GLOBAL NODES MEETING 2021
Report
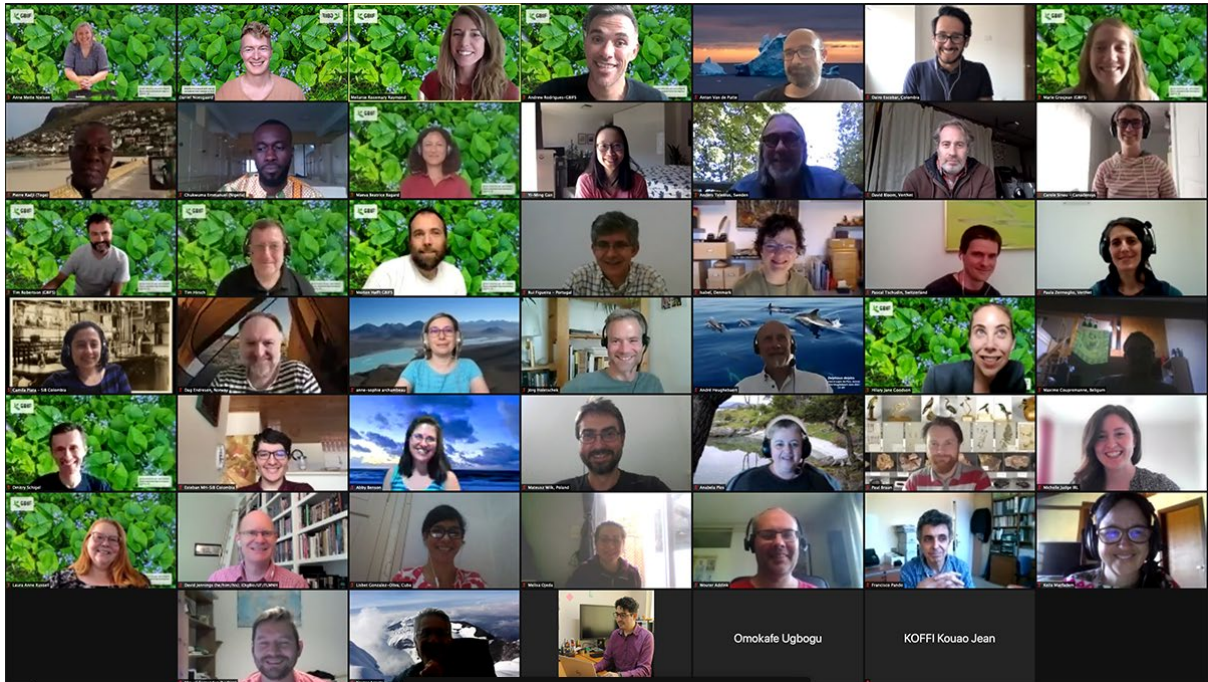
28 June–2 July 2021: Online event: https://gnm2021.gbif.org/

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Executive summary by Nodes Chair, André Heughebaert

Our 16th Global Nodes Meeting was virtual for the first time, the COVID pandemic travel restrictions forced us to adopt this online format. This comes with less social networking, no informal discussions during the breaks, less interactions. On the other hand, it also brings some advantages : less costs, more accessible for node managers, node staff and observers. The secretariat organization was very smooth with many pre-recorded presentations, Q&A sessions, panel discussions, icebreaker and even a funny game : Nodes vs Helpdesk.

It was a good opportunity to discuss the strategic plan for the next period, to get an update on latest tools such as regional IPTs, GRSciCol, online trainings, Living Atlases, or Hosted Portals and to share our best practices on Data mobilization, Data use for decision making and training materials. I was impressed by the sessions on the future richer data model, the resource mobilization strategy and the potential for the thematic approach of data mobilization. These topics will certainly be on the top of the agenda for the upcoming NSG

meetings. At the end of the week, the OBIS session offered an excellent overview of what is going on in the marine data.

GBIF is about to start a new strategic period where nodes, technologies, partnerships and people skills will undoubtedly evolve. This global nodes meeting gave us some hints and avenues for the nodes community to work together more efficiently to achieve GBIF's mission.

Meeting preparation

Global Nodes Meetings are an opportunity for all GBIF nodes to come together to learn from each other, discuss ideas, develop best practices, share their concerns, define recommendations and set priorities.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Nodes Steering Group (NSG) decided to hold the first-ever virtual global nodes meeting this year. The idea was presented to the nodes in a community webinar in February.

The agenda for the online event was developed following a consultation with all nodes on ideas for the virtual nodes meetings in 2021.

The meeting targeted the nodes community (Node managers and Nodes staff), with invited observers who wish to learn more about GBIF and the work of the nodes.

Meeting format

The meeting was planned to facilitate global participation, taking note of the challenges of working across timezones, of connectivity issues, and of 'online-meeting fatigue'.

The meeting combined:
- Pre-recorded presentations that were made available from a dedicated website ahead of sessions for participants to watch at a time that suits their location
- Online discussion forums using the GBIF community forum, allowing participants to comment on the presentations and raise questions for discussion
- Live sessions focusing on interactions between nodes, and with the Secretariat.

Specific goals were defined for each session and are shown on the event website.

