



Pacific Engagement Meeting for the Biodiversity Information for Development Programme

11 -13 September 2024, Wellington, New Zealand

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Executive summary

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) hosted the Pacific Engagement Meeting as part of the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme, funded by the European Union. The meeting was held in New Zealand in September 2024, hosted by Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, with co-funding from the BID programme, GBIF, New Zealand's Department of Conservation, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research and Atlas of Living Australia - National Collections & Marine Infrastructure, CSIRO.

This report has been jointly prepared by the meeting participants, listed in Annex I, and identifies regional priorities and recommendations for the implementation of the BID programme in the Pacific.

Discussions highlighted significant gaps in accessible biodiversity data, with a need for enhanced mobilization of open biodiversity data, capacity-building, and data-sharing mechanisms.

Key recommendations included the need for engagement, coordination and capacity development to enable increased mobilization of data from all available sources, including local institutions and international collections, the importance of ensuring data quality, and facilitating the integration of Traditional Knowledge through the promotion of appropriate guidelines.

To ensure the relevance of the biodiversity data mobilized under the BID programme, participants recommended aligning data mobilization efforts with national priorities, improving data accessibility by enabling search in different languages and local names, and fostering collaboration across stakeholders in the region. The importance of regional coordination, support for cross-regional knowledge sharing, and fostering partnerships with international funding bodies was also highlighted.

The outcomes of the meeting will inform the implementation of future BID activities in the Pacific.

Background

The [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) (GBIF) is an international network and open data infrastructure funded by the world's governments and designed to provide free and open access to biodiversity data. GBIF's mission is to support research and inform decision-making by enabling anyone, anywhere to discover and use information about all forms of life on Earth.

The [Biodiversity Information for Development](#) (BID) programme, funded by the [European Union](#) and implemented by GBIF, seeks to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to mobilize and share biodiversity data. By improving access to data, information, and knowledge, the BID programme aims to support the effective implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), contributing to global efforts to halt biodiversity loss and promote sustainable development.

The new phase of the BID programme, running from August, 2024 to July, 2029, will focus on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific regions. Planned activities include capacity development workshops and competitive calls for project proposals focused on the mobilization, standardization, and publication of biodiversity data through the GBIF infrastructure. The programme aims to foster a strong regional community of practice dedicated to the sharing and reuse of biodiversity data, supporting scientific research, and integrating biodiversity information into decision-making processes.

Objectives of the Pacific Engagement Meeting for the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) Programme

As part of the BID programme's efforts to strengthen the use of open biodiversity data in research and decision-making to support the achievement of global biodiversity targets, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, GBIF organized the first of a suite of regional meetings in the BID target regions in the Pacific. These regional meetings aim to identify the specific capacity and information needs required to support the development of national indicators and the implementation of relevant global frameworks

The BID Pacific Engagement Meeting was hosted by Manaaki Whenua — Landcare Research in Wellington, New Zealand the 11th and 12th September 2024. This event brought together representatives from GBIF Participant nodes, biodiversity data-holding institutions, the research community, regional support centres for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other initiatives involved in the collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity data across the Pacific region.¹

The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss strategies to strengthen the GBIF Oceania-Pacific network and enhance regional collaboration on the mobilization and use of open biodiversity data.

¹ See Annex I: [Meeting participants](#)

- Share progress, lessons learned, and best practices related to biodiversity data mobilization and publication within the region.
- Identify key capacity-building and data requirements to inform the development of the next BID call for proposals aimed at mobilizing biodiversity data in the Pacific.
- Explore opportunities for synergies between ongoing and upcoming regional initiatives and the BID programme, including potential areas for training, data sharing, and the integration of regional data flows into BID-supported activities.
- Encourage broad participation in future BID calls for proposals by engaging prospective applicants, reviewers, mentors, trainers, and partners.

As a key activity of the current phase of the BID programme, the discussions on regional priorities held during this meeting will play an important role in shaping the regional approach to biodiversity data mobilization in the Pacific to be implemented under the BID programme.

