

NBN Working Groups updates

Report by Rachel Stroud

PURPOSE

1. This paper provides a short update on progress in establishing each of the eight strategic working groups:

1. Quality control and record determination and verification
2. Mobilising historic data
3. Biological recording online
4. Improving biological data flows
5. Increasing use of our data
6. Captivating and engaging people
7. Network support and development
8. Strategy for the UK Species Inventory

The list of interested parties for each working group (lead, partner, keep informed) have been developed and the Terms of Reference for each working group are in draft. Two working groups have been formally established with the first meetings held on the 12th February 2016.

Board Actions

2. Note the formation of two working groups and their first meeting
3. Note the progress, in particular in working group 5. Increasing use of our data
4. Note the need to draw up the final Terms of Reference for the remaining groups

1. Quality control and record determination and verification

First meeting on this working group held on the 12th February

2. Mobilising historic data

Rachel to continue developing this working group, leading on from the successful crowd-sourcing summit in September 2015. Kew Garden would like to be involved as this links in heavily with their five year strategy. Work has been delayed taking this group forward following John's passing and Rachel taking on the role of Interim CEO.

3. Biological recording online

First meeting on this working group held on the 12th February

4. Improving biological data flows

The original intention for this Working Group was to release a tender for the evaluation of NBN data partners against the national data flow pathway. The aim being to understand what is limiting data transfer at each stage from recorder to use.

However, upon further discussion with Tim Hill it was agreed that an assessment criteria would need to be developed before this work could be ready for tender. Tim Hill and Rachel Stroud have therefore agreed that the working group be set up to create this data flow assessment criteria and to decide, collectively, the merits of this being a self assessment evaluation or an external audit

Draft Terms of Reference are being developed by Tim Hill and Rachel Stroud.

5. Increasing use of our data

Formal terms of reference for this working group are still to be developed however, Tom Webb has been taking this stream of working forward through a project in Sheffield, as a pilot-project for wider events.

Sheffield UseR group - a group of people from the university and wider community who are interested in doing interesting things with open data, mainly using R- have organised a series of 'hack'-type events, involving the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Three events will run from 1pm to 8pm on 1st, 8th and 15th March.

The NBN will support these events through branding as an NBN initiative, promoting through NBN Trust social media, covering the expenses of Tom August to attend one of the events and NBN Secretariat attendance at the first event to introduce the day and demonstrate the importance of the initiative as part of the NBN Strategy.

6. Captivating and engaging people

Draft terms of reference developed by Mandy Henshall and work has been delayed finalising these due to the development of the new website. Contact has been made with NFBR and Kew Gardens both of whom are keen to work on developing these terms of reference alongside the Secretariat. While setting up the formal working group has been delayed, the NBN Secretariat has already begun delivering actions in Strategic Aim 3 (Captivate and Engage people about wildlife), through activities such as: the inaugural NBN awards, redesign of the NBN website, rebranding the NBN newsletter, and a research project on recorder motivation and demographics.

7. Network support and development

No progress to date.

8. Strategy for the UK Species Inventory

Chris Raper and John Tweddle drawing up the Terms of Reference. The areas that are in scope, key issues, discussion points and required outputs for the group have been developed. Final document needs completing