

GLOBAL NODES MEETING 2025

Report



Universidad Externado, Bogotá, Colombia

18 October 2025

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Executive summary by Nodes Chair, Anne Sophie Archambeau

Our 18th Global Nodes Meeting was hosted by SiB Colombia at the Universidad Externado in Bogotá, and included an option for online participation. It was encouraging to see such a large turnout: A total of 98 people participated (89 in person), including Node managers and members of the Secretariat, as well as HoDs who attended as observers. For the first time, we also welcomed all the regional support contractors and two members of the Science Committee. The node community, both new and more experienced nodes, was truly engaged and involved at this meeting, demonstrating the willingness to work together to continue to achieve the mission of GBIF.

A significant milestone was reached by welcoming Birgit Gemeinholzer and Melodie McGeoch, the respective Chair and First Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee, for the first half-day of the meeting. This provided an excellent opportunity to discuss collaboration on thematic engagement and emerging themes, as well as strengthening interaction between the Scientific and Nodes Committees. We all agreed that these exchanges should continue in future.

As this was my last Global Nodes Meeting as Nodes Chair, I would like to thank my vice-chairs, Anabela Plos and David Jenings; all the members of the NSG; and the Secretariat, especially Mélianie Raymond and the Community and Capacity team, for all their hard work and constant support.

Meeting preparation and objectives

The meeting was prepared and chaired by the Nodes Steering Group (NSG), with support from the GBIF Secretariat. The topics for the sessions were based on the [Nodes Implementation Plan](#) and consultations with the nodes. The Science Committee was invited to join the morning session for the first time, enabling cross-committee interaction and discussions on thematic engagement.

A community [webinar](#) was held a month before the global nodes meeting and training to launch the events, introducing the topics and preparation activities and materials to all nodes. A [website](#) was set up to provide context and objectives for each session. The NSG invited all nodes to contribute to the preparation of the meeting by [sharing their experiences as slides](#) using templates provided.

The overall aim of the meeting was to bring the nodes community together to learn from each other, discuss ideas, develop best practices, share concerns, define recommendations and set priorities.

Four sessions were held, each with specific objectives:

1. Emerging themes, expanding partnerships

- Build an understanding of thematic areas of relevance to GBIF and how nodes are engaging with these within their networks and activities
- Strengthen the interaction between the Science Committee and the Nodes Committee
- Facilitate networking, knowledge sharing and the development of possible future partnerships between nodes that relate to thematic areas

2. Collaboration for thematic engagement

- Enable GBIF nodes to identify emerging biodiversity themes and potential new data holders or user communities
- Support nodes in developing practical approaches for engagement, partnership-building, and national relevance
- Encourage nodes to articulate concrete next steps and exchange ideas to strengthen collaborations across the network

3. Cross regional knowledge exchange

- To learn from and be inspired by node-led initiatives and best practices across the GBIF network
- To discuss and identify cross-regional topics, priorities and/or challenges
- To discuss and identify cross-regional opportunities for new collaborations or partnerships

4. Regional communities of practice

- To enable regional discussions to build plans for regional meetings in 2026
- To review current mechanisms for regional engagement and explore opportunities for improvement

- To increase understanding of the scope of the work of the regional support teams and explore how it can better complement the efforts of the nodes and regional representatives
- To identify and discuss current and upcoming opportunities for regional collaboration

Participants and Secretariat support

Name	Role(s)	Participant	Onsite / Online
Anabela Plos	Node manager / NC 2nd Vice-chair / Trainer / Regional support	Argentina	Onsite
Christian Elloran	Node manager	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Onsite
Peggy Newman	Node manager	Australia	Onsite
Andre Zerger	HoD Observer	Australia	Onsite
Dimitri Brosens	Node staff	Belgium	Onsite
Stijn Cooleman	Node staff	Belgium	Onsite
Quentin Groom	Node staff	Belgium	Onsite
Patricia Mergen	HoD Observer	Belgium	Onsite
Jean Cossi Ganglo	Node manager	Benin	Onsite
Claudia Czarneski	Node manager	Brazil	Onsite
Clara Baringo Fonseca	Node staff	Brazil	Onsite
Teodor Ivanov	Node manager	Bulgaria	Online
James Macklin	Node manager	Canada	Onsite
Carole Sinou	Node manager / Trainer	Canadensys	Onsite
Camila Plata	Node manager	Catalogue of Life Foundation	Onsite
Diana Hernández	Node staff	Catalogue of Life Foundation	Onsite
Olaf Banki	HoD Observer	Catalogue of Life Foundation	Onsite