All activities took place in the week 28 June–2 July 2021. The registration process allowed registration for specific sessions individually. Sessions were recorded and the videos are all available for viewing from the event website.

Optional preparatory activity – Introduction to GBIF training

GBIF has developed a new self-paced training module, entitled 'Introduction to GBIF', which we plan to use across all our training courses in future. Participants were invited to review the contents of the first edition of this course as an introductory activity. This training was especially relevant for any new nodes or observers wishing to gain familiarity with GBIF's work ahead of the global nodes meeting.

Participants and Secretariat support

The meeting was attended by 168 people, of which 56 were Node Managers, 36 were Node staff, 21 were invited observers, 35 were additional invitees at the request of the nodes, and 20 were GBIF Secretariat Staff (see full list in Annex).

Schedule, presentations and session recordings

The meeting schedule, the goals for each session, the presentations and session recordings are all available from the [event website](#).

	Monday 28 June	Tuesday 29 June	Wednesday 30 June	Thursday 1 July	Friday 2 July
Session 1	Icebreaker - Interactive networking		Regional Breakout Sessions		
Session 2	Theme 1 panel: The role of nodes in GBIF's next strategic period	Live demos: Group 2		*Speed-dating* on collaboration ideas - Interactive networking	Live demos: Group 3
Session 3	Live demos: Group 1	Theme 2 panel : Exploring future directions for GBIF		Live Q&A : themes 3 and 4	Nodes vs. helpdesk battle (1 hour) Final evaluation (30 min)
Session 4		Icebreaker - Interactive networking		OBIS Marine data session	

In total, the meeting included:
- Two informal icebreaker sessions at different time zones
- Thirty pre-recorded presentations from nodes and the GBIF Secretariat staff
- Two moderated live panel sessions with questions from participants
- Three moderated live demo sessions focusing on new developments from the nodes and Secretariat
- A moderated live question and answer session for nodes to ask questions on selected topics in two themes
- A dedicated session led by OBIS on marine data mobilization
- An interactive speed-dating session for node-to-node discussion
- An entertaining live 'battle' between nodes and helpdesk to demonstrate some of the lesser know functionalities of GBIF.org

Meeting evaluation

We provided two opportunities for the meeting participants to share their feedback in order to evaluate the meeting: a live evaluation session and an online survey.

Live evaluation session responses

During the final meeting session, we used Slido to facilitate an interactive evaluation of the meeting to capture some initial feedback from participants live. Thirty-six participants were actively using Slido during the session.

Pre-recorded video presentations

The majority (71%) responded that they watched more than six videos in preparation for the global nodes meeting and (71%) planned to reuse the videos after the event (see below).

How many videos have you watched in preparation for this event?   32

0-2
13 %

3-6
16 %

More than 6
72 %

Will you reuse any of the videos after the event?   31

Yes
71 %

No
3 %

Maybe
26 %

What participants liked most about the virtual global nodes meeting

The free-text responses focused on:

Videos:
- *videos to reuse*
- *Being able to watch the short videos in my own pace*
- *I appreciate video presentations in advance*

- *The pre-recorded videos... nice format*

Live demos (four mentions)

Interactions and atmosphere:
- *THE INTERACTION BETWEEN NODES, OBSERVERS AND GBIF STAFF*
- *Seeing all the really enthusiastic and professional people in action - really inspiring!*
- *Meeting all of you - even if digital!*
- *The possibility to have all the nodes and GBIF community togheter*
- *networking, Q&A sessions*
- *Be able to listen and meet the secretariat*
- *Node staff being able to participate*
- *was informative, interactive, within a familiar atmoshere*
- *The people!, the comprehensive updatwe presentations, Andrew the presenter.*

The live battle session (five mentions)

The OBIS session:
- *OBIS session; lots to opportunities identified to collaborate*

The live discussion sessions:
- *discussion on way ahead Joining of NAMIBIA!*
- *Finding out updates on products and tools GBIFS is working on.*
- *Discussion sessions brought great ideas*
- *I learned a lot*

What participants missed the most during the virtual global nodes meeting
The free-text responses focused on:

In person and informal interaction, e.g.:
- *Seeing people in person, and when virtual, even a greater number of fun intermezzos*
- *The warm of people and share culture*
- *After meeting!*
- *more interaction, online is imposible for me*
- *physical meeting, coffe breaks*
- *Impromptu conversations*
- *Prefer live presentations with Q&A following Really miss informal interactions*
- *The corridor talks, the energy of the crowd*
- *social contacts such as coffee break, beers at the bar..?.*
- *Real life meeting, drinks*
- *hugs and wine*

Opportunities for more detailed discussions:
- *More detailed presentations and discussions (but - this is a GNM after all...)*
- *beer discussions with dag about data models!*
- *late-night discussions over data gbif and life etc in a bar*

Travel and dedicated time for the meeting:
- *sleeping in a hotel without children*
- *Travel and meeting new people*
- *Meeting everybody IRL, travelling someplace interesting.*

Final comments from participants

Participants shared final comments that mostly included thanks for the meeting. A few other themes emerged:

Meeting organization:
- *Very well organized and a lot of creativity so that we could all participate. I learned a lot this week!*
- *I really liked the video sessions, and the prepared questions from GBIF-S were really good, but maybe did not leave enough time for questions from nodes?*
- *The limited timing of the meeting each day is great. Spending full days in a meeting like this would be too much, so the 1.5 hour double sessions across multiple days works well.*
- *Excellent presentations, great planning.*
- *Keep the idea of pre-recorded videos... even for the real-world meeting in the future!*
- *Thank you for all the work you made to turn this virtual meeting as fun and interractive as possible*
- *Don't wait two years to have another one*

Language support:
- *Great to have the chance to watch the pre-recorded videos. Please, lets think about subtitles for the nexts*

Community:
- *Definitely invite more outsiders to see how fantastic community you are!*
- *So glad to be part of this amazing network!*

Evaluation survey

An evaluation survey was sent to all meeting participants for their input after the meeting. We received 23 responses, summarized here. The majority of respondents were node managers (see figure 1). There were responses from five of the six GBIF regions (no responses from Oceania - see figure 2).

Please select the category that best represents you:

Legend:
- ● Node Manager
- ● Node Staff
- ● Observer
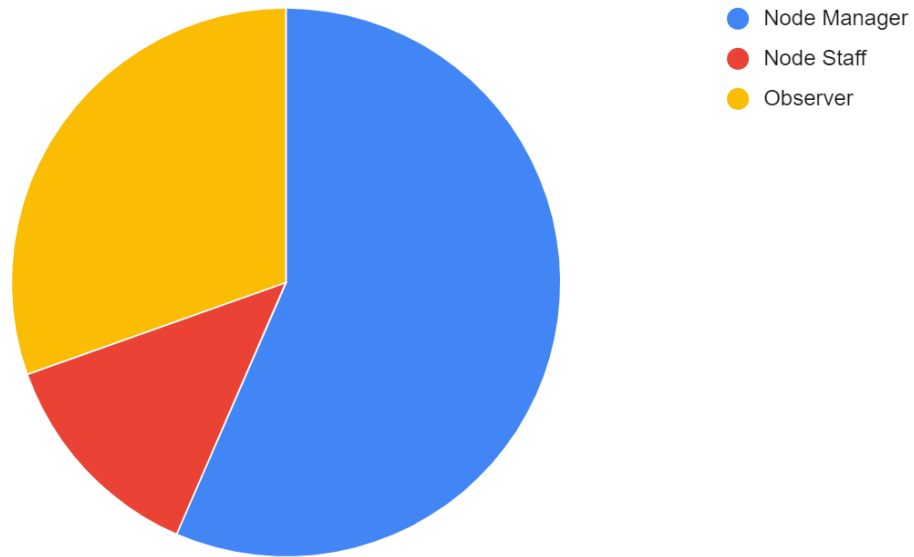
Figure 1: Roles of the 23 survey respondents

Please state the regional group you were in:

Legend:
- ● North America and Oceania
- ● Latin America & Caribbean
- ● Europe & Central Asia
- ● Africa
- ● Asia
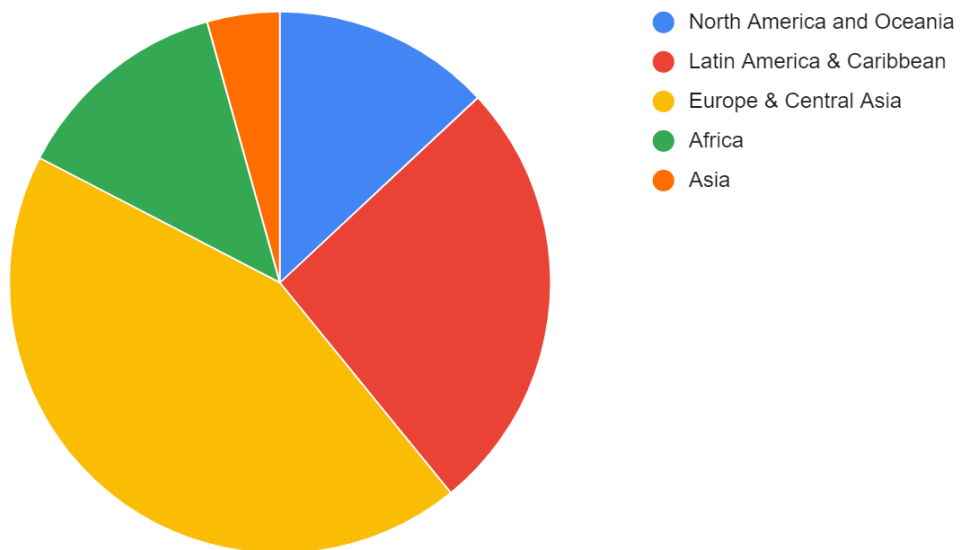
Figure 2: Participation in regional groups from the 23 survey respondents

Optional preparatory activity – Introduction to GBIF training
12 participants reported that they completed the optional online introduction to GBIF training ahead of the meeting. The remainder had not completed the training, with two explaining that they had completed it previously.

Meeting assessment
Respondents were asked to rank various aspects of the Global Nodes Meeting on the following scale: 0= N/A, 1=Very bad, 2=Bad, 3=Neutral, 4=Good, 5=Excellent (see Figure 3).