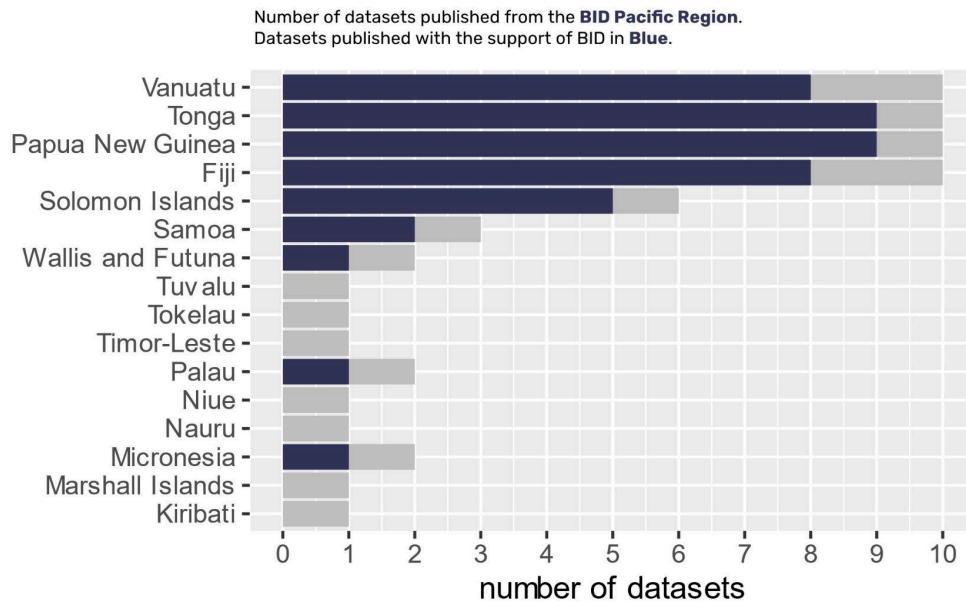
Key outputs of the meeting

1. Analysis of Data Availability and Gaps for the Pacific region in GBIF

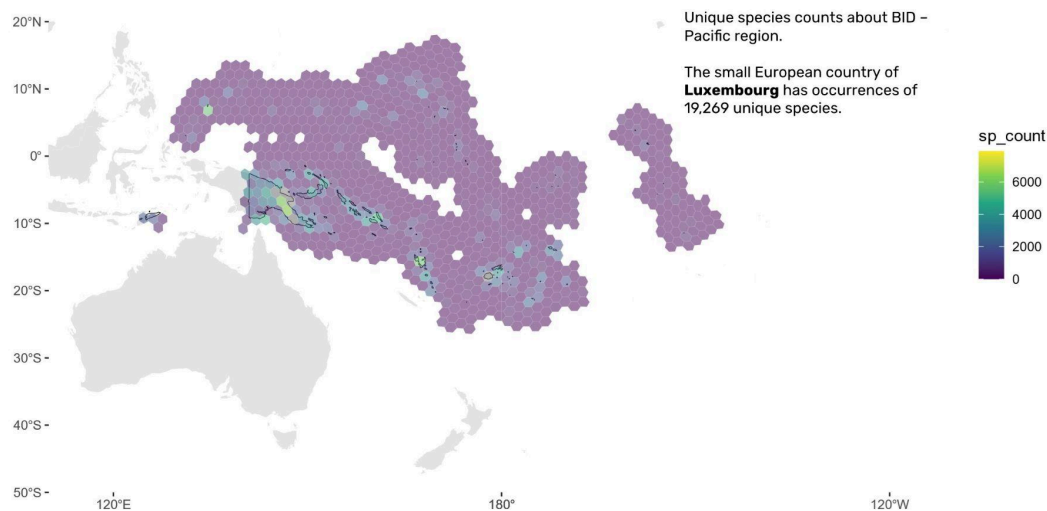
We performed a data analysis on the BID eligible countries and areas from the Pacific region (Fiji, Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and Samoa). This analysis was focused on finding occurrence data gaps that could be filled through further mobilization.

A data gap is a place where we suspect there should be occurrence records, but there are not any. In GBIF mediated occurrence records, this can mean a lack of records in certain regions, taxonomic groups, or time periods. Gaps can also exist in publishing, where occurrence records are predominantly published by researchers or institutions outside the BID country or area. In general, it is difficult to know with certainty what occurrences are actually missing, or what gaps need to be filled. Typically, unknown gaps are going to be quite prevalent in undersampled regions, and known gaps will be quite rare.

For the Pacific region, the BID programme has supported the vast majority of occurrence record mobilization. In the figure below, we can see a large gap in local publishing, with a few countries/areas that have published only a few datasets or none at all, with the exception of repatriated eBird records. All countries will get citizen science eBird records repatriated to the country of origin.



