Voting Participant
Uruguay	Andrés Carvajales	GBIF Uruguay Staff	andres.carvajales@mvotma.gub.uy	Voting Participant
Brazil	Rafael Fonseca		rfonseca@sibbr.gov.br	Associate Country Participant
Cuba	Francisco Cejas		cejas@ceniai.inf.cu	Invited
Ecuador	Néstor Acosta		nestor.acosta@ambiente.gob.ec	Invited

LINK TO PRESENTATIONS

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Byu7L9BF2Wx0MTdmbGEyVzhVQVk>

**This report was elaborated by Daniel Amariles and Ana Laura Mello
June 2016**



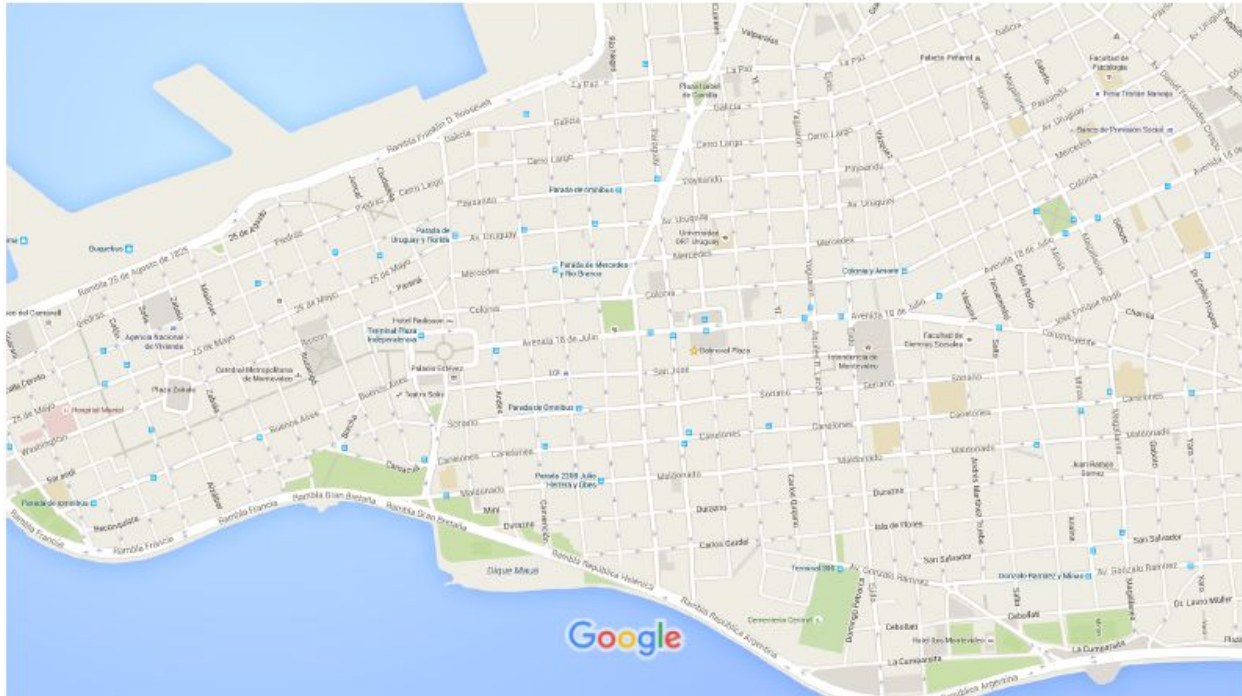
REUNIÓN REGIONAL DE NODOS GBIF DE AMÉRICA LATINA

4 al 6 de abril 2016

Montevideo, Uruguay

Sitio de la Reunión y aspectos a tener en cuenta

El evento se realizará en la Sala Figari del Hotel Balmoral, ubicado en la Plaza Cagancha de Montevideo (Circunvalación Plaza Cagancha 1126). Está ubicado en el centro de la ciudad sobre la principal avenida (18 de julio), y a pocas cuadras de la Ciudad Vieja, el casco antiguo de la ciudad de Montevideo.



En todos los casos, se contará con un servicio de transporte que los trasladará del Aeropuerto al Hotel y de vuelta al final de la semana. De todos modos, el Hotel está ubicado en una zona accesible tanto por el transporte público (ómnibus y taxis) como para el particular (coches de alquiler o bicicletas).

El *check - in* y el *check - out* son ambos a las 12:00 hs. La organización del evento cubre todos los gastos de alojamiento y alimentación de los participantes, así como la visita al Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos, prevista para el tercer día de trabajo.

REUNIÓN REGIONAL DE NODOS 2016

DÍA 1 - Lunes 4 de abril

Lugar: Sala Figari del Hotel Balmoral

HORA	TIEMPO	ACTIVIDAD
09:00	30'	Bienvenida GBIF Uruguay Apertura de la reunión y bienvenida a los participantes.
09:30	30'	Introduction from GBIF Secretariat Donald Hobern (virtual) Presentation providing a progress update in the implementation of the GBIF work programme.
10:00	15'	Revisión de la agenda e inicio de la reunión Daniel Amariles Se revisará la agenda del RNM, se hará una socialización de las actividades del DQWM y los objetivos de la semana.
10:15	15'	Enunciando los Tópicos del Comité de Nodos y prioridades del GBIF Strategic Plan 2017-2021 Manuel Vargas Se presentarán los tópicos y prioridades dentro de la red de GBIF con el fin de orientar las discusiones de la reunión en torno a estos temas.
10:30	30'	Coffee break
11:00	15'	Estado Nodo Argentina Anabela Plos 15' presentación del nodo.
11:15	15'	Estado Nodo Brasil Andrea Portela 15' presentación del nodo.
11:30	15'	Estado Nodo Chile Charif Tala 15' presentación del nodo.
11:45	15'	Estado Nodo Costa Rica Manuel Vargas