The majority of responses were very positive, resulting in average ratings between good and excellent for the information sharing, organization of the meeting, overview of the global aspects, contribution to GBIF's mission, setting common priorities and opportunities to voice personal opinions. The average scores were lower, falling between neutral and good, for opportunities to interact with peers and establishing new collaborations. None of the respondents ranked the meeting as very bad in any of the elements.

Average scores given to various aspects of the Global Nodes Meeting (out of 5)
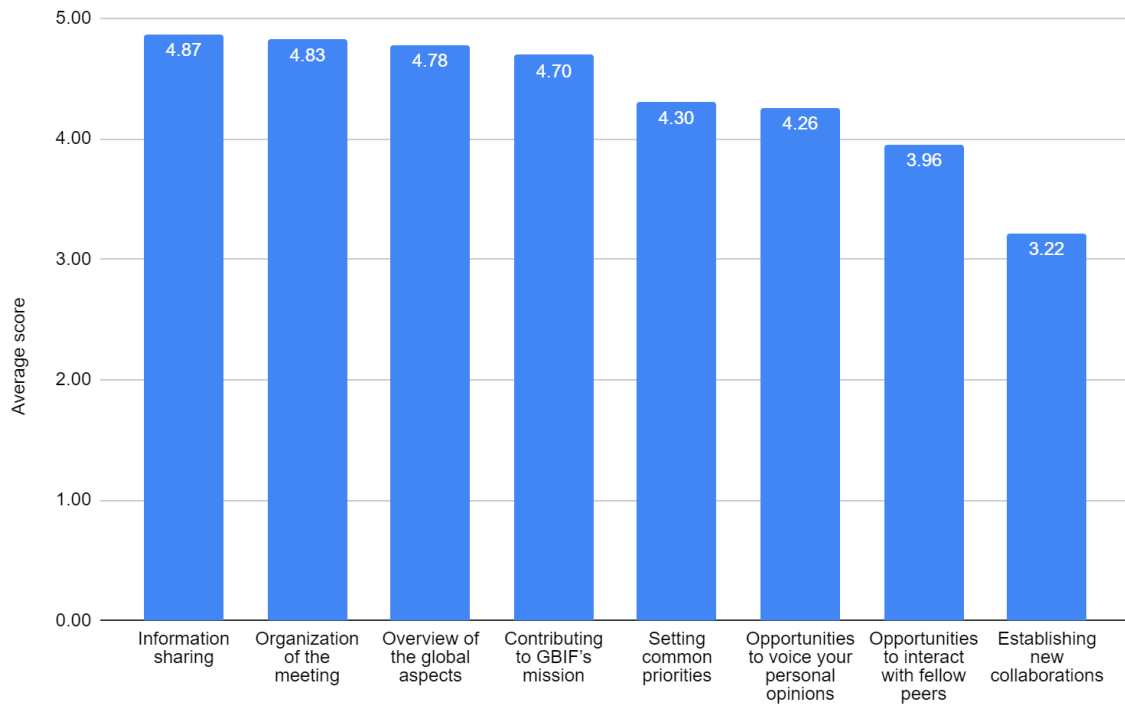
Figure 3: Average scores provided by the 23 survey respondents when asked how they assessed various aspects of the Global Nodes Meeting.

Highlights of the meeting

The highlights reported by meeting participants were quite varied, touching on the atmosphere, the preparation, format and organization, the involvement of node staff and observers, and the topics covered.

Meeting atmosphere and interactions:
- *Meeting all skilled and friendly people, learning, interacting, expressing (to some extent) my ideas/concerns.*
- *First off - meeting the incredibly enthusiastic and professional (with really deep knowledge on their topics) community was a huge energy boost.*

Preparation, format and organization:
- *highly appreciated: preparatory documents/ exchange of thoughts/ nodes vs. helpdesk battle*

- *Very good organization by secretariat nodes staff! Informatics updates are always highlights.*
- *Overall it was a nice week*
- *Have the pre-recorded videos was really helpful. Please think on subtitles for the one who don't speack English and is going to facilitate the reuse.*
- *Also a few app tricks shared during the GNM (Slido, Kumo) were a nice tools to discover.*
- *videos and information about future plans*

The involvement of node staff and observers:
- *Updating of the different topics related to GBIF and the inclusion of observers and organizations in the exposition of topics.*
- *Hace the change to participate being a node staff, always was only the node manager*

Topics covered and specific sessions:
- *Discussions around future Strategic plan and role of the nodes*
- *Second - to see a powerful organisation which is really smart about planning it's future, actively seeking opportunities in the "new horizons", and investing in novelty.*
- *About the presented content - the Thematic Approach, Data4Nature, Sensitive Species, Hosted Portals, ALA, GRSciColl, and education/training topics (so majority of the content in fact) were huge discoveries.*
- *The Live Demos and the Nodes vs Helpdesk battle*
- *Many new juicie things to highlight: GRSicoll, IPT, Marine data mobilization*
- *General overview of practical issues that are important for the local nodes.*
- *Experience sharing on data use; Andrew exercises on GBIF site exploration knowledge; Capacity enhancement on marine data; prerecording video*
- *Learning about updates to products and tools that GBIFS is working on.*
- *All the Theme 1 through 4. Live demos group 1+2. Battle :-)*
- *The highlights of the meeting for me are "Regional session's day" . On this day, each group was able to set up something that will shake up the Nodes' mission.*
- *Discussion of strategic plan*