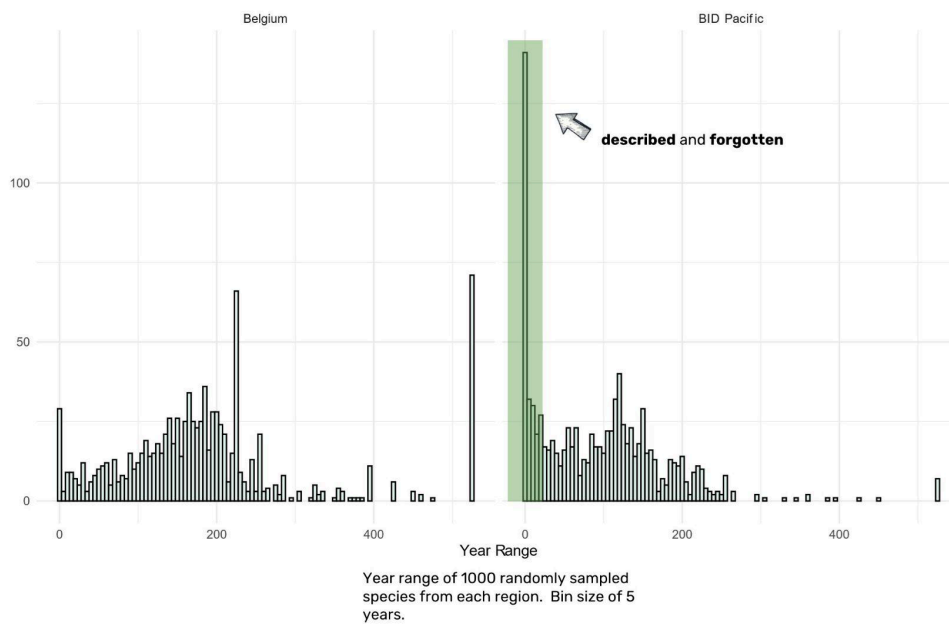
Raw occurrence counts can often mask data gaps, as a high number of records does not necessarily indicate good coverage. Species counts are an effective way to highlight data gaps in occurrence records, as they can reveal under-sampled taxa or regions. Below is a map of the BID Pacific region, with lighter colors indicating higher species counts from those hexagons. The dark purple color in many of the EEZ sea areas indicates a low species count of <100 unique species known for that area.



Here we use Luxembourg as a useful comparison because, despite its low expected species richness, it has been extensively sampled. This makes it good for highlighting data gaps in less well-sampled regions by providing a comparison to a country that we do not expect to be very species rich, but well sampled. In the figure above, we see that even the most

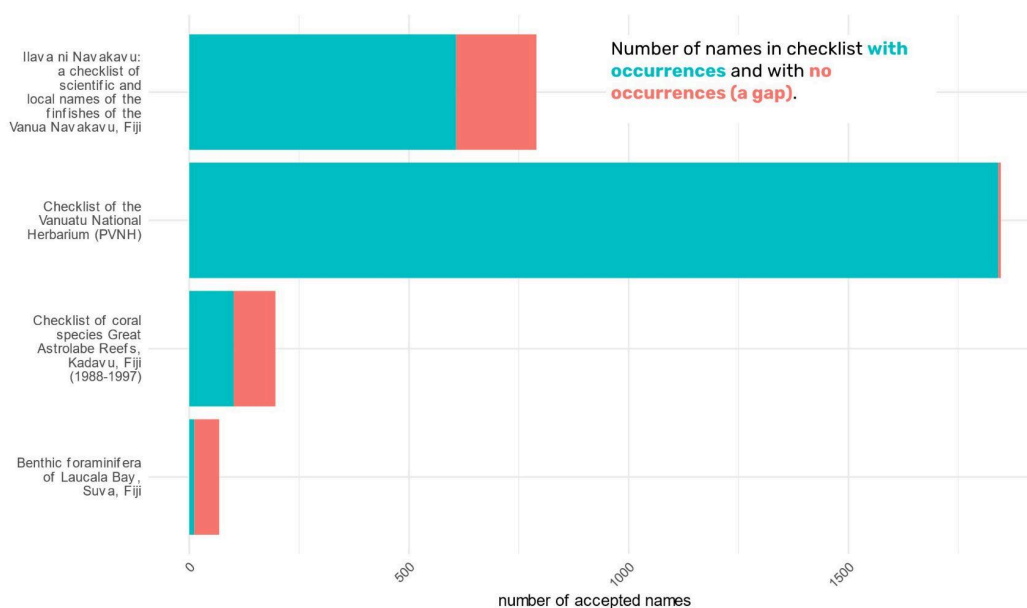
well-sampled hexagons in the region are never greater than the species richness of Luxembourg, strongly indicating significant data gaps in the region.

