

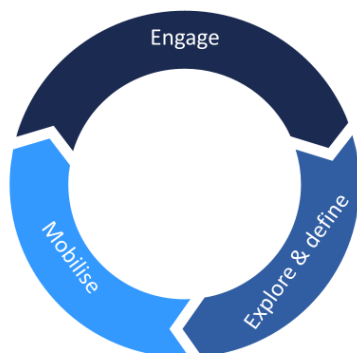
Biodata resources under threat

Scientists around the world, across academia and industry, are critically dependent on open biodata resources for their research. Spanning biological, molecular, ecological, and morphological data, biodata resources—databases that archive and analyse research data—number in the thousands, are maintained across diverse institutions and supported by dozens of funders, forming an essential global infrastructure that allows researchers to share data and generate knowledge. The most heavily used biodata resources are accessed by millions of users each month. Despite the crucial importance of biodata resources, many lack stable funding and are at risk. To date there has been no internationally coordinated plan to develop, maintain, and sustain its component resources, leaving the entire infrastructure under threat.

The Global Biodata Coalition

The Global Biodata Coalition (GBC; <https://globalbiodata.org/>) was formed to address this threat and is a coalition of research funders working, together with resource managers and researchers, to understand the global biodata resource infrastructure, and to move towards more internationally coordinated, sustainable, and streamlined mechanisms to support the biodata ecosystem. The GBC currently includes 11 public and charitable funders from across three continents and the Secretariat is actively working to expand the GBC's membership and engage the broader biodata resource community.

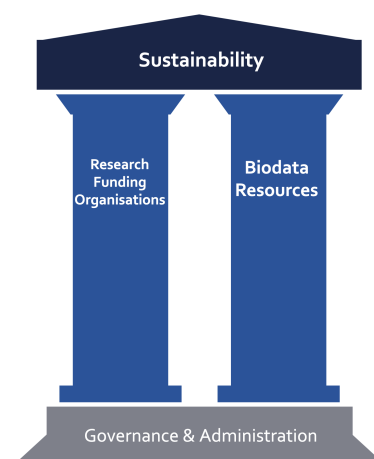
How the Global Biodata Coalition works



GBC activities span **engagement** with stakeholders, including funders, biodata resource managers, and researchers; **exploration & definition** of the funding and biodata resource landscapes; and **mobilisation** of change that improves sustainability and coordination of biodata resources.

The GBC's scientific work programme is underway

- In 2022 the GBC identified, through a rigorous peer-review process, 37 [Global Core Biodata Resources](#) (GCBRs) that are vital to the healthy functioning of the overall global biodata ecosystem. Prioritisation of sustainability of the GCBRs, one of GBC's aims, will strengthen the entirety of the infrastructure and provide models for non-GCBRs to move towards greater sustainability. A further round of Global Core Biodata Resource selection will conclude by the end of 2023.
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The Global Biodata Coalition: Overview



- We have established a forum for the leaders of the GCBRs that shares expertise and works with funders to develop and implement mechanisms for sustainability.
- In order to better understand the overall global biodata ecosystem, the GBC has completed an Inventory that has identified over three thousand biodata resources that are described in the scholarly literature, and has determined their global distribution. A [preprint](#) describing how this work is now available.
- Two working groups of the Board of funders have been established to focus on **sustainability** and **open data strategies**.

Further information

Further details: <https://globalbiodata.org/>. Enquires: info@globalbiodata.org.