		15' presentación del nodo.
12:00	15'	Estado Nodo México Patricia Ramos 15' presentación del nodo.
12:15	15'	Estado Nodo Perú José Carrasco 15' presentación del nodo.
12:30	90'	Almuerzo
14:00	15'	Presentación de Ecuador Néstor Acosta 15' presentación del nodo.
14:15	15'	Presentación de Cuba Francisco Cejas 15' presentación del nodo.
14:30	15'	Presentación de Uruguay Javier González García 15' presentación del nodo.
14:45	15'	Estado Nodo Colombia Daniel Amariles 15' presentación del nodo.
15:00	90'	Construcción de matriz de DOFA Daniel Amariles Se construirá una matriz en donde se sinteticen los temas para los cuales cada nodo posee las fortalezas y las perspectivas con las cuales se pueden establecer oportunidades, con el fin de encontrar complementariedades y proponer actividades de colaboración.
16:30	30'	Conclusiones del día, recopilación de dudas a la Secretaría de GBIF Daniel Amariles Se documentarán las conclusiones y se recopilarán las dudas en el documento compartido con la Secretaría de GBIF para que sean respondidas en la primera sesión del siguiente día.
17:00		Cierre del día

DÍA 2 - Martes 5 de abril

Lugar: Sala Figari del Hotel Balmoral

HORA	TIEMPO	ACTIVIDAD
09:00	30'	Presentación de la Matriz DOFA y dudas a la Secretaría de GBIF Daniel Amariles & Olaf Banki (virtual) Se presentará la Matriz DOFA construida el día anterior y todas las dudas hacía GBIF en una conferencia virtual con la Secretaría de GBIF.
09:30	30'	Discusión de Tópicos del Comité de Nodos. Daniel Amariles Se marcarán los ejes de trabajo de los nodos que se integran en los tópicos discutidos durante la 13ra Reunión Global de Nodos en Antananarivo, Madagascar.
10:00	30'	Digitalización y repatriación Daniel Amariles Planes para la digitalización de las colecciones biológicas.
10:30	30'	Coffee break
11:00	45'	Portales de Nodos Daniel Amariles Explorar el estado actual de los portales de datos de los nodos, los que son de código abierto dentro y fuera de la región, los que están desarrollo y los nodos interesados en adoptar algún portal.
11:45	45'	IPBES GBIF Ana Laura Mello ¿Cómo los nodos apoyan a la interfaz científico-política para la toma de decisiones?
12:30	90''	Almuerzo
14:00	30'	Curriculum en Informática de la Biodiversidad Daniel Amariles ¿Cómo articularse con la academia para la generación de programas de formación en administración y uso de datos sobre biodiversidad?
14:30	30'	Sector privado y datos abiertos Daniel Amariles Conexión sector privado y datos abiertos

15:00	30'	Propuestas para financiamiento. Convocatoria CYTED y GBIF. Daniel Amariles Se presentarán las oportunidades de financiamiento para proyectos colaborativas o creación de redes iberoamericanas. En especial se revisarán las oportunidades con CYTED y GBIF.
15:30	60'	Plenario sobre objetivos y metas para el Programa Regional de Trabajo Daniel Amariles Tópicos para incluir en el plan de trabajo de la región enmarcado en las discusiones del día, proyectos de financiamiento, compromisos.
16:30	30'	Conclusiones del día, recopilación de dudas a la Secretaría de GBIF Daniel Amariles Se documentarán las conclusiones y se recopilarán las dudas en el documento compartido con la Secretaría de GBIF para que sean respondidas en la primera sesión del siguiente día.
17:00		Cierre del día

DÍA 3 - Miércoles 6 de abril

Lugar: Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos

HORA	TIEMPO	ACTIVIDAD
07:00	180'	Salida desde el Hotel hacia Área Protegida Excursión a al Área Protegida Quebrada de los Cuervos para conocer otro sitio en el país, así como tener una ocasión para el descanso e intercambio con los colegas.
10:00	150'	Recorrido por el Área Protegida
12:30	120'	Almuerzo
14:30	120'	Plenario y definición de acciones del Programa Regional de Trabajo Daniel Amariles Sobre la base de lo acordado en la última sesión del Día 2, se buscará definir un conjunto de acciones a desarrollar en el período 2016 - 2018 dirigidas a

cumplir con los objetivos del Programa Regional y los lineamientos de los Planes Estratégicos y de Trabajo de GBIF.

16:30 **30'** **Síntesis de acciones y aprobación del Programa Regional de Trabajo**
Daniel Amariles
Sobre la base de lo acordado en la última sesión del Día 2, se buscará definir un conjunto de acciones a desarrollar en el período 2016 - 2018 dirigidas a cumplir con los objetivos del Programa Regional y los lineamientos de los Planes Estratégicos y de Trabajo de GBIF.

17:00 **Cierre del día y retorno a Montevideo**