

DiSSCo and GBIF node governance seminar

Meeting report



UiO : **Natural History Museum**
University of Oslo

University of Oslo Natural History Museum, Tøyen, Oslo
6-7 February 2020

Contents

Executive summary	2
Meeting preparation and objectives	3
Participant list	3
Agenda, with links to presentations and webcast recording	4
Thursday 6th February 2020 morning (10-12): DiSSCo Norway	4
Thursday 6th February 2020 afternoon (13-16): GBIF Norway	5
Friday 7th February 2020: open symposium on DiSSCo and GBIF	5
Background documents, information	6
Relevant abbreviations and acronyms	7

Executive summary

This report summarizes a meeting held to discuss the Norwegian participation in the European Research Infrastructure project DiSSCo (Distributed System for Scientific Collections) and the international organization GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility). These two projects are part of a larger landscape of initiatives on open biodiversity data that are relevant from a Norwegian perspective. Close coordination of these and other initiatives is essential in communicating the needs and services of our biodiversity research community to funders and policymakers but also to create an integrated community that benefits from our shared expertise and investments in synergy. The meeting used invited talks by key national and international colleagues on how they coordinated these international initiatives as an inspiration and basis for discussion on how this can be done in Norway.

Meeting preparation and objectives

The meeting was prepared and chaired by the Norwegian DiSSCo National Task Force (NTF) and the Norwegian participant node in GBIF (GBIF Norway). Representatives from the DiSSCo coordination office, the GBIF secretariat and national DiSSCo- and GBIF nodes in Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands were invited to contribute to the meeting by sharing their experiences and recommendations as use-cases for the process in Norway.

The aims of the meeting were to:

- Share information on the status and direction for DiSSCo Norway and GBIF Norway.
- Explore the organization of DiSSCo and GBIF nodes in other countries.
- Identify and establish collaboration mechanisms for a distributed DiSSCo- and GBIF node in Norway.
- Explore the relationship between nodes and projects for Norwegian participation in international research infrastructures for biodiversity data.

The expected outcomes were:

- Ideas for governance models for DiSSCo and GBIF nodes in Norway.
- Create a better understanding of international expectations and requirements for national DiSSCo and GBIF nodes.
- Start the process of forming a new consortium for GBIF Norway.
- Prepare for the 2020 research infrastructure application for GBIF Norway.

Participant list

The meeting was attended by 23 people, of which 6 were invited experts from outside Norway.

Participant name	Institution and role
Fridtjof Mehlum	UiO Natural History Museum, GBIF Norway Head of delegation 2017-2019 (<i>unable to attend the seminar</i>)
Hugo de Boer	UiO Natural History Museum, GBIF Norway Head of delegation from 2020, DiSSCo-Norway NTF
Dag Endresen	UiO Natural History Museum, GBIF Norway Node manager
Rukaya Johaadien	UiO Natural History Museum, GBIF Norway staff, IT-developer
Jan Lifjeld	UiO Natural History Museum, Research director
Olav Skarpaas	UiO Natural History Museum, Research group leader
Eirik Rindal	UiO Natural History Museum, REVITA coordinator (<i>participating 6/2</i>)
Solveig Bakken	NTNU University Museum, Head of research
Hans K. Stenøien	NTNU University Museum, Section leader
Arild Lindgaard	Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, Head of department
Knut Anders Hovstad	Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, Artskart coordinator

Erlend B Nilsen	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Living Norway coordinator
Roald Vang	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Head of IT section
Geir Rudolfson	UiT the Arctic University of Norway, Head of department
Jon-Arvid Grytnes	University of Bergen, Professor, Living Norway partner (<i>participating 7/2</i>)
Aino Hosia	University of Bergen, University Museum, Head of department
Susan Matland	MUSIT - University museum IT-organisation, Project leader MUSIT
Anders Telenius	Swedish Museum of Natural History, GBIF Sweden Node manager, SBDI manager
Leif Schulman	FinBIF, LUOMUS, Helsinki, Museum director, CETAF chair, GBIF Finland Head of delegation since 2010 (<i>participating online</i>)
Kari Lahti	FinBIF, LUOMUS, Helsinki, Director for unit of biodiversity informatics (<i>participating online</i>)
Mélanie Raymond	GBIF Secretariat, Senior programme officer for node development
Niels Raes	Naturalis biodiversity center, GBIF Netherlands Node manager
Dimitris Koureas	DiSSCo Secretariat, Coordination Office, Director (<i>participating 7/2</i>)

Agenda, with links to presentations and webcast recording

[Webcast with video-streaming](#) for remote participants to attend. Participants were asked for [consent to the video-streaming and recording](#) during the registration at arrival. The [webcast recordings](#) only show the presenter and not the participants.