Temporal gaps occur when a species is initially recorded or described, but subsequent occurrence records for that taxon are missing or scarce over time. Temporal gaps can be found by looking at a taxon's year range, or the time between the first and last occurrence record. Newly described species and undersampled species are expected to have short year ranges. This lack of follow-up data can indicate an absence of monitoring or insufficient sampling efforts, making it difficult to track changes in the species' or population status.



In the figure above, we see that the BID Pacific region has a large amount of “described and forgotten” species. These species were described, with occurrences being published to GBIF, usually through a foreign natural history museum, and then no more occurrences were shared for that species. In this figure, each bar represents 5 years, with the height of the bar indicating the number of species with occurrence only within that interval. This graphic indicates a large number of species with temporal gaps (and likely some newly described species). Species with only a few occurrences in a narrow time range are difficult to use for IUCN risk assessments. Belgium is included as a comparison. Belgium is expected to be well sampled and continuously monitored. The year range histogram reflects that Belgium likely has few temporal gaps.

National checklists can reveal data gaps by providing a baseline of expected species within a country, against which occurrence records can be compared. Unfortunately, BID Pacific region has only published 4 checklists suitable for such analysis, as seen below in the graphic.



The analysis of the Pacific region, revealed many data gaps and a strong need for data mobilization in the region. It is rare that we will have strong knowledge of what exact species are missing, and unknown gaps are expected to be the largest gaps for undersampled regions.

2. Regional Recognition of BID as a Contribution to Targets 20 and 21 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF

The Pacific Engagement Meeting underscored the importance of the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme in advancing regional efforts toward achieving [target 20](#) on capacity building and [target 21](#) on data accessibility of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Participants acknowledged that the BID programme plays a critical role in supporting national and regional efforts to meet global biodiversity targets through the mobilizing of biodiversity data, the building of individual, institutional, national and regional capacity, and the facilitating of data-sharing mechanisms.

3. Recommendations from the Region on Priority Impact Areas

a. Mobilization of Data Sources²

Acknowledging the substantial gaps in the availability of biodiversity data for the Pacific, including, for example, the lack of up to date taxonomic lists for several countries and areas, meeting participants identified a variety of potential data sources for mobilization through the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme..

² [Workshop session 1- Mobilization of data sources: Results of the discussions](#)

Identified data sources included the Tonga herbarium and the National University of Samoa collections, as well as foreign museum collections such as the Art Whistler collections at the Bishop Museum in Hawaii and the Allan Herbarium, alongside various New Zealand and Australian collections. Additional key resources mentioned were the Samoan central government monitoring information, uncatalogued collections at the Niué museum and the Pacific Community Pest List..

To effectively mobilize these resources, participants recognized the need to engage a variety of data communities and stakeholders. Museums and herbaria across the Pacific were identified as key players, alongside the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which are already publishing data through GBIF. Collaborating with NGOs such as BirdLife International, university students, and citizen scientists via platforms such as iNaturalist was also recommended.

Participants emphasized the importance of reaching out to aligned initiatives and collaborating with active projects in the region to unlock additional data flows.

The discussions led to several important considerations and recommendations for successful data mobilization. Ensuring data quality validation was seen as a priority. Participants also suggested incorporating clauses to facilitate the sharing of biodiversity data collected during Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted by intergovernmental organizations and multilateral development banks. Sensitivity regarding certain types of data was acknowledged, prompting discussions on the need for a careful approach to gaining permissions and the potential inclusion of Traditional Knowledge and Biocultural Labels.

Additionally, engaging academic institutions was seen as crucial, with suggestions for developing relevant curricula, organizing school bio-blitzes, and finding ways to elevate the visibility of early-career researchers who share and use data mediated through GBIF.

Finally, the proposal to organize national workshops focusing on data mobilization for stakeholders—including invasive species officers and government representatives—was made to enhance collaborative efforts in biodiversity data management and sharing.

b. Addressing Capacity Needs for Effective Biodiversity Data Management and Sharing³

Participants recognized the need to hold basic data mobilization training regularly to accommodate human resources turnover. This would ensure that institutions remain proficient in data mobilization and data sharing through GBIF.

