



Nodes Coordination Group

Annual meeting / Bogotá, 2025
A year in review





A year in review

A year in review

Overview



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Datasets published by the OBIS Nodes



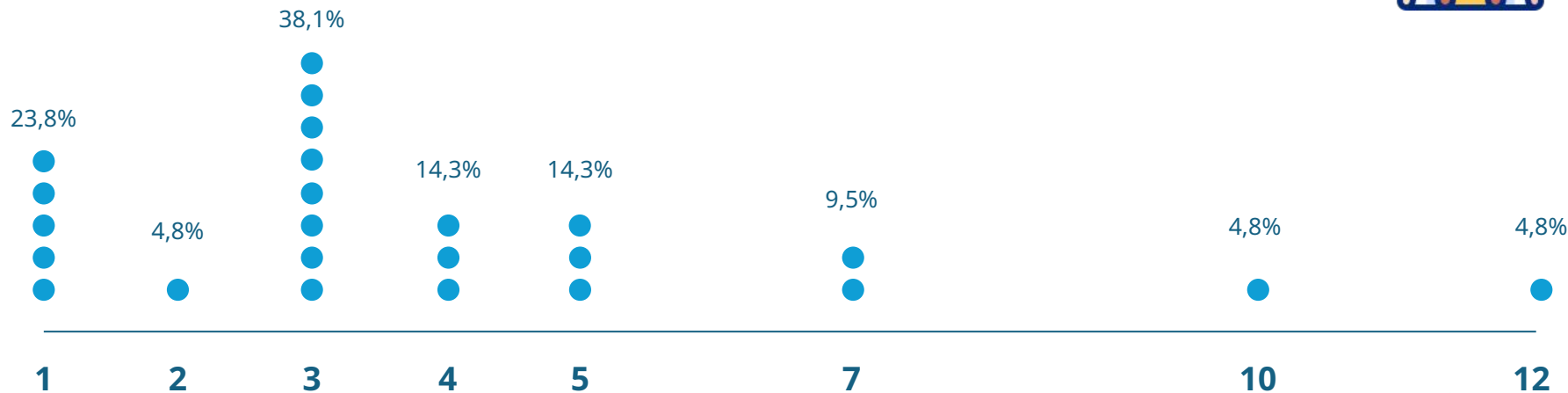
1405

new datasets
published by the OBIS Nodes
since SG-12

Data based on 26 respondents.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: staff members

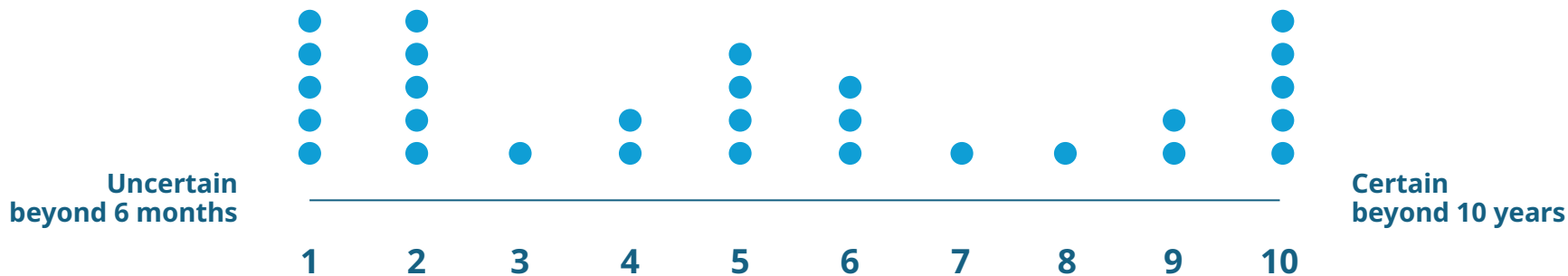


Most nodes (about 38 %) report teams of 3 people, while 24 % operate with only 1 staff member. A smaller fraction have 4–5 staff (each 14 %), and a few larger nodes (7–12 staff) represent under 10 % of all OBIS Nodes.

Data based on 26 respondents.
One dot, one OBIS Node.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: funding security



The OBIS community displays strong disparities in funding security while about one-third of participants report long-term stability, a similar share are uncertain beyond a few months. This underscores the need for sustained, equitable funding mechanisms to ensure continuity across all regions and maintain global capacity.