Mao-Ning Tuamu	Node manager / Reg. Dep. Asia	Chinese Taipei	Onsite
Melissa Jean-yi Liu	Node staff / Asia reg support	Chinese Taipei	Onsite
Ricardo Ortiz Gallego	Node manager	Colombia	Onsite
Esteban Marentes Herrera	Node staff	Colombia	Onsite
Isabel Calabuig	Node manager	Denmark	Online
Wouter Addink	Node manager	DiSSCo	Onsite
Jose Alberto Meléndez Juan	Node manager	Dominican Republic	Online
Paul Castaño	Node staff	Dominican Republic	Online
Victor Chocho	Node manager	Ecuador	Online
Kristjan Adojaan	Node manager	Estonia	Onsite
Will Morris	Node manager / Trainer	Finland	Onsite
Anne-Sophie Archambeau	Node manager / NC Chair	France	Onsite
Sophie Pameron	Node staff	France	Onsite
Tanja Melanie Weibulat	Node staff	Germany	Onsite
Christoph Häuser	HoD Observer	Germany	Onsite
Gandhi Ponce	Node manager	Guatemala	Onsite
Anna Sveinsdóttir	Node manager	Iceland	Online
David Jennings	Node manager / NC 1st Vice-chair	iDigBio	Onsite
Cat Chapman	Node staff	iDigBio	Onsite
Jesse Grosso	Node staff	iDigBio	Online
Gemma Weir	HoD Observer	Ireland	Onsite
Helen Bradley	Node staff	Ireland	Onsite
Christos Arvanitidis	Node manager	LifeWatch ERIC	Onsite
Herizo Randriambanona	Node manager	Madagascar	Online

Patricia Koleff	Node manager	Mexico	Onsite
Eva Alonso	Node manager	Netherlands	Onsite
Meredith Mckay	HoD Observer	New Zealand	Onsite
Dag Endresen	Node manager / Reg. Rep. ECA / Trainer	Norway	Onsite
Michal Torma	Node staff	Norway	Onsite
Donat Agosti	Node manager	Plazi	Onsite
Piotr Tykarski	Node manager	Poland	Onsite
Joanna Czarnecka	Node staff	Poland	Onsite
Karolina Kuczkowska	Node staff	Poland	Onsite
Wojciech Solarz	Node staff	Poland	Onsite
Rui Figueira	Node manager	Portugal	Onsite
Yi Ming Gan	Node manager / Trainer	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	Onsite
Fatima Parker-Allie	Node manager	South Africa	Onsite
Francisco Pando	Node manager	Spain	Onsite
Ainsof So'o	Node manager	SPREP	Onsite
Veronika Johansson	Node manager	Sweden	Onsite
Sofia Wyler	Node manager	Switzerland	Onsite
Samanta Orellana	Node staff	Symbiota Support Hub	Onsite
Raoufou Pierre Radji	Node manager	Togo	Onsite
Siosiua Latu	Node manager	Tonga	Onsite
Gareth Thomas	Node manager	United Kingdom	Onsite
Eliana Walker	Node staff	Uruguay	Onsite
David Bloom	Node manager / Reg. Rep. North America	VertNet	Online
Luke Jimu	Node manager / Trainer	Zimbabwe	Onsite
Britt Andermann	Observer	Sweden	Onsite

Rasa Bukontaite	Observer	Sweden	Onsite
Katie Millette	Observer		Onsite
Cristina Preda	Observer		Onsite
Laban Musinguzi	Regional support	Africa Regional Support Team	Onsite
Tsiky Rabetrano	Regional support	Africa Regional Support Team	Onsite
Vijay Barve	Regional support	Asia Regional Support Team	Onsite
Melissa Jean-Yi Liu	Regional support	Asia Regional Support Team	Onsite
Lily Shrestha	Regional support	Asia Regional Support Team	Onsite
Leonardo Buitrago	Regional support	LAC / Pacific Regional Support Team	Onsite
Oleg Borodin	Regional support	Europe and Central Asia Support Team	Onsite
Salza Palpurina	Regional support	Europe and Central Asia Support Team	Onsite
Stephen Formel	Trainer	OBIS	Onsite
André Heughebaert	Trainer	Belgium	Onsite
Birgit Gemeinholzer	Science Committee Chair	Germany	Onsite
Melodie McGeoch	Science Committee 1st Vice-chair	Australia	Onsite
John Wieczorek	GBIF contractor	GBIF contractor	Onsite
Maheva Bagard Laursen	Programme Officer for Community and Capacity	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Matt Blissett	Software Developer	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Kyle Copas	Communications Manager	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Tobias Guldberg Frøslev	Programme Officer for Science Support	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Joe Miller	GBIF Executive Secretary / Director of GBIF Secretariat	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite

Annie Elkjær Ørum-Kristensen	Communications & Events Coordinator	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Anne Mette Nielsen	Head of Administration	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Daniel Noesgaard	Communications Manager	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Mélianie Raymond	Community and Capacity Manager	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Tim Robertson	Deputy Director and Head of Informatics	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Laura Anne Russell	Training Officer for Community and Capacity	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Sanja Novakovicj	Administrator for Community and Capacity	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Susanne Sheldon	HR Manager and PA to the Director	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Javier Gamboa	Communications Officer	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Marie Grosjean	Data Administrator	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite
Kate Ingenloff	Scientific Officer	GBIF Secretariat	Onsite

Agenda, presentations and discussion summaries

All the meeting materials are available from the website: <https://globalnodes.gbif.org/en/gnm/>

Meeting evaluation

Respondents

We provided an online evaluation form to all meeting participants, both onsite and online, with a deadline for submission of 12 December. We received 32 responses from participants, some of which were partial responses, with a good mix of responses from Node Managers, Node Staff, Regional Support Team members, Heads of Delegation, and other observers (Figure 1). Responses were received from five regional groups (Figure 2). Only one online participant responded; the rest were onsite participants.

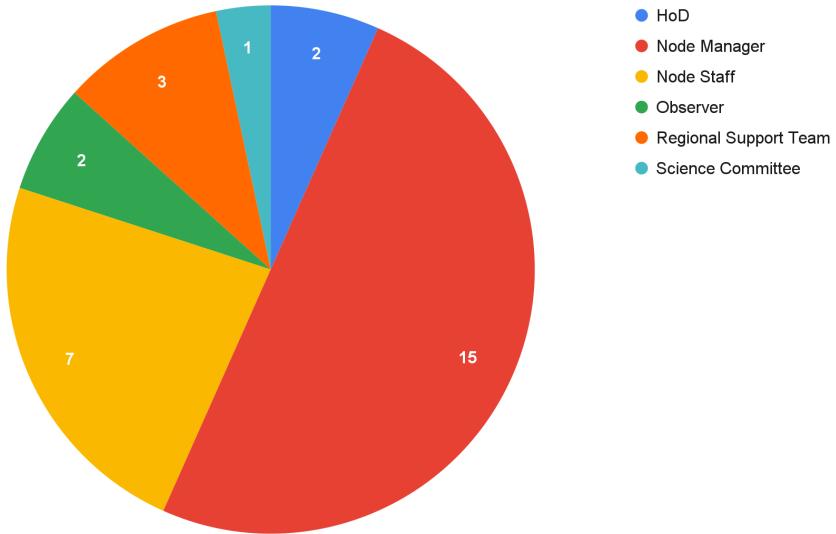


Figure 1: Roles of survey participants. 30 responses were received to this question.

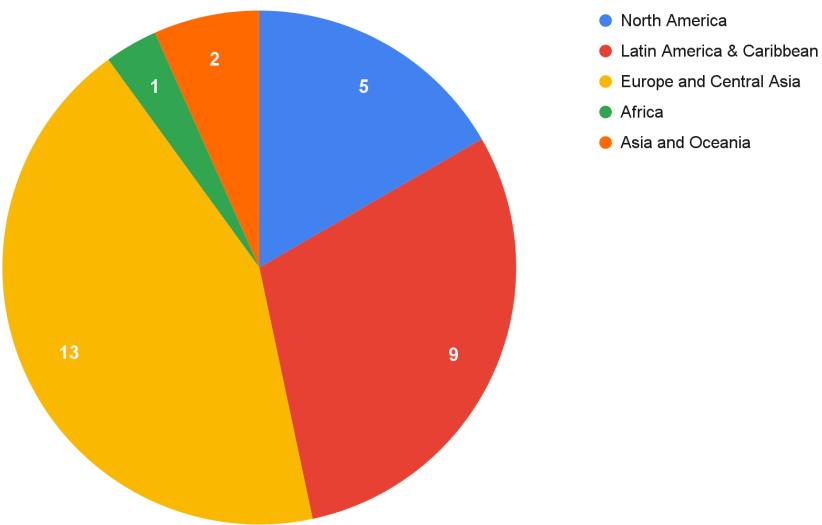


Figure 2: Regional groups of the survey participants. 30 responses were received to this question.

Preparation activities

The majority of respondents (75%) had reviewed the preparatory materials for the meeting, with an additional 3.6% having partially reviewed these (Figure 4).