Assessment of regional breakout sessions
Respondents were asked to rank various aspects of the regional group discussions specifically, using the same scale: 0= N/A, 1=Very bad, 2=Bad, 3=Neutral, 4=Good, 5=Excellent (see Figure 4). Responses were mostly very positive with average scores between neutral and good for all aspects. The responses showed particular appreciation of the regional meetings for understanding each other's viewpoints and the role of the facilitator, which both scored 3.7 on average. None of the respondents ranked the regional discussions as very bad on any aspect.

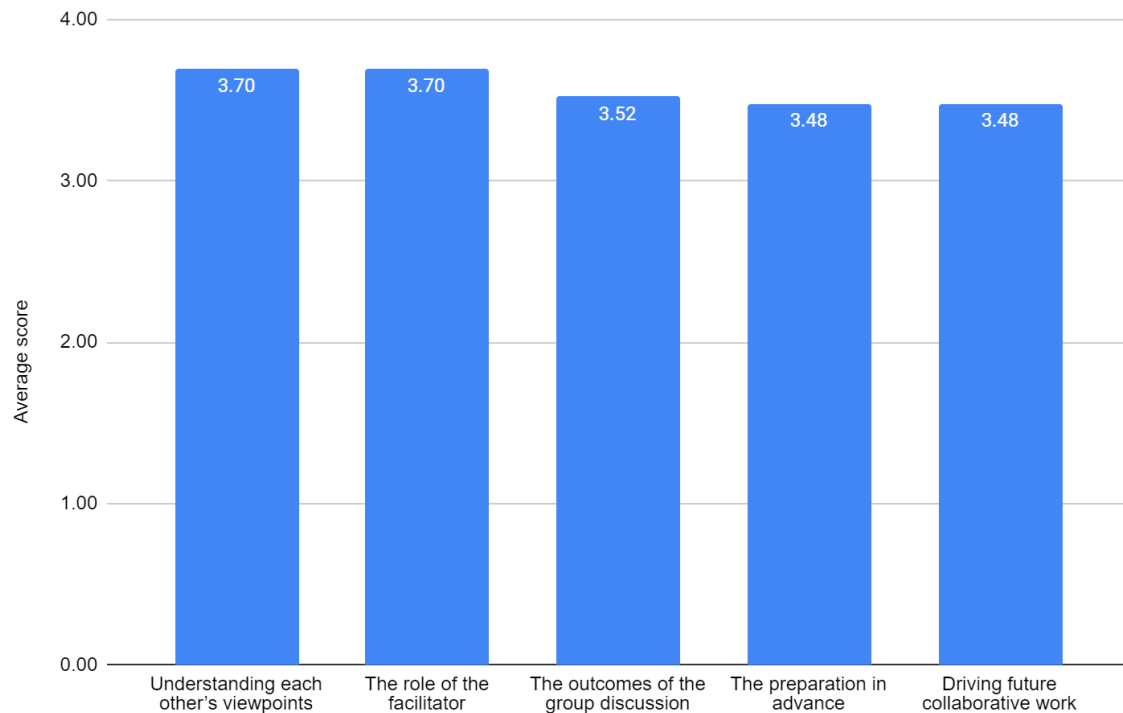Average scores given to various aspects of the regional breakout sessions at the virtual Global Nodes Meeting

Figure 4: Average scores provided by the 23 survey respondents when asked how they assessed the regional group discussions.

Opportunities to voice opinions and suggestions to the broader Nodes Committee and GBIF Secretariat

Participants were asked to comment in further detail on whether they felt the meeting offered sufficient opportunities to voice opinions, and also to suggest any ways that we could improve this in future.

Most participants responded "yes" (12 of the 19 responding to the question), with some additional comments to qualify their answers. In general, participants appreciated that it was challenging to get full engagement in a virtual meeting. Requests for more informal interaction and support for non-English speaking communities emerged again.

Informal interaction:
- *The meeting was inclusive! Many platforms to contribute and voice individual opinions. However, the gold comes out in informal conversations -- in coffee breaks and most often the real "diamonds" over a beer in a pub.*

Striking a balance:
- *Well there was a limited time and so many topics, but on the other hand I cannot imagine how this could be resolved without turning this meeting into a monstrous conference. You have done everything possible to maximize the time for live discussions, so that was only up to the participants to speak up.*

- *Generally yes, there was a good general discussion for most of the topics and some deep discussions in a few topics. The Q/A or discussions could be further divided to have more in-depth discussions. Although I also consider the half-day meeting a strength of the meeting.*
- *Yes. More breakout sessions around hot topics. More slido quizzes/ white boards/shared docs.*
- *yes even if the timing was short*
- *Yes, I have the space to my opinions. I think I need to re-watch the some videos to share opinions on the GBIF Forum*

