

Global Biodata Strategy 2026-2030

Introduction and context

The **Global Biodata Coalition (GBC) Strategy 2026–2030** sets out a roadmap to strengthen the long-term sustainability, resilience, and global coordination of open biodata resources. It positions the GBC as the leading international forum for funders and stakeholders working together to secure the future of critical biodata infrastructure.

The strategy recognises that open biodata resources underpin virtually all areas of life sciences research, including health, agriculture, biodiversity, biotechnology and increasingly artificial intelligence (AI). Despite their importance, these resources remain fragile because of:

- dependence on a relatively small number of funders;
- limited international coordination;
- funding models that prioritise innovation over long-term infrastructure;
- vulnerability to changes in funding priorities and policy;
- rapidly increasing pressure driven by AI, new technologies and open science policies.

In addition, stakeholder consultations identified five recurring priorities:

- strengthen the GBC narrative and visibility;
- diversify and expand the GBC community;
- provide greater value to funders and GCBRs;
- develop practical sustainability approaches;
- improve analytical capability to support funding decisions.

Strategic goals

GBC's vision is to create a **stable, coordinated and sustainable global biodata infrastructure** and is supported by four strategic goals:

- 1. Develop adaptive governance**
 - Modernise governance to accommodate organisational growth and greater global participation.
- 2. Engage a more diverse community of funders**
 - Expand membership geographically and across sectors, including industry and philanthropy.
- 3. Build a stronger biodata resource community**
 - Strengthen Global Core Biodata Resources while engaging the wider biodata ecosystem.
- 4. Deliver practical sustainability solutions**
 - Move beyond discussion by piloting and evaluating innovative sustainability models.

Strategic Initiatives

To support the execution of these four strategic goals five strategic initiatives have been developed.

1. Refresh Governance

The governance structure will evolve to become more agile, representative and scalable.

Planned actions include:

- appointing a new Board Chair;
- refreshing the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- updating governance documents;
- expanding Secretariat capacity;
- reviewing funding contribution models.

2. Engage a Diverse Funder Community

A major priority is expanding beyond the current membership.

The strategy proposes engagement with:

- new national funders;
- industry (initially biomedical and technology companies);
- philanthropic organisations;
- charities;
- international organisations.

Expansion will focus particularly on regions currently underrepresented in GBC. Engagement mechanisms include conferences, workshops, exchange forums, personal networks and targeted outreach.

3. Refresh the GBC Narrative and Increase Visibility

The strategy recognises that many stakeholders are still unclear about:

- what GBC is;
- what makes it unique;
- why organisations should join.

Accordingly, GBC plans to develop a concise and compelling value proposition centred on points such as:

- the scientific and economic value of biodata;
- risks of unstable infrastructure;
- AI's dependence on high-quality biodata;
- GBC's unique role in coordinating global sustainability;
- GBC to support the evaluation and implementation of solutions.

Communication activities will include:

- social media;
- publications;
- newsletters;
- presentations;
- policy engagement;
- annual conferences (starting with GBC26).

4. Engage Biodata Providers

Beyond funders, the strategy seeks stronger engagement with resource providers.

Actions include:

- launching a new Global Core Biodata Resource selection round in 2027;
- improving the global inventory of biodata resources;
- expanding impact and usage analyses;
- strengthening the GCBR Forum;
- engaging specialist resources beyond the current GCBRs.

5. Pilot Sustainability Approaches

GBC intends to commit to practical evaluations of sustainability models:

- launch sustainability pilot projects beginning in 2026;
- evaluate different funding models;
- capture lessons learned;
- run Sustainability Labs and webinars;
- learn from sustainability approaches used outside biodata.

The intended outputs include actionable funding models, better understanding of funding risks and stronger coordination across the biodata ecosystem.

Risks

Six principal risks are identified:

- an unclear value proposition;
- perceptions that GBC is overly Europe-focused;
- limited Secretariat capacity;
- being viewed as discussion-oriented rather than action-oriented;
- changes in funder priorities;
- insufficient investment in sustainability pilots.

Mitigation measures largely align with the strategic initiatives, particularly improving communication, increasing international and diverse participation, expanding Secretariat capacity and delivering measurable pilot outcomes.

Conclusion

Successful implementation is expected to deliver the following impacts:

- a stronger and more visible GBC;
- improved sustainability frameworks for biodata resources;
- enhanced coordination across the global biodata landscape;
- greater resilience of open scientific infrastructure;
- better alignment between funders, providers and users;
- a larger and more diverse international community;
- increased scientific productivity and economic impact

The strategy represents an important acceleration of GBC's evolution into a unique global **forum for discussion among funders** and also becoming a more **action-oriented organisation** that:

- coordinates global stakeholders;
- generates evidence and analytics for funders;
- pilots practical sustainability models;
- expands internationally across geographies and sectors;
- positions biodata infrastructure sustainability as a strategic issue for research, innovation and AI.

This evolving and exciting strategy is underpinned with governance reform, community growth, pilot projects and measurable outcomes.