Feedback on the preparatory materials for the Global Nodes Meeting was positive, with many participants finding them clear, useful, and well organized. Several noted that the materials helped them arrive better prepared, providing “a better idea of the main topics of training and node meetings” and offering “a good overview of the topics we were going to cover.” Participants also appreciated the focus and accessibility of the resources, describing them as “well-focused on the right topics and easy to follow,” “super thorough,” and valuable to have “available beforehand and in digital format,” with some planning to “come back to

these resources often." One response suggested "reviewing all the material was demanding in so short time," suggesting that pacing could be improved. One practical recommendation was to "send one reminder email a week before to check all of them." Overall, the materials were seen as a strong foundation for the meeting, with only small, practical suggestions to further improve their delivery.

Did you review the preparatory materials for the Global Nodes Meeting?

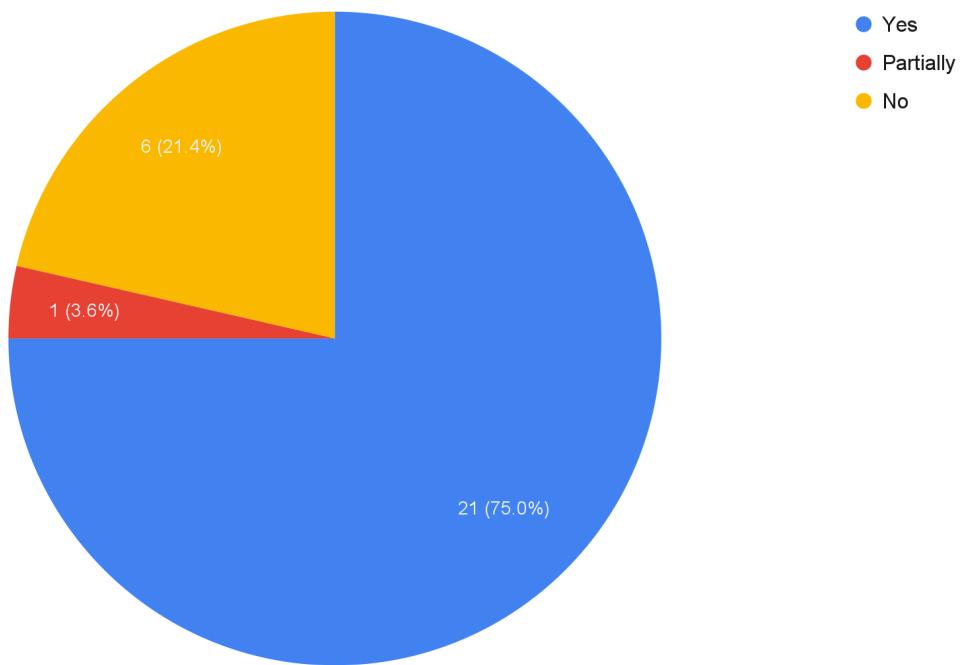


Figure 4: Use of preparatory materials by survey participants. 28 responses were received to this question.

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. The responses were very positive across all aspects of the meeting with average scores between good and excellent. The information sharing and organization of the meeting ranked highest among all aspects rated (Figure 5).

How do you assess the Global Nodes Meeting 2025 in terms of:

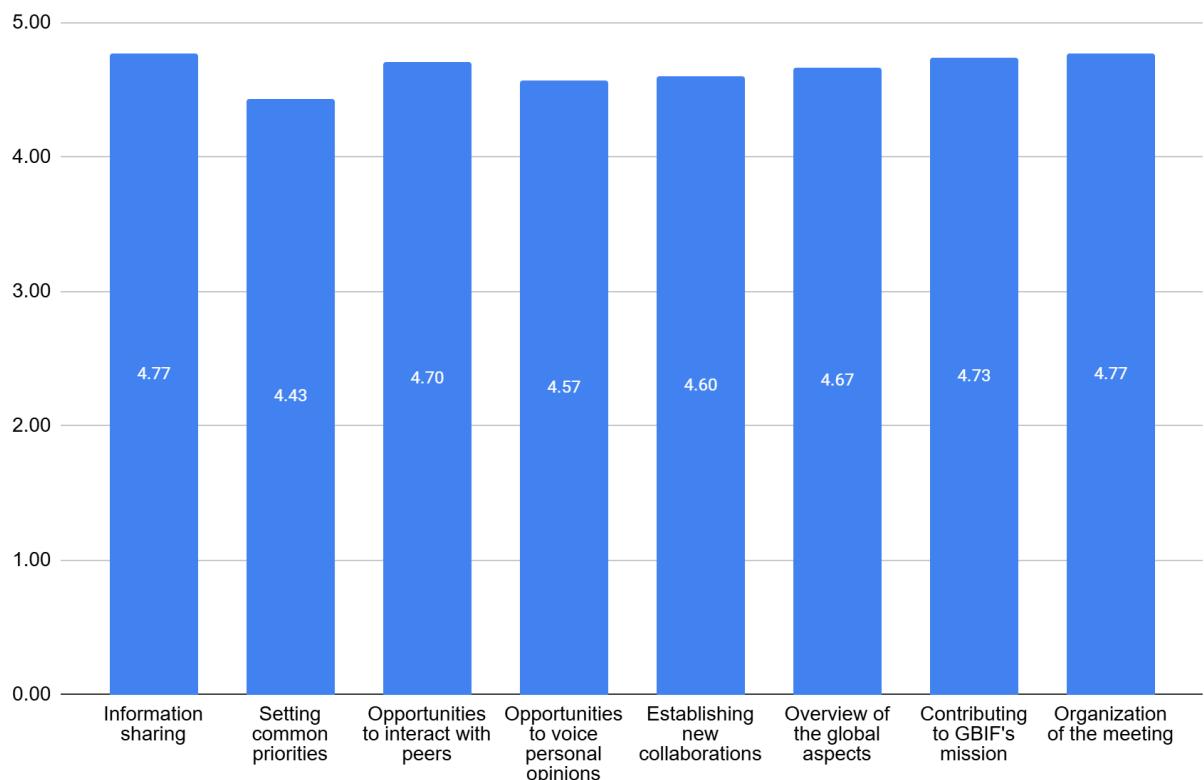


Figure 5: Average scores provided by the 32 survey respondents when asked to assess various aspects of the Global Nodes Meeting.

Nodes were also invited to share their highlights from the meeting. Participants consistently highlighted the strong balance between learning, collaboration, and community building. The content and format of the meeting were also appreciated. Attendees highlighted the opportunity to gain insight into emerging and priority thematic areas such as invasive alien species, Indigenous knowledge, marine data, and agrobiodiversity, alongside practical discussions on data standards and mobilization. Interactive elements—including breakout sessions, discussion tables, buddy groups, and thematic collaboration exercises—were repeatedly mentioned as especially valuable, helping participants share experiences and discuss common problems and goals.

The feedback received is included below, grouped into four categories.

Networking, Community, and Collaboration

- *"This was my first GN meeting. It was a lovely balance of learning and opportunities to meet colleagues and discuss ideas and potential collaboration."*
- *"Having the opportunity to network with a global community invested in biodiversity data."*

- “Meeting so many node colleagues from all over the world in person. And sharing experiences together to build a closer knit community.”
- “Being able to meet as a community and discuss common problems and goals.”
- “The people!!”
- “New knowledge and global partnerships.”
- “The most important aspect is communication with colleagues and understanding the overall trends in the development of the GBIF community.”
- “meeting peers, face-to-face interaction. goes a long way.”
- “The opportunity to establish new collaborations with node teams of different countries of the region.”
- “Opportunity to interact with various countries”
- “Global perspective and networking”

Thematic Content and Emerging Priorities

- “Dissemination of the various thematic areas currently being pursued by GBIF (marine data, indigenous data, invasive species, agrobiodiversity).”
- “Inspiring perspectives of DwC-DP, chances to use it with invasive species data we have.”
- “Invasive alien species and Indigenous knowledge”
- “Invasive Species and agrobiodiversity”
- “Getting to know more about the emerging themes and having the opportunity to meet in person with the region.”
- “New insights to frame data mobilization in cross-regional scales through open discussions”

Meeting Format, Structure, and Interactive Elements

- “The break out sessions and teamwork”
- “The exercise during the 'Collaboration for thematic engagement' section”
- “The discussion tables arranged to contain with peers from different countries and regions”

- “*The interactive exercises*”
- “*SC-Node discussion*”
- “*Working in Buddy Groups, for both GNT and GNM, was great!*”
- “*Easy access to information, simplicity in communications, 4 preparatory work*”

Scale, Participation, and Logistics

- “*Being able to bring together more than 60 participants, plus the entire regional support team, has been a great achievement.*”
- “*If I remember correctly, this was the GNM with the highest attendance, so it was fantastic in terms of connectivity, although some colleagues couldn't attend in person.*”
- “*I think the only less positive aspect was the space available for the regional meetings, but I understand that it was organized as best as possible given the options provided by the hosts.*”
- “*And as always, there's a feeling that there wasn't enough time, but considering the GNT, GB, and Datos Vivos sessions, we had plenty of opportunities for interaction.*”

Regional sessions

Respondents were asked to rank various aspects of the regional group discussions specifically, using the same scale (Figure 6). Participants appreciated the regional discussions on all aspects, particularly the roles of the facilitators, and all responses given were either “neutral”, “good”, “excellent” or “not applicable”.