Challenges, especially with connectivity and language barriers:
- *No, not entirely. Speaking from one´s heart in plenary is not always easy as you may often want to contemplate your remark (and some are uncomfortable using english as the lingua franca).*
- *No, due to the timing and limited time. Way for improvement : possible to request volunteer for video content translation before.*
- *Interaction and input can be difficult, particularly for those with weak internet*
- *Yes, in general I feel there was opportunity to voice my opinions and suggestions. I do think it was possibly a limitation that participants were asked to voice their questions by opening their mic as not everyone feels comfortable with this and it limits the number of questions that can be asked due to time constraints.*
- *Yes, no further suggestions. But I think for people not used to the English language, or who are shy, they may have had difficulties.*
- *Yes, we believe that the meeting provided sufficient opportunities for Nodes to express their views and suggestions to the Node Committee and the GBIF Secretariat. All Nodes have the right to speak except we the observers.Yes!*

Comparing the first virtual global nodes meeting to previous in-person meetings

Participants were asked to share their thoughts on how this meeting, as the first virtual global nodes meeting, compared with previous meetings that were typically 1-2 day in-person meetings. Several comments indicated that the meeting had exceeded expectations for a virtual meeting. The participants noted several advantages of in person meetings, such as greater participation, saving of travel budget, watching the videos ahead of time, and efficiency of information sharing. Many also noted the disadvantages, which focused on the challenges of being able to dedicate time to the meeting, the lack of informal interaction and noting that in-person meetings are more fun and better for community building. A couple of comments pointed out that it could be good to look at alternating formats or combining them to allow us to draw on the advantages of both virtual and in-person meetings.

Exceeding expectations:
- *It worked out unexpectedly well considering Internet connections vary in quality in places, working out time zone issues and not meeting one another haphazardly in between while having lunch etc. together. I was positively surprised byt the efficiency in using pre-recorded presentations 5-10 minutes, yet finding it difficult to allocate enough time to seripously prepare active participation while having my regular work*

more close by. It takes considerable stamina to withstand other interests to compete while seemingly avaiolable to all requests.

- *There are definitely many challenges, for nodes, in terms of connection and inclusiveness. However, the activity was successful, despite the circumstances.*
- *Better than expected, but I missed the social contacts*
- *You can't really compare virtual to in-person meetings, but I thought the virtual meeting was really good*
- *Better than expected, but in person meetings are much more fun and better for community building*
- *Better than expected, very productive, but does not replace it*
- *The virtual meeting was well cordinated and the time management was impressive.*
- *It was my first meeting, but it was impressed how well it was organized and how much information was given.*

Benefits of the virtual format:
- *Many benefits such as node staff joining in and nodes with limited travel budget easier able to take part. But I also think that the virtual GNM works quite well BECAUSE node managers already know each other very well from previous face-to-face meetings. And that this would work much less well without this glue. And that newcommers might struggle to take full benefit...*
- *This is the first time I can attend as I'm node staff, thus I can´t compare but I do believe the participation of node staff and external observers can enrich the meeting.*
- *In comparison to in-person meetings this event was better in some ways: 1) I could listen to the talks at my leisure beforehand and take breaks as I need whereas in person I would need to sit and try to focus for the entire time of all the presentations 2) more people could attend 3) I can share the information presented more easily since they are available online 4) it wasn't tacked on to another meeting which can lead to meeting fatigue 5) I didn't have to provide justification for attending to my organization nor come up with funds to attend*

Disadvantages of virtual format:
- *Informal interaction at coffee breaks, chats in the hallways, at lunches and dinners, and even group outings are greatly missed. The same to be able to interact in discussions in person, the virtual ones were very good, but the face-to-face interaction was lacking (nothing we can do with that!)*
- *Nothing compare the in-person meeting but the organisation was well thought and topics were useful and interesting*
- *and not as ideal in other ways: 1) when I go to a meeting in person I'm seen as being away from the office and my day to day responsibilities both in the office and at home are lessened 2) hard to have those impromptu conversations even during the icebreaker 3) Because my day to day job did not change I had to watch the pre-recorded presentations over the weekend/ it was difficult to find time within my normal working hours to do any pre-meeting activity*
- *This is our first time attending a global GBIF meeting. But this meeting was virtual because of the COVID-19 disease, otherwise, we think the physical presence meetings are better, because at these meetings he can have personal collaborations.*
- *was really interesting and I learn a lot but for connexions it is always easier in person*

Combining or alternating formats in the future:
- *not comparable - they both have their strengths and weaknesses, we need both!*
- *Both have their advantages, maybe an alternation between a face-to-face meeting and a virtual one is a good solution for the future.*

Suggestions for improving the regional/global nodes meetings in the future

Finally, the survey asked participants for any further suggestions to improve nodes meetings in the future. Responses included some suggestions for making the question and answer sessions even more interactive, several ideas for the regional meetings, further requests to provide support for other languages than English, continuing to include observers in the meetings, and other suggestions to combine meeting formats going forward.