It was noted that basic training modules should also be developed for non-expert audiences, to ensure their understanding of the concepts of data accessibility and biodiversity data mobilization. Additionally, participants suggested incorporating information on data governance, particularly the importance of obtaining consent, into the GBIF data mobilization course as well as developing guidelines on data repatriation.

³ [Workshop session 1 - Addressing capacity needs for effective biodiversity data management and sharing](#)

During the discussions, a significant focus was placed on empowering local communities to develop successful BID project proposals, for example through the development of use cases illustrating possible project scopes, the clarification of eligibility criteria for BID calls, and the sharing of examples of successful proposals.

To support capacity development in the region, a hybrid approach to capacity development was suggested, combining online introduction modules with in-person workshops to ensure full engagement of the participants. A tiered approach, tailored to the diverse needs of Pacific countries based on their size, population, and resources, was also proposed.

In terms of capacity development support, participants suggested allocating mentors to applicants to guide project proposal development, as well as leveraging the GBIF Capacity Support Enhancement Programme (CESP) to organize regional meetings and training. Additionally, the importance of establishing connections with foreign institutes, international organizations, and experts who could offer internships or targeted assistance was mentioned. Collaboration with local church groups, regional networks, and organizations working with communities was also recommended to broaden engagement.

Specific audiences identified for capacity development included academia, local taxonomists, high school students, and Indigenous and local community elders. The overarching goal being to create a community of practice within the Pacific that can sustain and expand biodiversity data management efforts.

Lastly, participants highlighted the potential of training videos from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for Indigenous data governance and materials from Local Contexts as valuable tools for capacity building in the region.

c. Delivering Biodiversity Data for Use⁴

During the discussions, participants highlighted several key uses for biodiversity data mobilized through the BID programme. The data could inform the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans (NISSAPs) and provide essential baseline information for biodiversity monitoring and management. The data could also inform governmental policies, guide the management of conservation areas, and help assess biodiversity trends, including biosecurity concerns. Additionally, the data could be used in environmental impact assessments for industries, supporting decisions related to extractive activities and the granting of authorizations.

To enhance the impact of biodiversity data, participants emphasized the importance of making data accessible and relevant. Aligning data mobilization efforts with national priorities was seen as crucial. Suggestions included providing context layers, such as Indigenous lands or mining concessions, to broaden data applications. Enabling searches by Indigenous names, offering data in multiple languages, and providing tools that facilitate data use independently of the user's data literacy level were also recommended.

Effective engagement with both data holders and users was another key point of the discussions. Participants recommended demonstrating the value of open data by

⁴ [Workshop session 1 - Delivering biodiversity data for use](#)

showcasing how it can be used by various communities. Regularly surveying data users to understand their needs and engaging local agencies in the Pacific to mobilize existing data were suggested as ways to enhance access and usability. Collaboration with initiatives like the Pacific Dataviz Challenge was also discussed.

Finally, participants emphasized the importance of facilitating data mobilization to support data use. This could involve partnering with large funding bodies, such as the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank, to advocate for the publication of biodiversity data collected through their funded projects. Establishing partnerships with journals for data paper calls and organizing hackathons or bioblitz events were also proposed as strategies to promote data mobilization and support capacity development.

4. Suggested Mechanisms for Addressing Regional Priorities⁵

a. BID Calls for data mobilization projects proposals

Several strategies were discussed to improve the effectiveness of BID calls for data mobilization project proposals. Participants emphasized the importance of embedding BID data mobilization activities within existing regional projects and initiatives to foster co-financing and collaboration opportunities among multiple stakeholders. A key suggestion was appointing a regional coordinator to facilitate the implementation of BID-funded activities and improve communication and coordination across the Pacific region. It was also recommended to enlist the help of meeting participants and regional organizations to disseminate information about BID opportunities.

There was an emphasis on the importance of ensuring proper acknowledgement of data collectors through the development of clear guidelines on the acknowledgement of their contribution in the metadata of the datasets published through GBIF. Moreover, participants recommended the development of specific guidance materials and best practices on data management (cataloguing, digitization, and data cleaning) to help ensure the quality of the data shared through GBIF.

The need to support coordination among southwestern Polynesian countries (Samoa, Niue, Tonga, and Cook Islands) was specifically mentioned. SPREP was suggested as a lead contributor in these efforts, with organizations like Manaaki Whenua - Landcare highlighted as key partners for the providing of co-funding and resources such as equipment for digitization.

