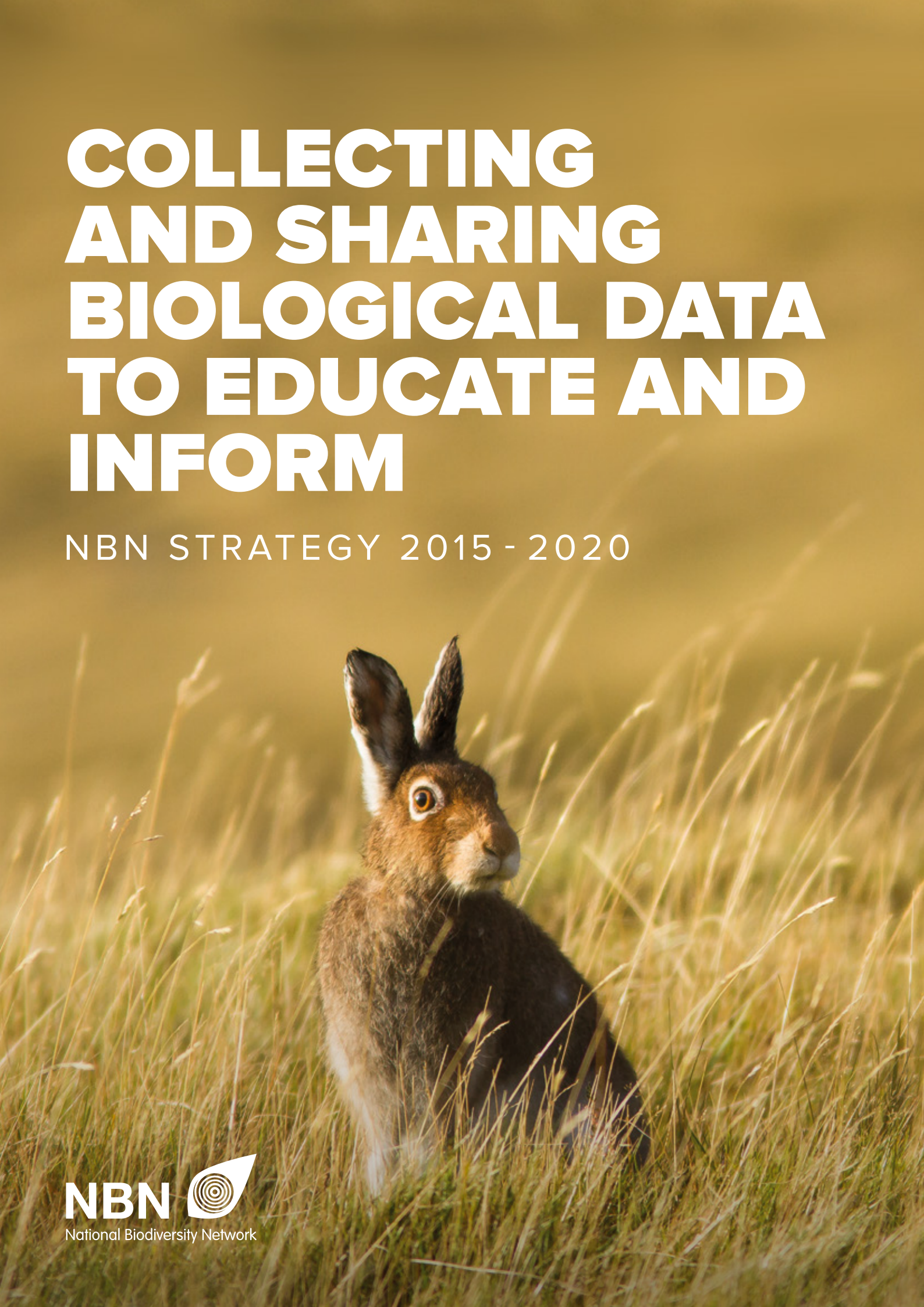
COLLECTING AND SHARING BIOLOGICAL DATA TO EDUCATE AND INFORM

NBN STRATEGY 2015 - 2020



NBN
National Biodiversity Network

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NBN members have prepared this Strategy in conjunction with the Secretariat. Note that phrases or terms "National Biodiversity Network", "NBN Trust" and "NBN" all refer to the people and organisations that are members of the NBN Trust or share data via the Network.

The Network employs a team to facilitate and coordinate its growth and development and that is referred to as the "Secretariat".