How do you assess the regional group discussions in terms of:

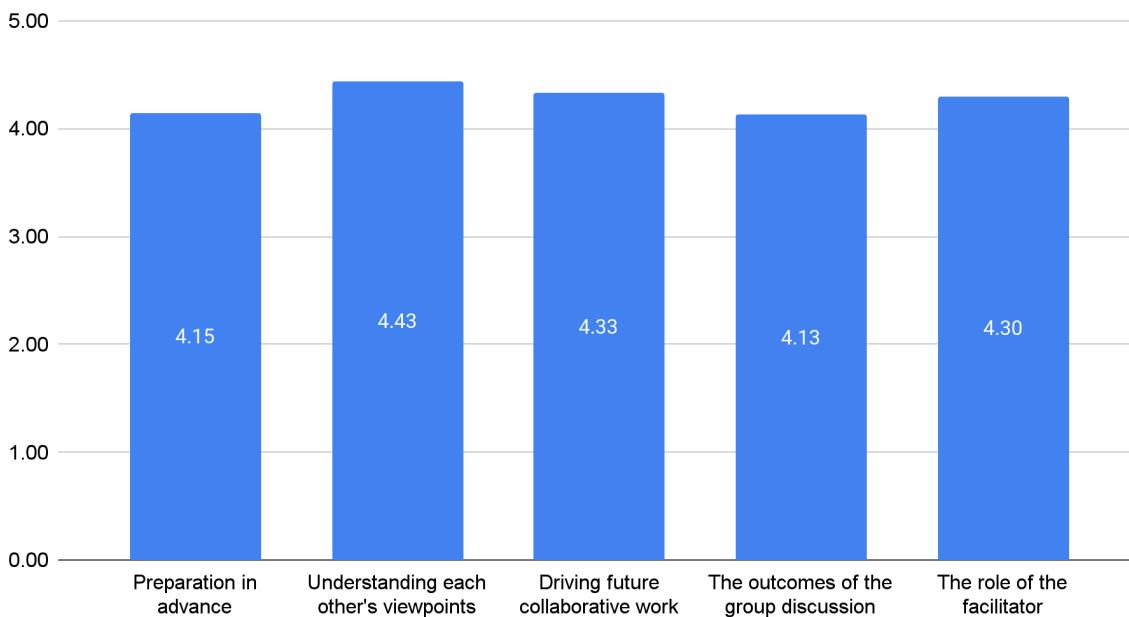


Figure 6 Average scores provided by the 30 survey respondents when asked how they assessed the regional group discussions.

Hybrid format

Most of the survey responses were from onsite participants. The survey asked respondents to assess the hybrid meeting format (Figure 7). There was appreciation for the hybrid format in terms of enabling broader participation in the meeting. There was a range of responses to the communication between online and onsite participants, which scored lower overall.

How do you assess the hybrid meeting format in terms of:

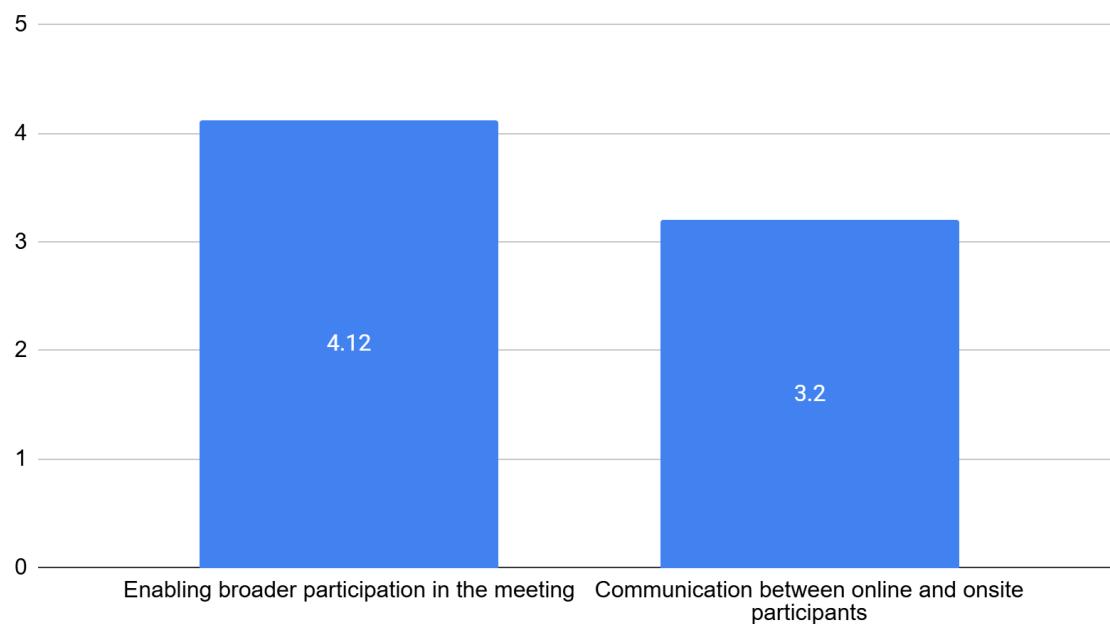


Figure 7: Average scores provided by the 25 survey respondents when asked how they assessed the hybrid meeting format.