Lastly, meeting participants stressed the need to mobilize data relevant to the Pacific - also located outside of the regions - possibly through virtual data repatriation efforts. They also stressed the importance of supporting the development of open regional and national checklists.

b. Capacity Enhancement Workshops

Participants emphasized the importance of involving both regional stakeholders and national institutions in capacity-building efforts to maximize the impact of the BID programme. One

⁵ [Workshop session 2 - Practical Recommendations for BID Implementation](#)

suggestion was to encourage BID-funded projects to mentor or train a "buddy" from another institution or community, thereby expanding the number of individuals and organizations benefiting from the programme and fostering knowledge transfer.

The promotion of BID and GBIF at regional meetings was seen as a critical avenue to raise awareness, with participants proposing that GBIF nodes host helpdesks at these meetings to offer hands-on regional support. Collaboration between GBIF nodes, where they could learn from and support each other, was also recommended to enhance the overall effectiveness of capacity-building efforts.

The creation of a regional support team was discussed as a way to provide continuous assistance to community groups, NGOs, governmental agencies, and schools. To further support capacity development, participants suggested the development of optional online thematic modules on topics such as eDNA and Local Contexts Labels and Notices, as well as guidelines on working with local communities and data repatriation. The importance of enhancing data literacy was also cited as a way to ensure the effective use of the data mobilized through BID.

Lastly GBIF nodes were encouraged to consider designating a data mobilization trainer to facilitate capacity-building opportunities and ensure that local and regional needs for data management support are met.

c. Regional and Cross-Regional Support and Knowledge Sharing

Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration and capacity-building across the Pacific region. They underscored the need for an active role from the GBIF nodes community in the review process of project proposals. Internships were also seen as a valuable tool for raising awareness and fostering understanding, particularly among students. These internships, which could be hosted by GBIF nodes, research agencies, or governmental organizations, would help cultivate a new generation of biodiversity data experts. The development of a secondment program at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was also suggested to both support the institutionalisation of data mobilization efforts within SPREP, and support the promotion of national GBIF participation across Pacific countries.

To further enhance regional support, participants recommended contracting a regional support coordinator and engaging academic institutions to integrate biodiversity data mobilization into university curricula.

Additionally, participants suggested developing a joint Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and GBIF nodes to boost data collaboration in the region. Improving data accessibility by enabling searches in multiple languages, including local names, was also proposed to enhance usability.

Finally, the group advocated for increased efforts to promote GBIF participation, noting that formal involvement in GBIF fosters in-country development and supports countries in building their own data management capabilities.

d. Additional Opportunities to Strengthen and Sustain the Impact of BID

Lastly, participants discussed related opportunities and projects that could strengthen and sustain the impact of BID in the future. An avenue to explore would be the intersection of biosecurity, biodiversity tracking, and market access legislation, such as the European Union's requirements for agricultural product provenance.

Participants also emphasized the need to improve the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) lists, develop regional and national checklists, and ensure that BID supports the mobilization of data relevant to tracking targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Bioprospecting regulations in Samoa and the importance of access and benefit-sharing from Traditional Knowledge were also highlighted, as these could impact data mobilization activities. Additionally, participants recommended building partnerships with existing biosecurity programs and suggested exploring opportunities to organize joint workshops to foster collaboration. GBIF nodes were encouraged to identify relevant networks to engage with and promote coordinated efforts.

Regional events, such as the 40th anniversary of the Pacific Nature Conservation Conference in New Caledonia and events hosted by SPREP, were recognized as opportunities to showcase the BID programme and GBIF's work.

Improved coordination with funding agencies and the identification of complementary funding streams, particularly for data collection, were seen as important steps in advancing biodiversity data efforts in the region. Institutions such as the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) were identified as potential stakeholders for GBIF to engage with in promoting the BID programme. Additionally, participants suggested exploring opportunities to secure long-term funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to support the establishment of new GBIF nodes in the Pacific.

Finally, the development of use cases through BID to showcase the implementation of Local Contexts Labels and Notices, recognizing the contributions of local communities and Traditional Knowledge in biodiversity data, was recommended. Participants also suggested the creation of hosted data portals to provide Indigenous communities with access to targeted biodiversity information.

