

E-petition leads to new biodiversity information forum

A new forum has been established to improve the flow of biological information between conservation and scientific organisations and data users to benefit biodiversity.

The Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum was set up at an inaugural workshop hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage at Battleby on 25 May. The initiative is partly in response to the [Scottish Government e-Petition lodged by BRISC](#) in 2009. The petition asked the Scottish Government to establish integrated structures for collecting, analysing and sharing biological data to inform decision-making and benefit biodiversity. The workshop, attended by about 70 delegates, prioritised some key challenges relating to the flow of species and habitat data in Scotland, both in the terrestrial and marine environment.

A Steering Group has been established, made up of representatives from a cross-section of organisations. The Group will identify and action issues to improve data-flow, and will oversee the appointment of an SBIF Coordinator role.

For further information, please email SBIF@SNH.gov.uk.