

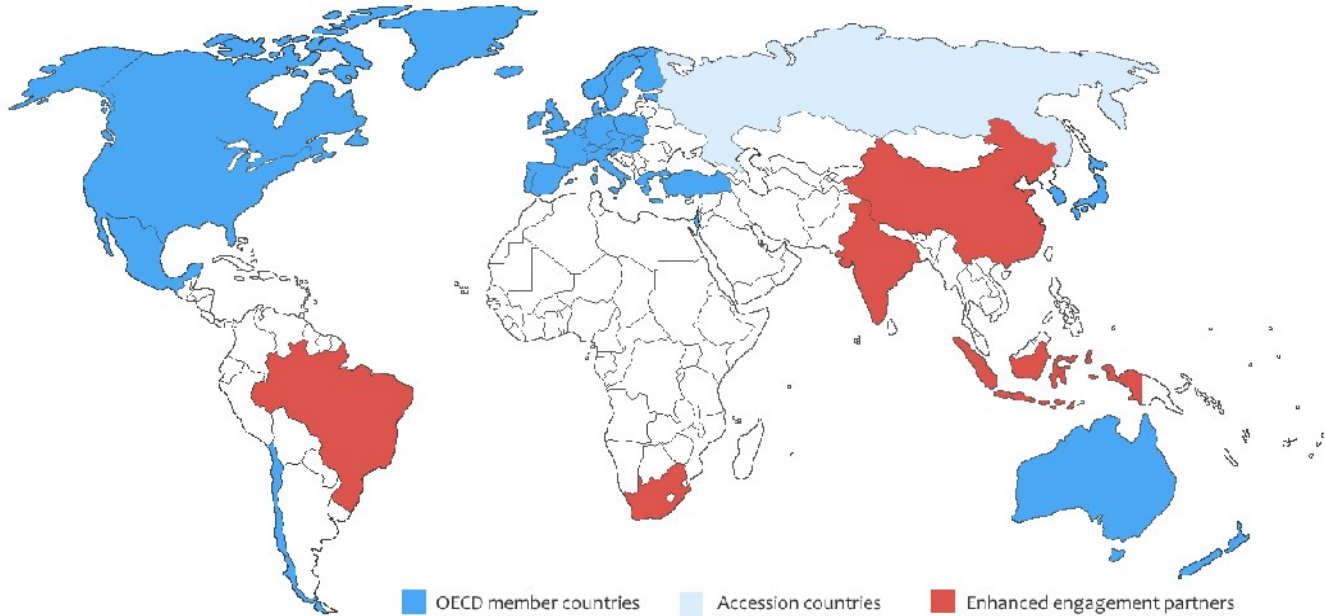


# The GBRCN

*Why it matters and what  
it needs to do*

Iain Gillespie  
Head of Science &  
Technology Policy  
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# The Goal



**Science ministers from the OECD countries plus China and South Africa decided in 2004 that:**

*A **coordinated effort** is needed to secure the proper collection, maintenance and exchange of biological resources, thereby underpinning a **sustainable scientific infrastructure for the conservation of biodiversity, advancement of research and development of biotechnology**, the promotion of its use and enhancement of economic development.*

# Implementation

- OECD carried out a **survey of implementation** in member countries. Its possible that this can be repeated further to leverage progress.
- The 5 countries that have either just joined the OECD (Chile, Israel, Slovenia) or are in the process of applying/joining (Estonia, Russia) had to demonstrate their **ability and willingness to implement** the BRC guidelines.
- The **biosecurity** part of the guidelines was given particular leverage by this exercise.
- The OECD is planning to release the results of this work shortly.

# **...so there's been good progress, but the goal is still just that...**

- *We need the GBRCN demonstration project to succeed and a meaningful global network to be created.*
- *The need is even greater today than ten years ago when the project was launched.*
- *Science is increasingly interconnected and increasingly global. New players are emerging rapidly.*
- *The political demands for capacity building, technology access and transfer continue unabated.*
- *So, what do we actually need today.....?*

# What we need from a GBRCN - 2010

- *Good quality management systems are at the heart of a GBRCN. **Good progress here.***
- *The GBRCN needs to provide one-stop shop access to materials and informatics. **Progress here is insufficient.***
- *The GBRCN needs to be open with a focus on capacity building.*
- *Inclusiveness is essential in today's world*

# What about efforts to improve quality management?

- No question that **continued efforts to implement** the BRC best practices are important.
- But the guidelines set a high level of excellence. The **effort to reach these should be rewarded** – not just the eventual success of full implementation. And there should be many ways to get to that implementation – not just one.
- Dynamism is needed in the system, to ensure real inclusiveness. The **system has to help build capacity** from within the GBRCN.

## ...And the information management system?

- Clearly the GBRCN needs to be a “**system of systems**”. So what is required is an information management system that builds on what is already there and accommodates that which is yet to come. It should be adaptable, inclusive and accessible.
- The **scope of the information** that needs to be included in the system is still not agreed. This is a major Achilles heel and needs to be addressed.
- **Concrete action** is needed here – and quickly.

## ...what else (1)?

- The OECD is **reviewing the governance of the global effort** to coordinate international action on science and technology to meet global challenges. The GBRCN will be subject to that review. The GBRCN needs to play a clear role here.
- The GBRCN has to play a **role in the access and benefit sharing arrangement** ensuring traceability and accountability and some real critical thinking is needed on how to manage brokering value. There will be no progress without a **workable plan of action** for the GBRCN in this arena. Leave the politics to others.

## ...what else (2)?

- The demonstration project needs to get the **messaging right about why countries and culture collections** should join the GBRCN – the motives and requirements are different and the confusion in messaging needs to be ironed out.

# ...what about the OECD? What can they do?

Four things are possible:

- **Re-engage in substantive discussions** on best practices/ methodologies/ standards. The only place this is at all imaginable is for biosecurity. **But the likelihood is low.**
- **Evaluation** – review where countries are on implementation and press for further action. **This is possible, but will need a champion at Committee level.**
- **Better context setting** – governance and brokerage of value. Use the GBRCN as a case study in high profile projects to leverage political action. Champion the GBRCN on the back of case studies. **This is much more easily done.**
- **Publish progress** on implementation and on networking the networks (the OECD workshop and ideally something on progress on the information management system). **This is currently in the work queue.**

## **...what else?**

**The key message from previous OECD discussions is that the culture collection community – and the user community – have to set up the GBRCN under their own terms. There is no appetite amongst governments to have the OECD establish this body. But that is NOT the same as opposition to establishment. The clear message is that YOU have to do this. We will try to help, but the answer is in your hands.....**

The GBRCN Matters. Good luck!  
And...Thank You David!!



Contacts:

[www.oecd.org/sti/innovation](http://www.oecd.org/sti/innovation)  
[www.oecd.org/biotechnology](http://www.oecd.org/biotechnology)

[Iain.Gillespie@oecd.org](mailto:Iain.Gillespie@oecd.org)