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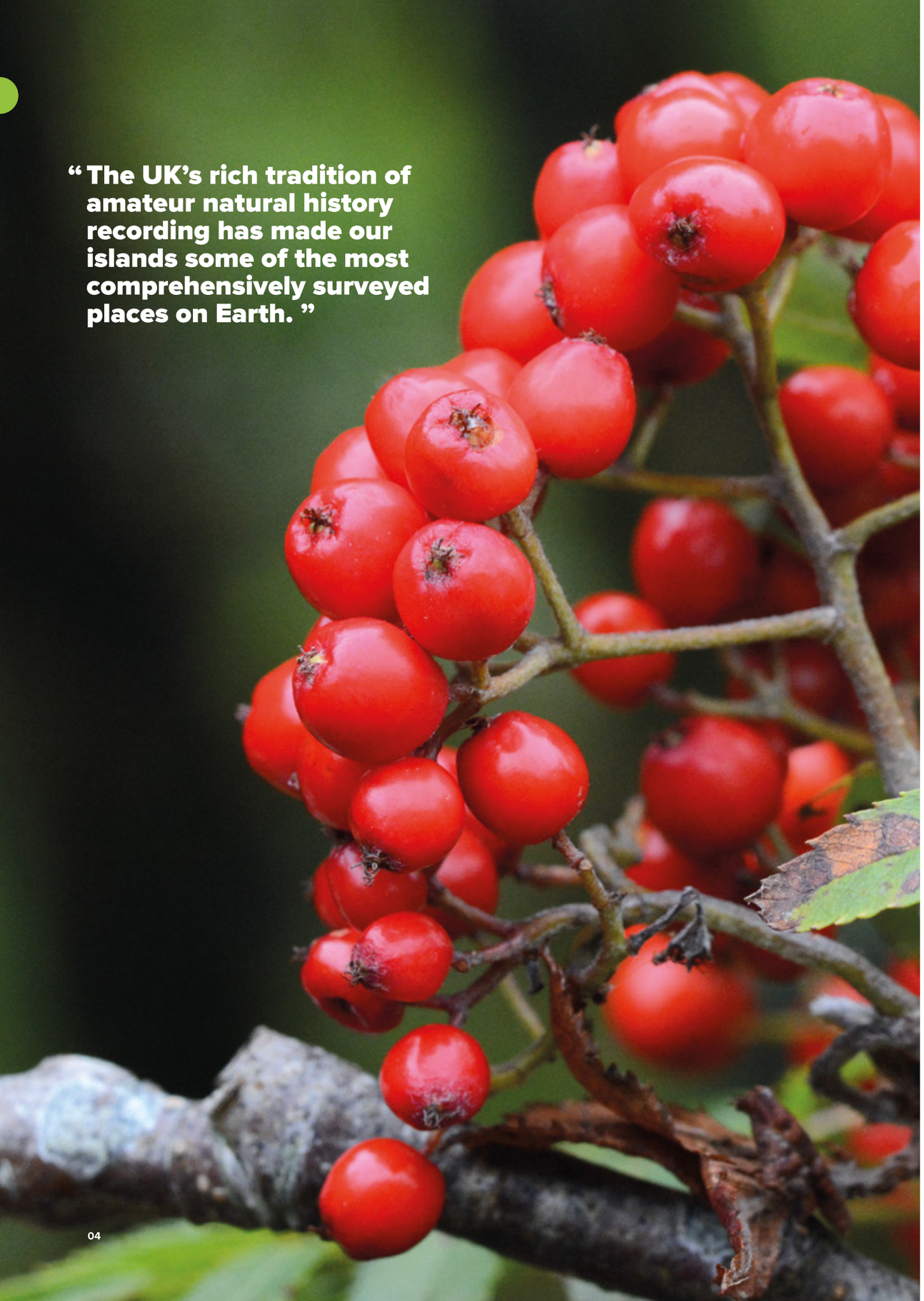


“The UK’s rich tradition of amateur natural history recording has made our islands some of the most comprehensively surveyed places on Earth.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Biodiversity Network is a membership organisation built on principles of collaboration and sharing.

Our vision is that:
“**Biological data collected and shared openly by the Network are central to the UK’s learning and understanding of its biodiversity and are critical to all decision-making about nature and the environment.**”

To achieve that vision the Network must deliver improvements to the recording, collection, verification, curation, aggregation, analysis and use of biological data in the UK.

The Network’s priority is to grow the national commitment to sharing biological data and information. Through this we will provide a comprehensive, unparalleled and authoritative understanding of our natural world and will use that knowledge effectively to educate and inform.

We have five strategic aims:

- ***Record, collect, diversify, enhance and mobilise biological data:*** We will grow our capacity and capability to record and collect high quality biological data.
- ***Make biological data and information available to everyone:*** We will continue to collaborate to embed our collective data and knowledge creation at the heart of biodiversity learning and environmental decision-making.
- ***Captivate and engage people about wildlife:*** We will promote the natural world, the enjoyment and importance of observing nature and biological recording and the utility and power of our shared data.
- ***Provide the best biological information management infrastructure:*** We will ensure stability, security and usability for an increasingly mature data management infrastructure.
- ***Support the development of the NBN, its Board and its members:*** We will support and grow our Network as an indispensable partnership for nature and in the successful implementation of this strategy.

PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY

“OUR BIOLOGICAL RECORDS ARE NOT WORKING AS HARD AS THEY COULD. WE WILL TURN THE UK’S BIODIVERSITY DATABASES INTO A TREASURE TROVE RATHER THAN A HOARD”

OUR FIVE YEAR PLAN

This document sets out the strategic direction for the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) over the next five years (2015-2020). It sets ambitious objectives and seeks innovative approaches to motivate Network members to collaborate, and become increasingly committed, to achieving the NBN vision. This strategy supports and provides direction for Network members and communities throughout the UK in recording, collecting, verifying, curating, aggregating, analysing and making use of biological data. The NBN seeks to develop a data literate culture, where the value of biological data is appreciated, especially in relation to its onward re-use. The NBN will work together to embed itself, and its collective data and knowledge creation at the heart of UK biodiversity learning and environmental decision-making.

Phrases or terms "National Biodiversity Network", "NBN Trust" and "NBN" all refer to the people and organisations that are members of the NBN Trust or share data via the Network. The Network employs a team to facilitate and coordinate its growth and development and that is referred to as the "Secretariat".

Background to the National Biodiversity Network

The NBN Trust is a charitable organisation with a membership that shares biological data and information under the banner of the National Biodiversity Network, usually referred to as the NBN. The Trust was formed in 2000 with the original vision of making all biological records freely and easily available to everyone. It was established to simplify data exchange in the UK following the 1992 Rio Summit. A report from the "Coordinating Commission for Biological Recording" led a number of organisations in the UK to come together in 1997 to pool resources to build the NBN. Since 2000, Network members have collaborated to set standards for data exchange, to raise awareness of the importance of biological recording, and to share and aggregate data both regionally and nationally.

Biological data are recorded by many organisations and people, collected together using a range of systems, verified by experts, curated by a wide range of organisations and then aggregated and shared regionally primarily by Local Environmental Record Centres and nationally via the NBN Gateway (**https://data.nbn.org.uk**) which holds more than 110 million biological records.

NBN members make data available to achieve a wide range of end uses including:

- Environmental decision-making
- The creation of species atlases, guides and floras
- Monitoring and documenting changes in the state of the environment
- Informing discussion and debate about natural capital and ecosystem services
- For education and ecological research
- For nature conservation management
- For restoration and rewilding

The work of the NBN is facilitated by a Secretariat and governed by the NBN Board of Trustees.

WHO IS THE NBN?

The Network's members include most of the UK's national biological recording schemes and societies, many of the UK's largest wildlife charities and non-governmental organisations as well as most Local Environmental Record Centres, government agencies, research institutions, museums, botanic gardens and members of the public.

We are one of the largest partnerships for nature in the United Kingdom.

A typical Network species map displays data shared by twelve member organisations.

We are a team with more than 130 members (people and organisations).

We have aggregated more than 850 datasets.

We have shared more than 110 million biological records.

Each year more than 627 million records are downloaded from the NBN Gateway for research and learning about nature.

We know the distribution and status of most protected species, pollinators and invasive non-native species in the UK and can help with their management and conservation.

OUR VISION

Biological data, collected and shared openly by the Network, are central to the UK's learning and understanding of its biodiversity and are critical to all decision-making about nature and the environment.

COMMON GROUND

NBN members share common ground and it is here that collaboration is of utmost importance for delivering the greatest benefits and efficiencies. They are as follows:

- Creating and maintaining as complete a picture as possible of UK biodiversity (at all levels of organisation), largely through volunteer biological recording by amateur naturalists.
- Sharing biological data with each other and with the public to educate and inform.
- Coordinating and facilitating improvements across the biodiversity monitoring and surveillance cycle (through improved data collection, increased data attribution and improved collation, analysis and reporting).
- Promoting the collective work of the Network to ensure long-term support for biological recording and for the necessary infrastructure to support and enable it.
- Developing and adhering to a single standards framework for data collection and exchange.
- Promoting biological recording as a critical part of the process of learning about and caring for the UK environment.
- Ensuring security and stability of data management.