Participants also provided written feedback regarding the hybrid meeting format. Overall, this feedback reflects a balanced mix of strong support for inclusivity through hybrid participation and clear recognition of its limitations. Many respondents emphasized the value of hybrid meetings for accessibility and regional equity, while others noted challenges related to interaction, time zones, and technical constraints. A smaller number expressed a preference for fully in-person or fully online formats, highlighting the complexity of delivering an effective hybrid experience. The feedback is summarized below:

Support for Hybrid Format and Inclusivity

- “*While it's not the same as being in person and can sometimes be complicated due to time differences, if the meeting location allows for connectivity, I strongly recommend sticking with the hybrid format.*”
- “*Hybrid format is worth it but interaction with the participants online should be enabled.*”
- “*It's great because this time I have the opportunity to come to Bogotá because of the proximity and costs but I think that won't always be the case, unfortunately. So having the chance to participate online is great.*”
- “*None...our region often has many people absent in person, and facilitating this space for participation is very important.*”
- “*I think keeping the hybrid option open promotes inclusion, especially for participants from regions where travel can be difficult.*”
- “*It is to be encouraged because, some participants are not able to attend the meeting onsite for many reasons*”
- “*The hybrid format facilitates the participation of more nodes and node's staff, particularly those recently established regional nodes represented by local governmental departments, whose availability for traveling abroad might not be guaranteed during the initial phase of the node's consolidation due to bureaucratic procedures.*”
- “*Thank you for your efforts in making it possible.*”

Preference for In-Person Engagement

- “*Meeting in person will always be better to stretch collaborations and relationships so keep encouraging on site meetings, leaving only the online attendance for extremely necessary cases.*”

- “*Hybrid meetings do not allow for closer interaction among participants, making it difficult.*”

Challenges and Limitations of Hybrid Meetings

- “*I answered the communication was 2 because in our region, the time for the online participants was not 4 - after midnight, and therefore the online participations was low. However, in the future it might not be the case, and I still believe that they should have the opportunity if they wished to.*”
- “*However, hybrid formats are quite challenging to manage. Since I was attending onsite, I can't really judge what the experience was like for the remote participants.*”
- “*Secure internet speed and other technical things*”
- “*it's difficult to mitigate seemingly inevitable technical hiccups. not sure how one might get ahead of that.*”

Preference for Non-Hybrid Formats / Separate Online Sessions

- “*I prefer non-hybrid meeting, exclusively onsite or online*”
- “*I would much rather recommend completely separate online only alternative to hybrid meetings. The hybrid option is not effective for neither onsite nor online participants.*”

Comparisons with previous meetings

Participants were asked to reflect on how this meeting compared with previous Global Nodes Meetings. Many respondents were first-time attendees and therefore could not directly compare, but still described the meeting as productive, well organized, and inspiring. Among those with prior experience, several noted improvements in format, organization, and community-building elements—particularly highlighting the Buddy System and the scale of in-person participation as key strengths. A summary of responses is shared below:

Overall Positive Comparisons and Impressions

- “*Very good! It's been a long time since we had a practical part...*”
- “*It was a really good meeting and I only have another one to compare*”
- “*Although I did not participate in the previous Global Nodes meeting in Australia, I had a good reception of the whole.*”
- “*The large number of in person participants was very inspiring!*”

Organization, Format, and Logistics

- “*Perhaps changing spaces made the flow of activities a bit complicated, although it's understandable given the number of people and last-minute changes.*”
- “*While it was an intense few days (for those of us attending GNT, GNM, GB, and Datos Vivos), I found the work environment to be incredibly pleasant, enhanced by the Buddy System.*”
- “*The workspace was good, even with the movement between rooms, and having transportation available was a huge help with organization.*”

Buddy System and Community Building

- “*I had participated only once before, in 2019, and in my opinion this year's event was held in a much more friendly format. The Nodes Buddy System clearly played an important role in this.*”
- “*Massive! But very productive. I think that, along with the training, the need for further education was met and new bonds were formed among the NMs. This time (compared to Canberra), I think the Buddy System really worked!*”

In-Person Value and Engagement

- “*This global Nodes meeting was well-organized and inclusive, maintaining strong engagement despite the diverse representation from different regions.*”
- “*In-person meetings generally allow for deeper networking, informal discussions, and spontaneous collaboration opportunities that are harder to replicate online or within tight schedules.*”

