

From: Sánchez Serrano, José Juan <josej.sanchez@ciencia.gob.es>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 2:30 PM
To: 'GBIF Strategic Plan' <strategicplan@gbif.org>
Cc: Vallejo Abascal, Maria <maria.vallejo@ciencia.gob.es>; 'Francisco Pando' <pando@gbif.es>
Subject: RE: Reminder: GBIF Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027 - deadline for comments 13 August 2021

Dear all, here are the Spanish comments to the Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2027:

Spain recognizes and supports the effort put into this document as a sound foundation for the work programs. However, we would like to bring to your attention the following issues:

1. We appreciate the conciseness of the document, but also consider that some context would help improve the document by rendering it more understandable to people for whom GBIF is not their everyday concern. So we suggest to include an indication of what GBIF is (an intergovernmental organization, supported by its member countries, etc.).
2. A short paragraph indicating that GBIF's procedures comprise the preparation of Strategic Plans for periods of five years, and that the current plan (or framework) follows the "GBIF Strategic Plan 2017-21", extended to 2022, to cope with the disruption caused by the pandemic, may also add context.
3. Likewise, trust, transparency, collaboration, collective benefit, diversity, inclusiveness, innovation and integrity (lines 36-55): What are these? principles? guidelines? values? an introductory line to explain how they fit into the Strategic framework might be a useful addition for these otherwise out of the blue statements.
4. Priority areas. We welcome and support the articulation of the GBIF priorities in these areas, and agree with them in general. However, we believe that Priority Area 2 does not address in its full dimension the problem GBIF is facing regarding the network. In the recent years, some key members of the network have dropped out or stepped down from GBIF. This is a fact in Asia (when the 20yr review suggested to reinforce activities), and a precarious trend in Latin America, while in Europe things are not better now than then.

When we lose members like Chinese Taipei, Japan and India, or the participation of others such as Colombia, Mexico, or UK weakens, is not only the financial contribution that we lose, it is the know-how and the guidance that those long-standing GBIF members provide to their fellow neighbors, and to GBIF at large.

Therefore, we believe that the Strategic framework should explicitly address questions such as appropriation and engagement of the network by its members and set them as objectives, as well as diversity not only in funding sources but also in participation and decision-making. Lack of diversity in the approach of 20yr Review was weakness identified by members of the GB when reviewing the Review.

Hope our comments may help improve even further the document

Best regards

Jose Juan

Prof. Jose J. Sanchez Serrano

Deputy Director General for Internationalization of Science and Innovation

Ministry of Science and Innovation

Pº de la Castellana, 162, E-28046 MADRID (SPAIN)

Tel: (+34) 916038341

Fax: (+34) 916037099