NBN'S UNIQUE ROLE

Many individuals and organisations are involved in the recording, collection, management and dissemination of biological data and information in the UK. Others are involved in biodiversity training, education, advocacy and policy development. The National Biodiversity Network has a unique role in various aspects of this work. That role includes:

- Providing a collective view of marine, terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in the UK.
- Setting standards for data collection, sharing and dissemination via the UK data flow pathway.
- Advocating for the value of biological recording, and the collective data holdings and work of Network members.
- Coordinating and facilitating activities and events to promote the network, biological recording, data sharing, use and knowledge creation.
- Acting as a representative and collaborative Network involved in biological recording, data verification, curation, data analysis and use.

THE VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY TO US ALL

The value society places on nature, natural resources and biodiversity has changed over time. It is often assumed we understand the importance of biodiversity to all aspects of human life on earth, from oxygen production to provision of food, but in many situations that importance is overlooked.

A growing awareness of the critical importance of the natural world to humans, and to itself, has fuelled an industry around understanding its value and contribution to society.

Phrases such as 'natures services', 'ecosystem services' and 'natural capital' are all now used to reflect the benefits provided by biodiversity. Those benefits may be services such as provisioning (e.g., food and water), regulation (e.g., climate) and support (e.g., crop pollination), or may be spiritual or recreational benefits.

The work undertaken by NBN members, through collecting, curating and sharing biological data can be used to inform much of the debate over the value and importance of nature.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND GROWTH OF THE NBN

Since the NBN was formed there has been a growing list of reasons for its ongoing development and expansion. Most important are the Network's significant achievements realised through collaboration. Those include the national aggregation and sharing of more than 110 million biological records (as at June 2015), raising awareness of the importance of biological recording, setting standards for data exchange, data verification and for referencing taxa in Network databases (using Taxon Version Keys), the growth of regional and national data collation (via Local Environmental Record Centres and the NBN Gateway), the increase in online recording, the increase in application of data in environmental decision-making and improvements in data management and visualisation.

Additional drivers behind the continued need for growth in the NBN include:

- **Curating existing data** - many years of fieldwork by hundreds of organisations, individuals and government agencies in the UK have resulted in hundreds of millions of biological records being collected. These data deserve determined efforts to digitise, curate and care for them so they can be used effectively.
- **Environmental impact assessment and local planning** – information about biodiversity is required in effective environmental decision making and planning for growth and development.
- **State of the environment reporting** – demonstrating accurately what changes are occurring over time in the UK's biodiversity as a result of human activity or not.
- **Public expectation** – an expectation to see the most appropriate action being taken by government and conservation organisations working together to conserve and protect the UK's natural environment and to avoid duplication of effort and competition.
- **Aichi targets** – under the Convention on Biological Diversity a 10-year strategic plan was developed and approved by signatory nations (including the UK) that included five strategic goals and 20 Aichi Targets (e.g., Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied).
- **INSPIRE Directive 2007** (transposed into UK law in December 2009) – legislation that aims to improve the joining up of, and access to, existing spatial data across the European Union at a local, regional, national and international level, to facilitate improvements in sharing of spatial data between public authorities; and improving public access to spatial data.
- **Government strategy** – successful implementation of government environmental and biodiversity strategies is dependent on support of NBN members and volunteer biological recorders and verifiers.
- **Government funding** – there are declining public funds available to support biological recording and biodiversity monitoring. Greater collaboration will be needed to achieve strategic outcomes for biodiversity and a demonstration that the Network can collaborate will be more attractive to government sponsors.
- **Growth in respectability of citizen science** - there is a growing awareness of the positive role citizens can play in science through their own observation and research. Citizen Scientists, Citizen Observatories and Professional Amateurs (Pro-Ams) are phrases now used to describe these roles. The coverage and quality of data collection that can be achieved from citizen science has grown over the last hundred years to the point where it is now a fundamental building block of most biological recording initiatives in the UK.

PREPARATION OF THIS STRATEGY

Two Extraordinary General Meetings in February 2013 and February 2014, attended by a wide range of NBN members, saw the development of a draft skeleton structure for a new NBN strategy. The Secretariat then sought wider consultation and input over the 10 months from July 2014 to February 2015.

This was achieved through a questionnaire that was completed by more than 220 people. The Secretariat also organised a series of nine workshops in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further consultation was undertaken specifically on the NBN technical infrastructure and the creation of a new NBN vision.

The Secretariat sought feedback about NBN Gateway user needs using a second questionnaire that was completed by more than 150 Network members. The Secretariat employed consultants to undertake a full review of the NBN Gateway and the NBN website.

As a result of this wide engagement process more than 450 Network members and associates, data providers, potential collaborators and NBN Gateway users throughout the UK have influenced the development of this five-year strategy. The intention was to ensure the Network's collaborative nature was reflected in the preparation of this strategy.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

“WE WILL GROW OUR COMMITMENT TO SHARE BIOLOGICAL DATA AND INFORMATION TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE, UNPARALLELED AND AUTHORITATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR NATURAL WORLD.”