Meeting format:
- *You might consider using Slido for Q&A in the future so people can rank the questions that are most valuable to them instead of it being whoever raises their hand first or posts in the chat first- I don't know how this would be implemented in person though which is one side benefit of virtual.*
- *If virtual: I took a lot of screen shots of relevant slides during presentations. Will be great if slides are made available as e.g. PDFs to pick from :-)*

Strengthening the regional meetings:
- *It is necessary to have a wider and more inclusive space for regional meetings. It was a very short time to be able to participate properly.*
- *Regarding the regional meeting, I think that a strategy of previous online introductions could have been applied, just as it was done in the global meeting.*
- *Being able to do them in person would be ideal. As for the organization, everything was very good. Both last year, with the regional meeting, and this one, personally, I felt quite alone in terms of the support of the deputy representative. I hope something can be done about the positions that are covered with people who later cannot participate and the entire workload remains in the other positions.*
- *Have a pre-stablished agenda and topics for the regional meetings*

Overcoming language barriers:
- *Solving somehow the language barrier could be a plus for many non-English speaking participants (but then even subtitles could not resolve the lower activity on the meeting, so I do not know how to approach this challenge).*
- *Take into account the language, otherwise it's great*

Continued involvement of observers:
- *I also strongly encourage you to organise such meeting with as many observers/outsiders as possible (but then of course the online meeting would be the way to go), because it is really you - the people behing the GBIF, that can attract recruitment of new people, and not only the data providers (this is actually relatively easy), but also potential (bio)informaticians, tech-geeks, etc. who could help to develop the infrastructure. Since in the GBIF-S and among Node managers you*

evidently have "best of the best", it is their involvement in the meetings that may really inspire people to join.

Combining or alternating meeting formats in the future:
- *Mixture of preparations online virtual and in person. Prerecorded talks could be continued even for in person meetings.*
- *Occasionally, an only virtual meeting should be a possibility*
- *More frequent, shorter Global/Regional meetings (eg every 3 months)*

Next steps

This first ever virtual meeting has shown strengths and weaknesses of the online format compared to in- person meetings. The opportunity to engage a larger audience and information sharing via preparatory activities were very well received by the nodes community. The NSG will consider how the successes of this first virtual global nodes meeting could be carried forward to support or adapt the current schema of holding one physical Global Nodes meeting every two years, keeping in mind that Regional nodes meetings, Regional engagement webinars and Community webinars already offer excellent networking opportunities. NSG will recommend some changes compatible with the budget constraints and the Secretariat workload.

Annex 1: Participant list

Jean Paul Kubwimana	Node Manager	Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)
Benjamin KOMAC	Node Manager	Andorra
Esperança Da COSTA	Node Manager	Angola, Republic of
Anabela Plos	Node Manager	Argentina
Armine Abrahamyan	Node Manager	Armenia, Republic of
Christian Elloran	Node Manager	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
Dave Martin	Node Manager	Australia
Oleg Borodin	Node Manager	Belarus

André Heughebaert	Node Manager	Belgium
Jean GANGLO	Node Manager	Benin
Martin Kalfatovic	Node Manager	Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL)
Luiz Henrique Mourão do Canto Pereira	Node Manager	Brazil
Jean-François MOUSSA	Node Manager	Cameroon
James Macklin	Node Manager	Canada
Carole Sinou	Node Manager	Canadensys
Zheping Xu	Node Manager	Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Mao-Ning Tuanmu	Node Manager	Chinese Taipei
Dairo Escobar	Node Manager	Colombia
Genuar Núñez-Vega	Node Manager	Costa Rica
Isabel Calabuig	Node Manager	Denmark
Wouter Addink	Node Manager	Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo)
YuSun (Hannah) Kim	Node Manager	East Asia Biodiversity Conservation Network
NESTOR ACOSTA	Node Manager	Ecuador
Lizanne Roxburgh	Node Manager	Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
Veljo Runnel	Node Manager	Estonia

Eija-Leena Laiho	Node Manager	Finland
Anne-Sophie Archambeau	Node Manager	France
Walter Berendsohn	Node Manager	Germany
Alex Asase	Node Manager	Ghana
David Jennings	Node Manager	iDigBio
Donald Hobern	Node Manager	International Barcode of Life Consortium (iBOL)
Bandana Shakya	Node Manager	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Michelle Judge	Node Manager	Ireland
Tania Walisch	Node Manager	Luxembourg
Herizo Randriambanona	Node Manager	Madagascar
BABA AININA	Node Manager	Mauritania
Patricia Ramos	Node Manager	Mexico
Miguel Fernandez	Node Manager	NatureServe
Niels Raes	Node Manager	Netherlands
Aaron Wilton	Node Manager	New Zealand
Omokafe A Ugbogu	Node Manager	Nigeria
Dag Endresen	Node Manager	Norway
Donat Agosti	Node Manager	Plazi
Piotr Tykarski	Node Manager	Poland

