

## **Evidence of the need for SBIF.**

### ***Conference Report BioRec 75. (1975) BRISC.***

Dr Morton Boyd;

“that the current diverse and uncoordinated network of data bodies should be improved to cope with the increasing amount of biological information”.

“that there is a great need to coordinate the local schemes with national ones”.

### ***A Handbook for Biological Record Centres (1978) BRC.***

It would be tragic if the wealth of amateur talent for, and interest in, natural history in this country remains largely untapped because of the lack of a system for ensuring the flow of data from those who have it to those who require it.

If the present unsatisfactory position is to be improved it will be necessary to ensure that in every local authority area there is a centre which has responsibility for stimulating the collection of biological information on sites of known or possible natural history interest, and of bringing together all the available information about the distribution of species in the area from national and local sources.

### ***Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report. Volume 1. (1995).***

We recommend a three-pronged approach to improve the quality and accessibility of data and biological recording. This is:-

- Making the maximum use of existing data.;
- Developing a nationally based biodiversity database using a staged approach; and
- Developing a locally based biodiversity information system through establishment of local consortium funding.

Local centres for data lie at the centre of an effective system (of data management). In particular local data and information are needed to produce LBAPs. Local and regional centres both serve the locality and provide information needed for the national picture.

### ***Biological Recording in the UK: Present Practice and Future Developments (1995). Department of the Environment/ JNCC.***

Although considerable effort is expended on biological survey and surveillance in the UK by volunteers and professional and statutory bodies no effective system exists for the overall coordination of recording and monitoring of wildlife and habitat resources.

***LRCs within the NBN (1997). NBN.***

LRCs will fulfil three key roles within the NBN. They will meet the information management needs of a range of organisations, provide local focus for naturalists and recorders and act as a link to national datasets.

***SNH/ BRISC meeting March 2004.***

Main agreements made at the meeting

1. A National Strategy is required.
2. The National Strategy should address the role of LRCs in the wider context of biodiversity information management and should identify their particular niche.
3. The National Strategy needs to be owned, and therefore developed, by a wide partnership of interested parties.

***A National Plan for Local Record Centres in Scotland (2004). BRISC.***

Poor use made of data because of ignorance and the lack of efficient exchange mechanisms.

The need for some organisation or body to provide leadership to overcome these weaknesses (related to biological recording/ data).

It is unlikely rapid progress will be made without a clear lead from an authoritative body capable of developing and supporting a nationally recognised policy (related to biological recording/ data).

***Scottish Biodiversity Forum: Implementation Plans 2005-2008. (2004)***

Action 5.8.

Develop coordinated monitoring and data management strategies for biodiversity in Scotland as part of/ linked to wider initiatives such as MAGIC Scotland and NBN

***Review of LRCs in the UK - Executive Summary (2007). Just Ecology.***

On average 70% of species records maintained at LRCs came from the voluntary sector.

***Highland Biodiversity Data Sharing Needs Analysis (2009).***

There is an immediate need to set up a securely funded and comprehensive system to assemble, validate and verify species records across the Highland area and bring them together electronically on a searchable database system so that they are available for interpretation. In addition, there is a large volume of currently inaccessible records which needs to be mobilised and added to this searchable database.

Without such a system, there is a high probability that development decisions, both large and small, would threaten the protection of Highland biodiversity, as they would be based on missing or inaccurate data.

***Forth Valley GIS survey of need for biological data. (2009). SNH.***

'The survey has confirmed the widely held view that there is general dissatisfaction with the current provision for biological data storage and access within the Central area.

There is a clear demand for access to data that is currently not being met. Over 50% of respondents require biological data to make key regulatory, statutory and policy decisions and yet the data that is needed to make these decisions is often not available, is difficult to source, is of unknown quality or is simply not fit-for-purpose.

There was interest in a range of data types but a clear focus on the availability of high quality biological data - in particular species distribution mapping. Storage of species distribution data is, by the nature of the way it is recorded, perhaps the most distributed of all the types covered by the survey and requires a co-ordinated effort to make it available to colleagues that may require access to it. There is a clear common desire to move towards a co-ordinated, standards-driven approach to data collection and provision.

***NBN Trust. Submission to the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee (2009).***

5. The petition advocates the establishment of integrated local and national structures for collecting, analysing and sharing biological data to inform decision making processes to benefit biodiversity. **This is a position that the NBN Trust supports:** the development of a biological data-sharing partnership in Scotland that is integrated with similar efforts in the other parts of the UK and indeed globally.

6. The NBN already provides some of the functions identified in the petition; namely it is a national structure which links local and national centres and it facilitates the sharing of data used to inform decision making processes related to biodiversity. What it does not do is local collating of data, analyse those data, or put the data into a local context.

***Highland Biodiversity Action Plan 2007-10 and 2011-14.***

The Highland Biodiversity Partnership identified the main barrier to effective biodiversity delivery in Highland as:

*'Lack of resources and joined up thinking relating to the collecting, accessing and disseminating of Highland's biodiversity data'.*