NBN STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The NBN Strategy 2015 - 2020 has five strategic aims:

1. Record, collect, diversify, enhance and mobilise biological data

Our Network will develop and maintain systems to support biological recording, plug data gaps and verify and mobilise legacy data. This includes increased standardisation and systematic collection of data and greater use of data attribution.

2. Make biological data and information available to everyone

Our Network will process, organise and display biological data to create information for use by everyone. This includes increasing the visibility and usability of data, providing for innovation in how data can be used, and providing improved interfaces for rapid access to data.

3. Captivate and engage people about wildlife

Our Network will communicate about the natural world, its unique, rare and threatened and extraordinary elements, as well as those that are representative and commonplace. This includes communicating about the value of biological data, the importance of the Network's aggregated data holdings, the importance of involving people in field recording and verification, the role of data curators and the many and varied applications for biological data.

4. Provide the best biological information management infrastructure

Our Network will ensure its technical data recording and storage infrastructure is the best it can be. This includes ensuring security, stability and interoperability of Network data systems at all spatial scales.

5. Support the development of the NBN, its Board and its members

Our Network will support its own administration and ongoing development as the central hub for the national partnership, as well as support the Network's wider membership, business processes and Board.

PRINCIPLES OF THE NBN STRATEGY

The following are the core principles that the NBN will adhere to in its work to achieve its vision. In general it is considered that biodiversity is better served when innovation is unrestricted by NBN members and their systems. Worst-case scenarios should not drive NBN policy development.

Finally, remedies to actual issues (such as privacy of personal information) should be narrowly tailored so that beneficial uses of the NBN technical infrastructure and NBN member data are maximised.

NBN members will therefore:

- Wherever possible make data free and openly available in perpetuity (including for non-native species, pollinators and other elements of UK biodiversity).
- Diversify data collection to plug gaps systematically in the collective UK data holdings for species and ecosystems.
- Support verification of data to increase data quality.
- Improve the flow of data through the NBN systems.
- Achieve interoperability between our data and other spatial environmental layers.
- Increase the efficiency of how public resources are used (e.g. reduce multiple data management centres and share common solutions etc.).
- Improve user experience of all NBN tools and data management infrastructure.
- Control access to data for sensitive or threatened species.
- Meet agreed standards for recording, data collection, attributes, accuracy levels and metadata.
- Regularly evaluate the maturity of data management systems.

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

A multi-year action plan entitled "National Biodiversity Network Action Plan: 2015 – 2020" will be published in 2015 to set out how NBN members will collaborate, what they will do, and how, to achieve the NBN's strategic aims and objectives. It will also describe the roles and responsibilities for NBN members in delivering this strategy.

That action plan is being compiled with information collected from NBN members during the strategy development process run by the Network's Secretariat in 2013-2015. The aim of that engagement was to ensure the action plan development reinforced the collaborative nature of the Network and achieved greater buy-in to its implementation.

A series of indicators will be developed that will be used to monitor progress with delivering this strategy.

NBN DATA FLOW PATHWAY

Record & Collect

- Capture
- Enter
- Digitise
- Transcribe
- Translate

National

Diverse suite of tools and systems for data capture (online or other): For example, iRecord, iSpot, BirdTrack, Mammal Tracker, national schemes, Indicia platform, Consultants Portal, Rodis, Living Record and systems for personal recorders.

Regional

County recorders, local natural history societies, bird clubs, regional and geographic schemes and societies, Local Environmental Record Centre data capture systems.

Quality Assure

- Check
- Verify
- Validate
- Clean

National

Quality control through use of a maintained set of NBN Record Cleaner rules, iRecord, bespoke national schemes, Recorder 6 and expert county recorders and verifiers throughout the UK.

Regional

County recorders, local natural history societies, bird clubs, Local Environmental Record Centre systems and regional schemes and societies.

Curate

- Describe
- Standards
- Metadata
- Archive

National

Data curated by national schemes and societies, NGO and government databases, BRC Community warehouse.

Regional

Local natural history societies, regional and geographic schemes and societies, Local Environmental Record Centres.

Aggregate

- NBN Gateway
- Collate
- Web services
- Online maps
- LERC data centres

Global

Data uploaded to GBIF for global analysis and use.

National

All UK data shared nationally via the NBN Gateway and using web services operated by the NBN and its members to an agreed level of service reliability.

Regional

Regional data shared via Local Environmental Record Centres as regional nodes of the NBN.

Analyse

- Model
- Smooth
- Integrate
- Overlay
- Atlas maps

Global

Research analysis is undertaken at a global level through GBIF using data aggregated from providers around the world. This includes rapid geospatial analysis for Red List assessment, visual analysis of data and a Biodiversity Data Assessment Tool amongst others.