Annex I: Meeting participants

Participants on-site

- Aaron Wilton, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research
- Gary Houlston, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research
- Peter Bellingham, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research
- Peter Heenan, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research
- Meredith McKay, New Zealand Department of Conservation
- Elaine Wright, New Zealand Department of Conservation
- Ainsof So'o, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- David Moverley, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Tavita Su'a, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- David Bloom, VertNet/Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG)
- Peggy Newman, Atlas of Living Australia
- Ely Wallis, Atlas of Living Australia
- Siosiu Moa Latu, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)
- Katherine Tattersall, CSIRO/OBIS-Australia
- Maui Hudson, Local Contexts
- Janette Hamilton-Pearce, Local Contexts
- KatieLee Riddle, Local Contexts - Te Kotahi Research Institute
- Gabriel Petuel, New Guinea Binatang Research Center
- Sam Rowland, Sustainable Business Network
- Jessica Bratt, New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Heather Penny, New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Monica Gruber, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, on behalf of Shyama Pagad, GRIIS Point Of Contact - Deputy Chair and IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)
- Bridgette McClellan, Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand
- Teresa Cho, Te Puni Kōkiri
- Christa Robinson, Te Puni Kōkiri
- Mélianie Raymond, GBIF Secretariat
- Maheva Bagard Laursen, GBIF Secretariat

Online Participants

- Ali Budhi Kusuma, National Directorate of Biodiversity of Timor Leste
- Franck Magron, The Pacific Community Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems
- Andreja Vidal, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
- Shane Orchard, IUCN Oceania Regional Chair IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (video presentation)
- John Waller, Data analyst, GBIF Secretariat (video presentation)

Annex II: Format of the meeting

Day 1: Setting the Scene for the Next Phase of the BID Programme

The first day of the meeting was open for online participation and focused on setting the scene for the next phase of the BID programme. It ensured that all participants had a clear understanding of the meeting's scope, goals, and the expected outcomes, encouraging active engagement in the discussions.

Participants were reminded of the overarching goals of the BID programme, including its mission to enhance biodiversity data availability and capacity in developing countries. An overview of the programme's main activities and timelines was provided, outlining key milestones and opportunities for involvement.

Invited speakers reflected on their experiences from the previous phase of BID, sharing insights on the challenges and successes of data mobilization and capacity development in the region. These reflections provided valuable context for shaping the priorities of the next phase.

Lastly, invited speakers shared their perspectives on the most pressing regional needs for biodiversity data mobilization, particularly in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through a series of lightning talks.

This session helped frame the discussions on priority regional data sources, stakeholders and capacity needs that were held during the second day of the meeting.

Reflections on Experiences from the Previous Phase

Full presentation materials can be accessed through the event page at <https://www.gbif.org/event/jxlmvxokGDxhOpN1fNpwn/oceania-regional-nodes-meeting-or-engagement-meeting-for-bid-pacific>.

Key points from the presentations are provided below.

- Ainsof So'o - System Developer and Analyst and GBIF Node Manager - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP (presentation)
 - Brief outline of projects funded under the previous BID phase and key results
 - Long-term impacts
 - Lessons learned and recommendations
- Gabriel Petuel - Deputy Director - New Guinea Binatang Research Center (presentation)
 - Introduction to the Binatang Research Center
 - Research infrastructure
 - Fundamental research
 - Applied research and monitoring
 - Training
 - Conservation and development

Exploring Regional Needs for Biodiversity Data Mobilization - Summary of the lightning talks

Full presentation materials can be accessed through the event page at <https://www.gbif.org/event/jxlmvxokGDxhOpN1fNpwn/oceania-regional-nodes-meeting-or-environment-meeting-for-bid-pacific>.

Key points from the presentations are provided below.

- Peter Bellingham - Senior Researcher Ecosystem & Conservation - Manaaki Whenua (presentation)
 - Data needs for Red Listing of ecosystems (obligatory headline indicator for reporting Global Biodiversity Framework [Goal A](#) and [Target 1](#))
 - Data needs for Red Listing of species (obligatory headline indicator for reporting Global Biodiversity Framework [Goal A](#) and [Target 4](#))
 - Specific use case in New Zealand: Data needs for Weeds management
- Tavita Su'a - Pacific Environment Portal System Developer and Analyst - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP (presentation)
 - SPREP's role with biodiversity monitoring - State of the Environment (SOE) Process
 - Links to regional frameworks and national strategies - Streamlining monitoring and reporting
 - Early plans for CBD regional support centres
- Shane Orchard - Oceania Regional Chair - IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (video)
 - Data collection needs for mountains to sea conservation
 - IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management: key work programmes and alignment with [Target 2](#) and [Target 3](#) of the Global Biodiversity Framework
 - Information needs for ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation, Red List of Ecosystems, Nature-based solutions, Nature positive.
- David Moverley - Invasive Species Adviser - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP (presentation)
 - Regional data needs relating to Invasive Alien Species - [Target 6](#)
 - [Pacific Biodiversity Information Facility](#)
 - Pacific Invasive Species Indicators
 - Prevention, control and eradications of priority Invasive Alien Species
- Siosua Moa Latu - GBIF Tonga Node Manager - Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications - MEIDECC (presentation)
 - Mechanism for data flow into GBIF
 - Perspectives on biodiversity data needs in Tonga
 - Experiences from previous BID phase
 - Information flows between national nodes and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