Seminar home page at <https://www.gbif.no/events/2020/dissco-gbif-network-seminar.html>

Seminar presentations, <https://www.gbif.no/events/2020/dissco-gbif-slides/>

Seminar webcast recordings, <https://www.gbif.no/events/2020/dissco-gbif-video/>

Thursday 6th February 2020 morning (10-12): DiSSCo Norway

Consolidating the Norwegian consortium for DiSSCo (Distributed System for Scientific Collections). Discussion and planning of activities. This section before lunch is most relevant for Norwegian university museums.

- [DiSSCo-Norway](#) status and planned activities, [DiSSCo ESFRI](#), [DiSSCo Prepare](#), and [DiSSCo Rising](#) (Hugo de Boer, DiSSCo NTF for Norway, [UiO-NHM](#), [DiSSCo Norway](#)) ([slides](#), [video](#))
- [NLBIF](#) and the DiSSCo-node in the Netherlands (Niels Raes, [NLBIF](#), [Naturalis](#)) ([video](#))
- [University Museum databases](#) (Susan Matland and Eirik Rindal, [MUSIT](#)) ([slides](#), [video](#))
- [Living Atlas community](#) and [collection portals](#)

- Recommendations for forming national biodiversity information facilities and preparations before the public seminar on 7th February.

Thursday 6th February 2020 afternoon (13-16): GBIF Norway

Preparing for a new Norwegian consortium for GBIF Norway. Invited participation from the [GBIF Secretariat](#), [Living Norway](#), [Finland](#), [Netherlands](#), and [Sweden](#). This section in the afternoon of February 6th is most relevant for institutions that already have (or plan to have) active participation in providing GBIF services in Norway (including [DiSSCo](#) and [Living Norway](#) partners).

13:00 Welcome and goals for the meeting (Hugo de Boer and Dag Endresen) ([slides](#), [video](#))

13:10 Recommendations from the GBIF Secretariat on [establishing effective GBIF nodes](#) and node governance models (Mélianie Raymond, GBIF Secretariat) ([video](#))

13:15 Recommendations from the GBIF Norway advisory board on forming a new GBIF Norway consortium (Fridtjof Mehlum, Nils Valland, and Solveig Bakken)

13:30 Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure - SBDI (Anders Telenius) ([video](#))

14:00 Governance of Biodiversity informatics infrastructures: experiences from Finland (Leif Schulman, [LUOMUS](#), [FinBIF](#), [CETAF](#)) *online presentation* ([video](#), [video-zoom](#))

15:00 Recommendations from the [Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre](#) (Arild Lindgaard, NBIC, Artsdatabanken) ([slides](#), [video](#))

15:00 Discussion

Task 1: work on forming a new consortium governance model for GBIF Norway, including distributed responsibility for providing national GBIF-node services among consortium partners, and protocols for accepting new consortium members. Discussion on the process for preparing a GBIF Norway research Infrastructure proposal with the application deadline 19. November 2020.

Task 2: collect best practices from GBIF-node and national biodiversity infrastructure governance structures established in Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, and include best practices and recommendations collected by the GBIF Secretariat.

16:30 Short wrap-up from day 1

Friday 7th February 2020: open symposium on DiSSCo and GBIF

Full day symposium on national and international initiatives and projects related to DiSSCo and GBIF. Discussion on creating a governance platform to coordinate

Norwegian participation in national and international infrastructure projects in biodiversity.