National

Data analysed using a range of tools including rNBN. Data analyses run by NBN members such as national scheme atlases and wildlife NGOs. Research by British Ecological Society Macroecology special interest group, CEH, universities and other research institutions.

Regional

Local natural history societies, Local Environmental Record Centres and regional schemes and societies undertaking a range of analyses including modelling and mapping.

Use

- State of Environment
- Monitoring
- Policy and planning
- Research
- Natural Capital
- Offsetting

Global

Global datasets are used for a wide range of purposes including developing watch lists for invasive species, analysing habitat availability for amphibians, investigating species diversity and studies of climate impacts on species amongst many others.

National

Combined data holdings of NBN used by tools such as Nature Near Me and the NBN Gateway interactive mapping tool. Data is used in National atlases, State of Nature reporting, government biodiversity activities, biodiversity planning processes and tools (e.g. Environment Agency).

Regional

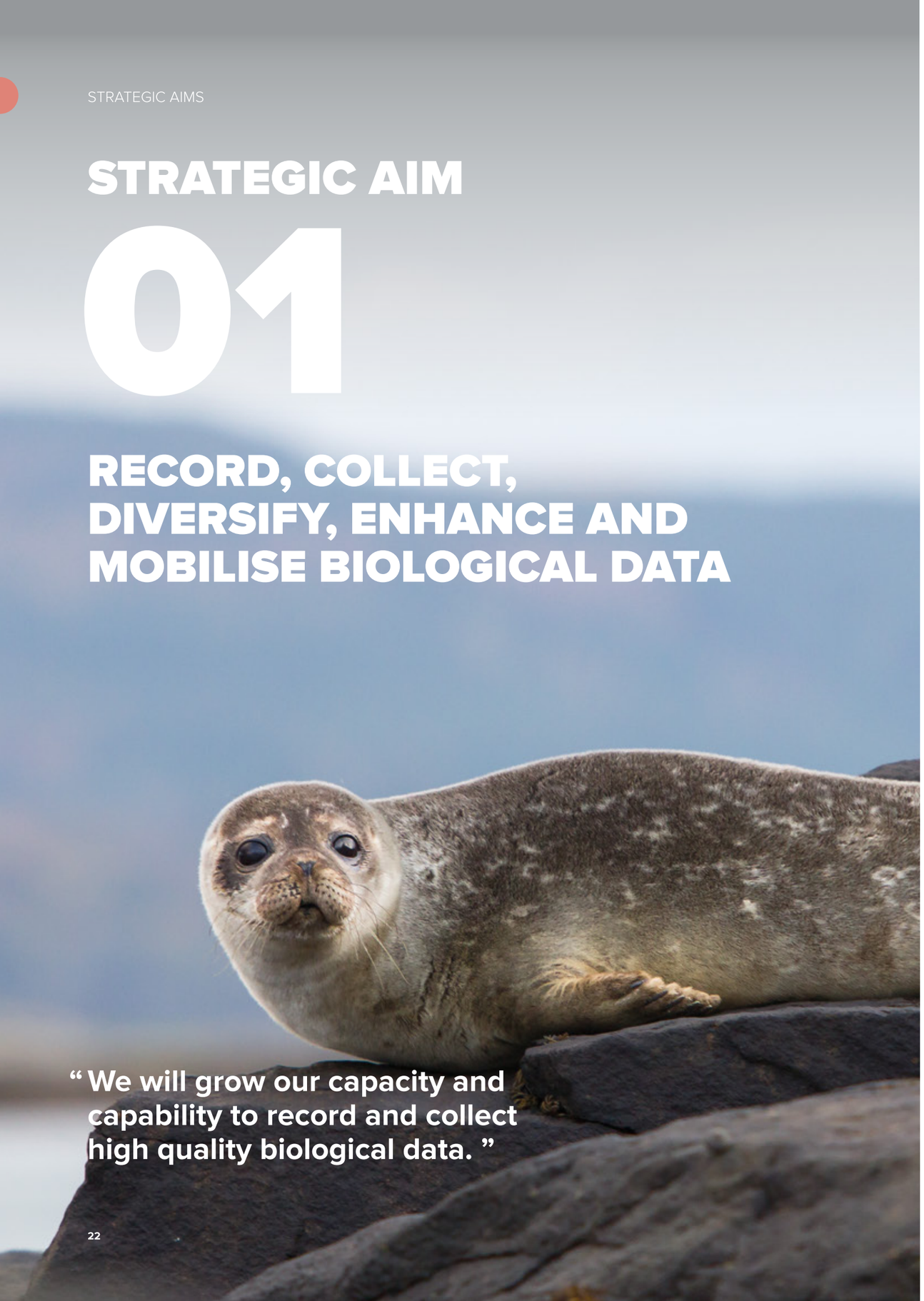
Local Environmental Record Centre biodiversity data services and Territorial Local Authority biodiversity planning processes. Use by local recorders and local natural history societies.