- Recommendations and capacity building needs
- Franck Magron - Coastal Fisheries Information & Database Manager, Pacific Community - SPC (presentation)
 - Fisheries related data collection in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)
 - Publication of fisheries related data through GBIF - Use cases
 - Current data collection and use of biodiversity data for fisheries management
 - How increasing capacity and knowledge access can help with sustainable management of marine resources
 - Regional perspectives on data needs
- Katherine Tattersall - Co-Chair of the IODE Steering Group for the Ocean Biodiversity Information System - OBIS (presentation)
 - Regional perspective on data mobilization and data gaps from OBIS network
 - Role of biodiversity data in addressing [Target 3](#) for marine areas
 - [GBIF-OBIS joint strategy and action plan](#) for marine biodiversity data
 - Possible synergies between BID and OBIS-led capacity development action
- David Bloom - VertNet, TDWG, GBIF mentor (presentation)
 - Perspectives on capacity development in the GBIF network
 - Experiences as a mentor in the region in the first phase of BID
 - Importance of BID programme for developing capacity in line with [Target 20](#)
- KatieLee Riddle and Janette Hamilton-Pearce - Local Contexts - Te Kotahi Research Institute (presentation)
 - Importance of Indigenous and local knowledge in addressing [Target 21](#)
 - CARE data principles for Indigenous data governance
 - Local Contexts Labels and Notices in action in relation to biodiversity
- Sam Rowland - Programme manager - Nature - Sustainable Business Network (presentation)
 - Introduction to the Sustainable Business Network
 - Business sector and biodiversity - Addressing [Target 15](#)
 - Key driver of the business case for nature
 - Data needs for private sector
- Peter Heenan - Director - Allan Herbarium - Senior scientist - Manaaki Whenua (presentation)
 - Role of collections in the region: Use case: Plants of Niue
 - Management of historical and new information
 - Opportunities for GBIF and its partner countries to support the development of collection strategies
- Elly Wallis - Engagement Team Lead/Collections Community Engagement Manager Chair - ALA - CSIRO - TDWG Executive (presentation)
 - Introduction to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)
 - Importance of collections as source of knowledge

- New challenges
- Andreja Vidal - Programme Manager - Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
 - Priority areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Pacific 2021 - 2027
 - Programmes on biodiversity in the Pacific
 - Pacific BioScapes Programme
 - Kiwa Initiative
 - BIOPAMA

Day 2: Identifying regional priorities

The second day opened with a [video presentation](#) by John Waller - Data Analyst at the GBIF Secretariat - offering an overview of the current availability of biodiversity data from the Pacific region through GBIF. His presentation underscored significant gaps in data access and publishing, including geographic and temporal gaps, highlighting the critical need for enhanced data mobilization across the region. This emphasized the importance of facilitating access to local knowledge to effectively address these gaps.

The rest of the second day of the Pacific Engagement Meeting was conducted in a workshop format, designed to build on the discussions from Day 1 and develop concrete recommendations. These sessions aimed to empower participants to contribute directly to shaping the implementation of the BID programme in the Pacific region, ensuring it addresses the specific opportunities and challenges they had identified for the region.

Workshop Session 1: Regional Priorities for Data Mobilization

The first workshop session used the World Café facilitation method to encourage collaborative discussions among participants. The participants were split into three groups, rotating between three “café tables,” each focusing on one of the following key topics:

- Mobilization of Data Sources
- Addressing Capacity needs
- Delivering Biodiversity Data for use

Workshop Session 2: Practical Recommendations for BID Implementation

The second session aimed to translate the regional priorities into actionable recommendations for the BID programme. Four key areas were addressed:

- BID Calls for Data Mobilization Projects
- BID Capacity Enhancement Workshops
- Regional and Cross-Regional Support and Knowledge Sharing
- Other Related Opportunities and Projects

Closing Session

Participants were invited to share key insights or actionable ideas from the meeting fostering a dynamic exchange of thoughts.