Data based on 29 respondents.
One dot, one OBIS Node.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: key achievements overview



7

**papers published
by the OBIS Nodes**
(and 3 in the making)



62

training events
organized or actively
supported by the OBIS
Nodes



24

**OBIS Nodes directly
contributed to
biodiversity strategies or
conservation
frameworks**



28

**events
where the Nodes
represented
the OBIS Community**

Data based on 26 respondents.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: **key achievements**



1- Expanding data mobilization, improving data availability

- Publication by the OBIS Nodes of **1405 new datasets**, with several Nodes doubling their output
- Publication by the OBIS Nodes of **7 scientific papers** using OBIS data (3 more in preparation)
- Publication and curation of **2 global databases**, expanding OBIS global data coverage
- Publication of **2 open-data guides** to facilitate community contributions
- Support for **dataset publication by non-specialist and local institutions**
- **Integration of national monitoring datasets** into OBIS, strengthening long-term data stewardship

Data mobilisation remains OBIS's strongest pillar, with over 40 % of all achievements relating to dataset publication and data availability improvement

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: **key achievements**



2- Strengthening pipelines and technical systems

- **Infrastructure improvements**, including reinforcement of **data quality control and validation tools**
- **Enhanced telemetry data pipelines**, enabling automated publication
- Implementation of **pilot workflows for real-time publishing** with partner organizations
- Deployment of **automated telemetry systems** supported by an open-by-default data policy
- **Standardisation of biological data formats**, improving interoperability across institutions
- Co-development of **eDNA data pipelines** in collaboration with partner organisations
- **Recruitment of specialised staff**, strengthening technical and bioinformatics capacity

Several Nodes are modernising data flows toward automation and interoperability, bridging biodiversity and ocean-observation infrastructures.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: **key achievements**



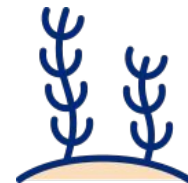
3- Capacity development: building skills and mobilizing local data

- **18 Nodes organized or participated in 62 training events**, at local, national and regional levels
- Development of **multilingual learning opportunities** to increase local capacity
- Onboarding of **new data publishers and partners**
- Targeted **capacity building for institutional staff**, improving data documentation and interoperability practices
- Organisation of **11 joint regional workshops** to promote data sharing, collaboration, and best practices for alignment with global biodiversity frameworks
- **Technical and thematic meetings to promote peer exchange** on data structures, quality metrics, and policies
- Creation of a **national institutional consortium**, advancing standardisation and collective stewardship

Capacity development is thriving in the OBIS Community, and blossoming in the Mediterranean, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific nodes, highlighting decentralised leadership.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: **key achievements**



4- Expanding the OBIS collaboration network

- Creation of a **regional coordination framework** supported by a grant to enable its operational rollout
- **Expanded cross-regional partnerships** to promote shared capacity and policy alignment
- **Strengthened international collaborations** between ocean observing and biodiversity data infrastructures, improving interoperability and data exchange
- Integration of **OBIS data into regional biodiversity information systems**, improving visibility and policy uptake

Partnerships increasingly operate on multi-node and cross-infrastructure levels, demonstrating the OBIS strength of as an integrative force in global biodiversity data governance.

Overlaps with the previous slide have not been repeated here.

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A panorama of OBIS Nodes: **key achievements**



5- Visibility, leadership, and policy impact across the OBIS community

- **Strengthened internal leadership and governance**, with community members actively contributing to the strategic direction of OBIS
- **Enhanced scientific visibility** through open-data guides and peer-reviewed papers
- **Increased policy engagement**, with OBIS data and expertise informing regional and global frameworks for ocean management and biodiversity planning
- **Greater institutional integration**, as OBIS aligns with national & regional scientific data infrastructures
- **Recognition at regional level around the world**, acknowledging OBIS community leadership
- **Active representation in global fora**, showcasing OBIS's role in advancing marine biodiversity observation and emerging technologies such as eDNA.

Thanks to its transparency and robust, community-led governance, OBIS is increasingly recognised as a trusted source of high-quality marine biodiversity data. It plays a vital role in supporting evidence-based decision-making for conservation and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

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What's next?

Overarching strategic priorities



Building sustainable infrastructure and funding

Improve data quality, validation, interoperability

Secure institutional and financial sustainability

Encourage innovation and data-driven research

Scaling up regional cooperation and policy engagement

Build regional capacity and coordination mechanisms

Deepen policy and governance engagement

Strengthen collaboration within and beyond OBIS

Transforming data into actionable knowledge

Strengthen data mobilisation and publication

Enhance communication, outreach, and visibility



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Discussion