STRATEGIC AIMS

“WE MUST DELIVER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RECORDING, COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, CURATION, AGGREGATION, ANALYSIS AND USE OF BIOLOGICAL DATA.”

STRATEGIC AIM 01

RECORD, COLLECT, DIVERSIFY, ENHANCE AND MOBILISE BIOLOGICAL DATA



“ We will grow our capacity and capability to record and collect high quality biological data. ”

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

The NBN will support the continued recording and collection of biological records, the mobilisation of historic and legacy data holdings and the development of a sustainable verification network to ensure improvements in the quality of data.

The NBN will advance biological recording, data mobilisation and data sharing to ensure the full diversity of data types are collected, verified for accuracy and disseminated for use.

Local Environmental Record Centres hold more than 90 million records and the NBN Gateway holds more than 110 million species records, but large taxonomic and geographic gaps still exist in the NBN’s current data holdings. Similarly, limited habitat and ecosystem data restrict analysis and research potential.

The NBN must accommodate new emerging techniques for data collection including remote sensing and eDNA

Other reasons include:

- Inaccurate, low resolution, ad-hoc or unstructured survey data has relatively limited application when compared with more structured data.
- An increasing desire by people to record the natural world and the ease of submitting records online.
- Most biological data from historic surveys are not shared because they have not been mobilised (including images, maps, museum collections, university research data and large amounts of historic data from government).
- Data cannot be used effectively, or safeguarded in perpetuity, until they are identified and digitised.
- Data flow is complicated, too slow and data may never reach all potential end users.
- Biological data collection and quality control are not standardised.
- The Network is heavily reliant on volunteer biological recorders who need tools, resources and skills to do their work.
- The continued need to engage new audiences to increase recording capacity and capability.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NBN member systems will become the primary means for standardising and sharing biological data. The NBN will do this by:

- Facilitating arbitration of standards to maximise the usefulness of new data, methods and technology.
- Increasing, streamlining and standardising the recording and collection of high quality, structured and representative data.
- Diversifying the data available through the NBN (to plug taxonomic and geographic gaps and include habitat and ecosystem data).
- Accelerating biological data flow (‘time to market’) from recorders to users (without compromising data quality).
- Supporting, motivating and celebrating the success of existing biological recorders.
- Continuing to grow the number of people involved in biological recording.

STRATEGIC AIM 02

MAKE BIOLOGICAL DATA AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

“We will continue to collaborate to embed our collective data and knowledge creation at the heart of biodiversity learning and environmental decision-making. ”

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

The NBN will organise and display biological data to create information for use by everyone and will make biological and environmental data interoperable. NBN data services provided by Network members will become the preferred means of accessing biological data in the UK.

The NBN seeks to maximise use of biological data. To do this, it is essential to understand user needs so that user-friendly data access systems and processes can be developed. Once collected, biological data should be available for multiple uses:

- To help guide conservation management
- To influence local planning decisions
- To monitor the effectiveness of management and the changing state of nature
- To test fundamental questions in ecology
- To inform policy development
- To report against national and international legislation
- To achieve environmental education.

Despite this potential, biological data have not been applied as effectively as they might. This is because of a lack, or inconsistency, of data collection methodologies, problems with data accuracy, lack of data visibility and openness, slow uptake of new analysis and visualisation tools and limited awareness of how data may be applied.

Investment in biological recording over a long period of time, largely by volunteers and citizen scientists, has not been accompanied by a corresponding investment in data use.

Critical to the NBN’s success is that its members make their collective biological data holdings and information available for use. This is vital so the Network remains relevant and valued as the primary biological data sharing partnership in the UK. It is also important to be able to promote the significant added value that biological recorders bring to the collective understanding of UK biological diversity.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NBN members will make their systems the preferred means of accessing biological data and information. They will do this by:

- Trebling visits to NBN member data systems.
- Increasing the visibility and openness of UK biological data in perpetuity.
- Increasing the application and use of NBN member data.
- Enabling and facilitating permission-less innovation by data users.
- Sharing all biological data internationally and collaborating with partners in Europe and GBIF.

STRATEGIC AIM 03

CAPTIVATE & ENGAGE PEOPLE ABOUT WILDLIFE

“We will promote the natural world, the enjoyment and importance of observing nature and biological recording and the utility and power of our shared data. ”

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

The NBN and its members will promote the natural world, the enjoyment and importance of biological recording and the power of aggregated biological data.