Rui Figueira	Node Manager	Portugal
Anton Van de Putte	Node Manager	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
Fatima Parker-Allie	Node Manager	South Africa
Francisco Pando	Node Manager	Spain
Anders Telenius	Node Manager	Sweden
Pascal Tschudin	Node Manager	Switzerland
Raoufou Pierre Radji	Node Manager	Togo
Abby Benson	Node Manager	United States
Farkhod Karimov	Node Manager	Uzbekistan
David Bloom	Node Manager	VertNet
Van Sinh Nguyen	Node Manager	Viet Nam
Luke Jimu	Node Manager	Zimbabwe
Domingos Francisco	Node staff	Angola, Republic of
Dimitri Brosens	Node staff	Belgium
Maxime Coupremanne	Node staff	Belgium
Clara Baringo Fonseca	Node staff	Brazil
Keila Juarez	Node staff	Brazil
Keping Ma	Node staff	Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Maofang Luo	Node staff	Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Melissa Liu	Node staff	Chinese Taipei
Camila Plata	Node staff	Colombia
Esteban Marentes Herrera	Node staff	Colombia
Ricardo Ortiz Gallego	Node staff	Colombia
Hee-Young Gil	Node Staff	East Asia Biodiversity Conservation Network
Kae Sun Chang	Node staff	East Asia Biodiversity Conservation Network
Alice AINSA	Node staff	France
Sophie Pamerlon	Node staff	France
Sylvain Morin	Node staff	France
Jörg Holetschek	Node staff	Germany
Mareike Petersen	Node staff	Germany
Till Töpfer	Node staff	Germany
Sameer Bajracharya	Node staff	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Brenda Nyaboke	Node staff	Kenya
Paul Braun	Node staff	Luxembourg
Andriamandimbisoa AZAFIMPAHANANA	Node Staff	Madagascar
Ratsizafy Irinah	Node staff	Madagascar
Jeroen Creuwels	Node staff	Netherlands
Emmanuel Chukwuma	Node staff	Nigeria

Rukaya Johaadien	Node staff	Norway
Jose Carrasco Montoya	Node staff	Peru
Mateusz Wilk	Node Staff	Poland
Yi Ming Gan	Node Staff	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
Katia Cezon	Node staff	Spain
Veronika Johansson	Node staff	Sweden
Sofia Wyler	Node staff	Switzerland
William Ulate	Node staff	Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG)
Florencia Grattarola	Node staff	Uruguay
Paula Zermoglio	Node staff	VertNet
Ely Wallis	Observer	Australia
Choki Gyeltshen	Observer	Bhutan
Luciane Marinoni	Observer	Brazil
KOFFI Kouao Jean	Observer	Côte d'Ivoire
Lisbet Gonzalez-Oliva	Observer	Cuba
Kelly Brown	Observer	Fiji
Sharon Grant	Observer	Field Museum

Thomas Bouix	Observer	France
Leslie Melisa Ojeda Cabrera	Observer	Guatemala
Cat Chapman	Observer	iDigBio
Tsuyoshi Hosoya	Observer	Japan
Thor-Seng Liew	Observer	Malaysia
Bharat Shrestha	Observer	Nepal
Ward Appeltans	Observer	OBIS
Pieter Provoost	Observer	OBIS Data manager
Darwin Tejerero	Observer	Philippines
Julia Pawłowska	Observer	Poland
Eliza Zschuschen	Observer	Suriname
Amy Deacon	Observer	Trinidad and Tobago
Jennalee Ramnarine	Observer	Trinidad and Tobago
Clare Mateke	Observer	Zambia
Leen Vandepitte	Observer	

Slave Nakev	Observer	
Vicente Ruiz Jurado	Observer	
Gil Nelson	Head of Delegation	iDigBio
Libby Ellwood	Additional delegate	iDigBio
Xuejuan Chen	Additional representative	China National Science Library CAS
Andres Factos	Additional representative	Ecuador
Tanya Abrahamse	Additional representative	GBIF Chair of the Board
Sheldon Carter	Additional representative	ISA
Saara Suominen	Additional representative	OBIS
Martha Vides	Additional representative	OBIS COL
Dan Lear	Additional representative	OBIS-UK
Marcos Guidoti	Additional representative	Plazi
Tokibaev Komil Komil	Additional representative	Uzbekistan
Alyssa Becker-Burns	Role not specified	
Ana Carolina Mazzuco	Role not specified	
Andy Bentley	Role not specified	
Dian	Role not specified	
Hanieh Saeedi	Role not specified	
Jen Hammock	Role not specified	

Joana Beja	Role not specified	
John Nicholls	Role not specified	
Johnny	Role not specified	
Kent McFarland	Role not specified	
Leonard Krishtalka	Role not specified	
Luciana Genio	Role not specified	
Monica Machuca	Role not specified	
Oleksandr Neprokin	Role not specified	
Sean Tudor	Role not specified	
Takashi Hosono	Role not specified	
Teresa Mayfield-Meyer	Role not specified	
Tian Jiang	Role not specified	
Tshikana Rasehlomi	Role not specified	
Victor Chocho	Role not specified	
Wahabbio Maghsoudlou	Role not specified	
Andrew Rodrigues	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Anne Mette Nielsen	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Annie Ørum-kristensen	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Daniel Noesgaard	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Dmitry Schigel	GBIF Secretariat staff	

Federico Méndez	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Hilary Goodson	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Joe Miller	GBIF Secretariat staff	
John Waller	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Laura Anne Russell	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Maheva Bagard Laursen	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Marcos Lopez Gonzalez	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Marie Grosjean	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Markus Döring	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Marlene Nielsen	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Matthew Blissett	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Mélianie Raymond	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Morten Høfft	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Tim Hirsch	GBIF Secretariat staff	
Tim Robertson	GBIF Secretariat staff	