

NBN Chief Executive's Report – July 2017

By Jo Judge

Highlights

- Successful 'launch' of the NBN Atlas and NBN Atlas Wales
- 215 million species records available on the NBN Atlas
- The NBN Atlas received 'Highly Commended' in the CIEEM NGO Impact Award
- Technical & Data Support Officer recruited
- Secured prizes for the NBN Awards from Optricon
- Funding received for an NBN Atlas Isle of Man
- Funding received for NBN Atlas running costs for 2017/18 from NE

Strategic Aim 1: Record, collect and mobilise data

1. Data Transfer to the NBN Atlas

Board Actions:

- a) **Note** data successfully transferred from the NBN Gateway to the NBN Atlas

The NBN Gateway was officially closed down on the 31st March 2017. All datasets that were covered by a signed Data Partner Agreement were transferred to the NBN Atlas (Table 1). A full copy of the datasets on the NBN Gateway at the 31st March was downloaded and archived by JNCC to provide a disaster recovery option.

Table 1. Number of datasets and records publicly available on the Gateway and transferred to the NBN Atlas.

	Publicly available on Gateway	Transferred to Atlas	% Transferred
Datasets	948	719	75.8
Records	95515924	55836122	58.5

The vast majority of datasets were transferred at the resolution at which they were publicly available on the NBN Gateway. Eleven datasets totalling 200,872 records were transferred at a lower resolution and seven datasets totalling 1,780,835 records were transferred at a higher resolution.

2. Uploading data direct to the NBN Atlas

Board Actions:

- a) **Note** procedures and guidance in place for upload of data to NBN Atlas

Datasets are still being accepted in the NBN Data Exchange format, however, the preferred format is Darwin Core. Templates and guidance for uploading data have been produced.

Strategic Aim 2: Make biological data and information available to everyone

3. Interim Capture Resolution Mechanism Update

Board Actions:

- a) **Note** postponement of decision on implementation

Discussions have taken place between CEH, ALERC and EA regarding the implementation of an offline capture resolution data transfer mechanism through the Environmental Informatics Data Centre. While the technology is available and ready

there are still ongoing discussions regarding level of use and payments for data upload. Discussions have been paused for now and will recommence in the autumn.

Strategic Aim 3. Captivate and engage people about wildlife

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper Comms Report TTE17-02 P14 prepared by Mandy Henshall
- b) **Note** separate paper Report from the Captivating & Engaging People Working Group – June 2017 TTE17-02 P15

Strategic Aim 4: Data Management Infrastructure - CHECK NUMBERS

4. NBN Atlas Update

Board actions:

- a) **Note** the updates on the NBN Atlas

The NBN Atlas and NBN Atlas Wales went 'live' on the 27th March 2017, joining the NBN Atlas Scotland. On the whole, the soft launch went well. There were three main issues that caused some concern in the first week.

1. Species searches returned non-species results
2. Taxonomy and the UKSI were returning spurious results
3. The site was running slowly

All of these issues were rectified within the first week of operation.

We are continuing to receive feedback and suggestions for enhancements which are being logged and prioritised. Bugs are fixed as soon as possible and minor enhancements are continuing to be implemented. Any suggestions for functionality that would require more significant development will be considered by the steering groups later in the year.

No further functionality is being implemented at this time. We are using the summer as a 'bedding in' period to give the network the opportunity for 'real-life' use of the system. We are planning to hold stakeholder engagement workshops in late autumn/early winter. These workshops will help to shape discussions within the steering groups and with funders.

Data on the NBN Atlas

There are currently approximately 215 million species records in 724 datasets available on the NBN Atlas. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of datasets and records by licence type. For datasets, 55% are available on open licences (OGL, CC0 & CC-BY) and 44% are on a shared

licence (CC-BY-NC). However, the vast majority (88%) of records are only available on a shared licence and only 12% are on open licences.

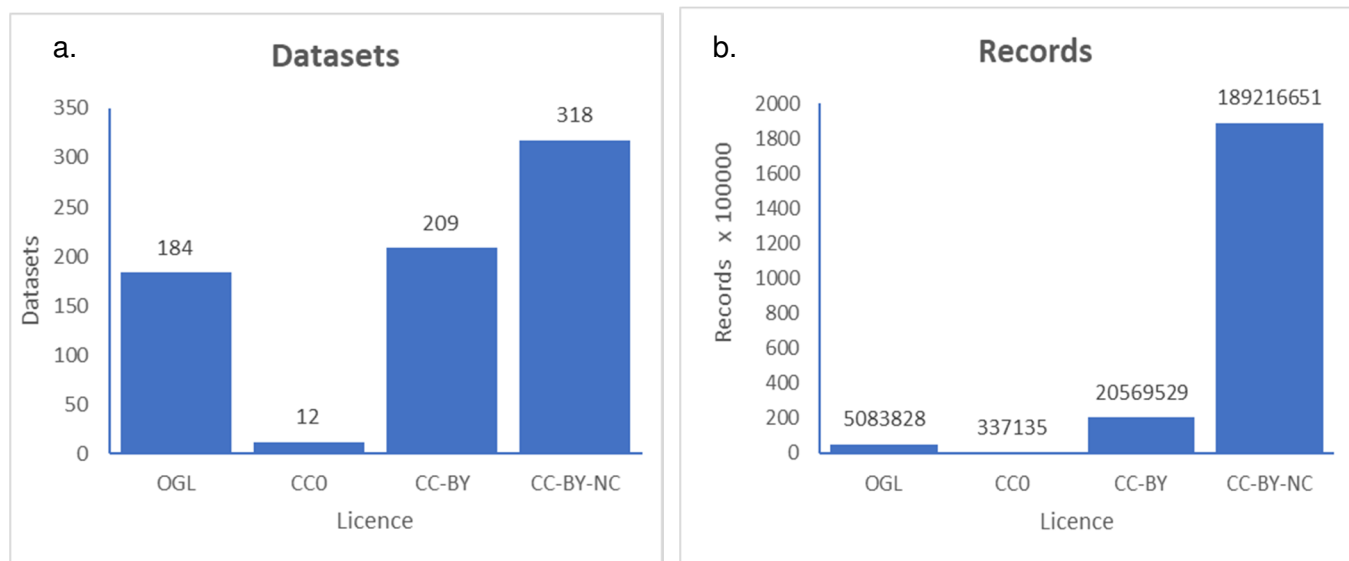


Figure 1. The number of (a) datasets and (b) records available under each of the four licences

Country Portals

Only the NBN Atlas Scotland and NBN Atlas Wales are currently live. We have also received funding for an NBN Atlas Isle of Man, steering group meetings are being held and the aim is to launch the NBNA IoM by the 31st March 2018.

We are in the final stages of agreeing an MoA with Northern Ireland for the next two years.

There are no immediate plans for development of an NBNA England.

Strategic Aim 5: Support the development of the NBN, its board and its members

5. Business Plan

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P02
- b) **Agree** Business Plan and priorities for 2017/18

6. Action Plan

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P03

7. Medium Term Financial Strategy

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P04
- b) **Discuss & Agree** MTFS and priorities for 2017/18

8. Salary Uplift

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P05

b) Agree level of salary uplift and in year non-consolidated pay award

9. Board Governance Review

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P06
- b) **Advise** of other suggested options for governance structure
- c) **Agree** Next step

10. Risk Register

Board actions:

- a) **Note** separate paper TTE17-02 P07