10:00 Welcome to the seminar, day 2 (Hugo de Boer and Dag Endresen)

10:10 [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) - GBIF, and governance models for national biodiversity information facilities (BIFs) ([Mélianie Raymond](#), [GBIF Secretariat](#)) ([slides](#), [video](#))

10:40 [Distributed System of Scientific Collections - DiSSCo](#) and governance models for national DiSSCo Nodes ([Dimitris Koureas](#) and Ana Casino, DiSSCo Coordination Office) ([slides](#), [video](#))

11:10 [Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility \(NLBIF\)](#) as DiSSCo- and GBIF-node ([Niels Raes](#), [Naturalis](#)) ([slides](#), [video](#))

11:40 [Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure](#) (SBDI), [GBIF Sweden](#), [BioAtlas.se](#), [Swedish LifeWatch](#) ([Anders Telenius](#), [Swedish Museum of Natural History](#)) ([slides 1](#), [slides 2](#), [slides 3](#), [video](#))

12:10 Questions and discussion

13:30 [Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre - NBIC](#) ([Knut Anders Hovstad](#) Artsdatabanken) ([slides](#), [video](#))

13:50 Using open ecology data in research and education ([John Arvid Grytnes](#), [EECRG](#), University in Bergen, Living Norway) ([slides](#), [video](#))

14:10 [Living Norway Ecological Data Network](#) ([Erlend Nilsen](#), [NINA](#), Living Norway) ([slides](#), [video](#))

15:00 Discussion on common governance models for DiSSCo, GBIF. Do we want to build a distributed “*Norwegian Biodiversity Information Facility*”? Based on the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre, GBIF-Norway, Living Norway Ecological Data Network, Norwegian Barcode of Life, etc?

16:00 Closing of the seminar

Background documents, information

GBIF (2019) [Establishing an Effective GBIF Participant Node](#)

[GBIF Governance](#), [Memorandum of Understanding](#), and [Strategic Plan 2017-2021](#)

Relevant abbreviations and acronyms

BIOSCAN - iBOL research program 2019-2026
BOLD - Barcode of Life Data systems
CETAF - Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities
CR - DiSSCo Consortium Representative
DiSSCo - Distributed System of Scientific Collections
DiSSCo Norway - Norwegian participant node in DiSSCo
EBG - Earth BioGenome project
eLTER - Long-Term Ecosystem Research in Europe
ENVRI - a community of Environmental Research Infrastructures
EOSC - European Open Science Cloud
ERIC - European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESFRI - European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
FINBIF - Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility
ForBio - Research School in Biosystematics
GA - DiSSCo General Assembly
GB - (GBIF) Governing Board
GBIF - Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GBIF Norway - Norwegian participant node in GBIF
GGBN - Global Genome Biodiversity Network
iBOL - International Barcode of Life consortium
ICEDIG - Innovation and consolidation for large scale digitization of natural heritage
IMR - Norwegian Institute of Marine Research
Living Norway - Living Norway Ecological Data Network
LUOMUS - Finnish Museum of Natural History
MOBILISE - Mobilising Data, Experts and Policies in Scientific Collections
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
MUSIT - the Norwegian museum database initiative
NBIC - Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre
NERSC - Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
NGU - Geological Survey of Norway
NILU - Norwegian Institute for Air Research
NINA - Norwegian Institute of Nature Research
NLBIF - Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility
NMDC - Norwegian Marine Data Center
NODES - GBIF Nodes Committee
NorBIF - Norwegian Biodiversity Infrastructure Forum

NORBINA - Norwegian Biobank for Nature
NorBOL - Norwegian Barcode of Life
NorDataNet - Norwegian Scientific Data Network
NORCE - Norwegian Research Centre
NPI - Norwegian Polar Institute
NRMA - “Nasjonal referansesamling for marint arts mangfold”
NTF - DiSSCo national task force
NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology
NTNU-VM (NTNU-UM) - NTNU University Museum
OBIS - Ocean Biogeographic Information System
RCN - Research Council of Norway
RDA - Research Data Alliance
SBDI - Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure
SYNTHESYS+ - Synthesis of Systematic Resources
TDWG - Biodiversity Information Standards
UiB - University of Bergen
UiB-UMB - University of Bergen University Museum in Bergen
UiO - University of Oslo
UiO-NHM - UiO Natural History Museum in Oslo
UiT - University of Tromsø, the Arctic University of Norway
UiT-TM - University of Tromsø University Museum (Tromsø Museum)
USIT - University of Oslo University Center for Information Technology