The NBN will engage more people in appreciating the natural world and in turn encouraging them to record what they see.

The NBN will raise its profile so that collectively the Network and its members are known as a “centre of excellence” for biological recording and data sharing. The NBN will engage a new generation of biological recorders and nourish and champion those who have been dedicated to recording for many years. Many people and organisations already do this work, but there remain significant issues that make increased effort across the Network vitally important. They include:

- The ongoing biodiversity crisis that suggests current levels of engagement are insufficient.
- Limited numbers of recorders in some parts of the country, for some taxonomic groups and for habitat and ecosystem data.
- Lack of a clear learning pathway to enable people to grow their knowledge and expertise.
- Limited appreciation of the value of biodiversity, and the value of data collected about its changing status and condition.
- Lack of awareness of the health benefits of an active biological recorder lifestyle and of contact time with nature.
- Limited knowledge of biodiversity amongst a large part of the population and relatively passive objectification of nature rather than active participation in its protection and restoration.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

The NBN will captivate and engage people about the natural world, about biological recording and the value of their data.

It will do this by:

- Engaging the public about biodiversity and biological recording.
- Promoting the value and use of biological data.
- Promoting the NBN and its members as the principal providers of biological and environmental data in the UK.
- Promoting the NBN and increasing participation through membership and sponsorship.

STRATEGIC AIM 04

PROVIDE THE BEST BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

“We will ensure stability, security and usability for an increasingly mature data management infrastructure. ”

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

The NBN will ensure the technical data recording, storage and dissemination infrastructure used by the Network and its members is the best it can be.

The NBN will work collaboratively, and support Network members, to develop the best biological information management infrastructure with which to record, collect, curate, aggregate, analyse and use biological data in a secure and professional manner.

Since biological recording began there has been a huge investment in the collection of biological data in the UK, largely by volunteers and citizen scientists. The NBN must now demonstrate the value and importance of biological data by investing appropriately in its curation and aggregation.

Recorder motivation is significantly affected by the speed at which data flows through the NBN systems and by the feedback received. Therefore the NBN must ensure the infrastructure and data flow processes surrounding it are fast (without compromising data quality) and provide useful information to recorders. Security of NBN data systems is paramount given the potential for malicious hacking. It is also critical that the NBN’s data infrastructure is future proofed, interoperable and regularly reviewed so that a continuous, reliable service may be provided to members.

By working in this way the NBN will set an example to others internationally and to new potential Network members.

Significant issues remain which include:

- Development of independent and competing data management silos for certain taxonomic groups or geographic regions.
- Only partial use of data standards and limited sharing of best practice.
- Technological limitations of existing systems and limited interoperability of data infrastructure.
- Limited awareness of the functionality of existing systems.
- Complex and slow systems for adding data to some systems and limited resourcing for a new approach.
- Slow data flow through the NBN systems and duplication of data upload systems.
- Lack of confidence in stability and service reliability of NBN tools and systems.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

The NBN will build the best biological data infrastructure in the world by:

- Providing a stable, secure and sustainable platform for the NBN infrastructure offering a known and reliable level of service.
- Standardising the tools and systems used by the NBN.
- Improving the interoperability of the NBN data infrastructure (with other biodiversity information systems and with habitat and ecosystem data).

STRATEGIC AIM 05

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NBN, ITS BOARD AND ITS MEMBERS

“We will support and grow our Network as an indispensable partnership for nature and in the successful implementation of this strategy. ”

WHY DO WE WANT TO DO THIS?

The NBN will support its own development, its wider membership, its business processes and the Board of Trustees.

The NBN will support its own development including helping the Board of Trustees and Network members to achieve sustainable growth and funding.

The NBN has a unique and important role to play in the UK to support both biodiversity and the people and organisations that care about it. An unsupported Network will lead to inefficiency in attempting to deliver the range of tasks and services that it currently performs.

For example, the NBN is unique in that it provides a shared and an increasingly comprehensive view of UK biodiversity both regionally and nationally that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

Network members already collaborate to deliver the many aims and objectives described in this strategy, but without a national Network, that coordination and collaboration will not be achieved as effectively.

Furthermore, NBN development is needed to ensure support for membership (including the provision of resources, networking opportunities and clear standards and leadership). Implementation of this strategic aim will significantly increase Network outputs and deliver positive outcomes.

Finally, the Charities Commission and Companies House legally require the NBN to implement many support activities.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

The NBN will support the sustainable development and growth of the organisation. It will do this by:

- Providing security for the NBN (structural and financial) and supporting Network members.
- Doubling the NBN membership in five years.
- Providing leadership in coordinating and growing the NBN.

“ We must make the most of the time, hard work and expertise that volunteers are generous enough to donate in observing and documenting our natural world ”