Final suggestions

The survey asked participants if the meeting offered enough opportunities to voice opinions and suggestions to the broader Nodes Committee and GBIF Secretariat and to suggest ideas for improvement. They were also asked for any final suggestions for improving Regional/Global Nodes Meetings in the future

Overall, respondents felt that the Global Nodes Meeting provided ample and meaningful opportunities to voice opinions and suggestions to both the Nodes Committee and the GBIF Secretariat. Participants highlighted the collegial atmosphere, receptive leadership, and variety of engagement formats as key strengths. They also offered constructive suggestions for improvement, including extending discussion time, supporting participation from newer or underrepresented nodes, enhancing inclusivity for non-English speakers, and providing more consistent digital platforms. Practical ideas also included improving communication

before the meeting and creating additional interactive or breakout opportunities to deepen engagement.

Strong Agreement That Opportunities To Voice Opinions Were Sufficient

- “Yes. Especially considering the relatively short amount of time (a single day) it was well-balanced.”
- “Yes. Both the Nodes Committee and the Secretariat were very receptive and supportive at all times.”
- “Yes, I think we were offered enough possibilities to voice opinions and suggestions.”
- “Yes, I was able to freely and conveniently express my opinions”
- “Yes, the meeting generally provided sufficient opportunities to share opinions and suggestions with both the broader Nodes Committee and the GBIF Secretariat.”
- “Everything was organized at a level that fully allowed participants to express emerging ideas and provided the opportunity to share their opinions.”
- “Yes, in a very collegial way.”

Engagement Formats and Receptiveness

- “The open discussions, breakout sessions, and Q&A portions allowed for meaningful engagement and exchange of ideas.”
- “Yes, I believe the NSG created opportunities for regional representatives to contribute their opinions as well the Secretariat.”

Time Constraints and Need for More Discussion Space

- “In general yes, given the limited time we had for discussions.”
- “I think a few hours more would give us more space for more complex topics and more time for updates from the nodes.”
- “It would be better to have more time.”
- “Bit longer working sessions”
- “More time would be appreciated (yes, I know it is difficult...)”
- “More time to interact and improve creativity through common exercise.”
- “More time for discussions”

Strengthening Inclusivity and Participation

- “Although I believe that the issue of participation among people whose native language is not English may be more complex, and that they may simply decide not to make their voice heard.”
- “Yes, it is an extremely valuable space, although unfortunately (and for a number of different reasons) not all nodes manage to be represented in person and/or by the majority of the staff members.”
- “If at all possible, adding more possibilities for more node staff and node science ambassadeurs to join, could probably make these events even more valuable. However, do understand the limitations of scale.”
- “I know it's complex, given the issues of space, organization, and schedules, but maintaining hybrid spaces helps colleges that cannot attend in person to continue participating in these valuable spaces.”
- “Try to maintain the hybrid format in case problems continue to arise when participating in person (lack of funds, visa problems, overlap with other activities, etc.)”

Suggestions for Improvement

- “Email communication one or two weeks before the meeting starts, inviting people to carefully read all the documents and activities for a better discussion”
- “Survey links and Mentis etc were nice, however, also challenging to navigate.”
- “Staying on eg. GitHub or Slack or something that is the same platform across the GNT/GNM sessions as well as across longer term nodes interaction might maybe be easier to connect to.”
- “I consider it important to fill the vacant alternate position in the regional representation.”
- “For future editions, it would be helpful to put more emphasis on the inclusion of newly incorporated nodes.”
- “Making sure that new nodes are well integrated into the regional networks would not only support their early development but also enrich collaboration across the community.”
- “It could also be useful to plan specific spaces or sessions to showcase their work tied to GBIF's goals, so they can gain visibility and engage more fully moving forward.”
- “Increase interactive sessions and regional breakouts to encourage more collaboration and follow-up on discussed actions.”

- “*More interactions between regions to consider*”
- “*Most important is to get to know other nodes' people, their projects and data. Maybe some sessions on specific thematic field or hot topics - monitoring, marine, avian data, AI, DNA, etc, etc, across all nodes globally with best practice showcases?*”
- “*more coffee and snacks ;)*”

Next steps

The next Global Nodes Meeting will take place in 2027 alongside GB34. Until then, the Nodes Committee and NSG will:

- Update the Nodes Implementation plan for 2026
- Continue to support capacity development through participation in CESP and BID
- Prepare and organize the Regional Nodes meetings in 2026
- Consider how to further strengthen the onboarding programme for new nodes
- Continue to explore the regional support team mechanism and opportunities for support for nodes where appropriate