

Approved Executive Summary of the 28th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board (GB28)

Event	28 th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board (GB28) 5-7 October 2021, 11:00-12:30 and 13:30-15:00 (CEST/UTC+2) each day Meeting conducted virtually by Zoom
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GB28 'group photo'. Compiled by Daniel Noesgaard.

This is the Executive Summary from the 28th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board.

This Executive Summary is supplemented by the full Minutes of the 28th meeting of the GBIF Governing Board, together with the list of Decisions, documents, elections and presentations, which will provide the complete record of the meeting.

The following information is available download for official Governing Board delegates (password needed):

- [GB28 Final and approved documents](#)
- [GB28 presentations \(slides\)](#)
- [GB28 videos](#)

The 28th GBIF Governing Board meeting (GB28) was conducted as a virtual meeting.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by the Governing Board Chair, Dr. Tanya Abrahamse who welcomed the delegations and was pleased to report that this year's meeting has doubled the amount of registered participants as compared to last year's virtual meeting.

The GBIF Executive Secretary reminded the Governing Board that the meeting was originally planned to take place in the US but due to the pandemic, the meeting is yet again virtual.

A welcome message from Dr. Joanne S. Turnow, Assistant Director of the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences was played. Dr. Turnow provided a welcome on behalf of the US virtual host for the meeting.

Attendance

63 delegations were present, including 32 Voting Participants, of which 28 were Voting Participants in good standing out of a potential 41. The quorum for the meeting was met and the Board was able to conduct business.

• 32 Voting Participants:

Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Iceland, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Tonga, United States, Uruguay

• 12 Associate Country Participants:

Republic of Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe

• 19 Other Associate Participants:

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), Canadensys, Chinese Taipei, Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo), iDigBio, International Barcode of Life Consortium (iBOL), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), NatureServe, Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen), Plazi, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), Species 2000,

Specify Collections Consortium, TDWG, VertNet, World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC).

In addition to the delegations, a number of GBIF committee chairs and members attended as well as the newly appointed BID regional support contractors.

Elections

A number of elections had taken place electronically prior to the GB28 meeting. The election results were announced at the meeting:

Governing Board:

- Governing Board 1st Vice-chair: Leonard Krishtalka (1st term)
- Governing Board 3rd Vice-chair: Christoph Häuser (1st term)

Budget Committee:

- Budget Committee 2nd Vice-chair: Martin Kalfatovic (1st term)

Nodes Committee:

- Nodes Committee Chair: Anne-Sophie Archambeau (1st term)
- Nodes Committee 1st Vice-chair: David Jennings (1st term)
- Nodes Committee 2nd Vice-chair: Anabela Plos (1st term)

Science Committee:

- Science Committee 1st Vice-chair: Melodie McGeoch (1st term)

Report from the Governing Board Chair

The Governing Board Chair, Tanya Abrahamse, reported on the events and priorities since GB27, with particular emphasis on how we have been navigating COVID. Despite the pandemic, GBIF has had growth in resources, people and partners. She also mentioned the successful virtual Global Nodes Meeting, the GBIF Strategic Framework for 2023-2027, the development in the BID and BIFA programmes and the plans for implementing the value proposition of GBIF data. She welcomed the fact that Namibia, the East Asia Biodiversity Conservation Network and Observation International had joined since GB27. Finally, she reminded the board that this year is the 20-year anniversary of GBIF.

The Board approved the report from the Governing Board Chair.

Report from the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary, Joe Miller, presented his report to the Governing Board. He reported on the measures taken by the Secretariat during the COVID pandemic. He presented the growth of data, which has now reach an impressive 1.9 billion. He also presented highlights of 2021 among which were: GBIF data snapshots in the cloud, 52 new projects funded, the alliance for biodiversity knowledge and related projects, alignment of GBIF and ALA Data ingestion and the GBIF Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl).

The Board approved the report from the Executive Secretary.

Report from the Budget Committee

The Budget Committee Chair, Peter Schalk, presented his report to the Governing Board. He presented the 2020 Financial Report and reported on the state of the 2021 contributions and the budget revisions for 2021 and the draft 2022 budget.

The Board approved the report from the Budget Committee and the 2020 Financial Report.

Report from the Science Committee

The Science Committee Chair, Thomas Orrell, presented the Science Committee report. He mentioned the positive development in the number of peer-reviewed publications using GBIF-mediated data. He reported on the activities of the Science Committee: the Young Researchers Award, Ebbe Nielsen Challenge, Systematic review of GBIF data use in the scientific literature which has now been published, the new Catalogue of Life, and on future projects of the Science Committee.

The Board approved the report from the Science Committee.

Report from the Nodes Committee

The Nodes Committee Chair, André Heughebaert, presented the Nodes report to the Governing Board. He reported on the development in data mobilization and use and on the planning of nodes activities on the global and local levels and presented the global nodes strategy and the Nodes Committee's recommendations to the Governing Board.

The Board approved the report from the Nodes Committee.

Young Researchers Award and Ebbe Nielsen Challenge

The winners of the 2021 Young Researchers Award were presented:

- [Michael Belitz](#)
- [Julen Torrens Baile](#)

The [winners of the 2021 Ebbe Nielsen Challenge](#) were announced:

- First Prize: [Bio-Dem](#)
- Second Prize: [Locating KBAs](#) and [plantR](#)

Secretariat update

The GBIF Senior Programme Officer for Node Development, Mélanie Raymond, and the GBIF Programme Coordinator, Maheva Bagard Laursen, presented on the launch of the regional support contractors for GBIF, including a video presentation from the four contractors.

The GBIF Head of Informatics, Tim Robertson, made his presentation on diversifying the GBIF data model.

The GBIF Deputy Director provided a summary of the key 2021 Secretariat activities, including GBIF's engagement in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, engagement of private sector, sensitive species data, DNA-derived data, data papers and data mobilization and capacity development update.

The GBIF Web developer, Morten Høfft, presented the piloting hosted portals, including recorded videos from a number of the hosted portals.

The GBIF Communications Manager, Kyle Copas, reported on the launch of new video communications material on GBIF thematic value summaries and presented the new GBIF Secretariat Communications Officer, Javier Gamboa Martinez.

2022 Work Programme and Budget

The Executive Secretary, Joe Miller, presented the draft 2022 Work Programme and Budget to the Board.

The Board approved the 2022 Work Programme and Budget.

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The Executive Secretary, Joe Miller, presented the draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027 to the Board.

The Board approved the Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Table of Financial Contributions 2023-2027

The Budget Committee Chair, Peter Schalk, presented the draft Table of Financial Contributions 2023-2027 to the Board.

The Board approved the Table of Financial Contributions 2023-2027.

Revisions to the GBIF Staff Rules

The Executive Secretary, Joe Miller, presented the draft revisions to the Board.

The Board approved the Table of Financial Contributions 2023-2027.

Future Governing Board meetings

The acting Head of Delegation for Belgium, André Heughebaert, offered to host the next Governing Board meeting (GB29) in Brussels, Belgium in October 2022.

The Board approved the hosting proposal for GB29 from Belgium.

Dr. Tanya Abrahamse,
Chair of the GBIF Governing Board