National Biodiversity Network Conference 2017

Workshop 4: The NBN Atlas – a demonstration and future development discussion.

Led by Jo Judge, NBN and Holly York, Wales Biodiversity Partnership
16th November 2017

Workshop aim

To show some of the main ways of search and interrogating the data on the NBN Atlas, which delegates may not be familiar with. To show that is intuitive and easy to use. To explain the planned developments for the future and when these are due to be implemented. To understand what other developments our users would like.

Demonstration

The workshop began with a live demonstration of the NBN Atlas. The demonstration focused on showing some ways of searching and interrogating the data on the NBN Atlas. The demonstration focused on using Invasive Non-native Species distribution in Wales as a case study, with features demonstrated including viewing species information, adding and using species lists and analysis using the spatial portal.

Current and planned development

During the morning session, Jo Judge presented two talks in the morning 'Through partnership, a lot can be achieved in 12 months' and 'Verification – next steps and an opportunity to feedback to the partnership'. The presentations highlighted the recent, underway and planned future development which provided a useful background for the future development discussions.

The current priorities include work on vague dates & date ranges, mix of grid and point occurrences, download fields, improved species search, occurrences observed by name, Encyclopaedia of Life information.

Future development discussion

Following the demonstration, delegates were split into two groups to discuss and brainstorm potential future developments that NBN Atlas users would like to see. All delegates came together to discuss the identified developments, identify further developments and begin to draw out those of key priority.

Development requirements identified:

The following development requirements were identified. The group began to draw out those of key priority, which were presented to the conference during the workshop feedback session. These are highlighted in bold.

1. Usability
   a. **Ability to save (and name) searches**, including collection of settings, filters and locations
   b. Ability to repeat searches/queries and downloads, including a filter to highlight new records added since last search was performed if possible

    c. Ability to create hyperlinks (URL) of searches to share with others
    d. Improve the user interface to make it more user friendly, such as improved navigation, easier visibility of tools.
    e. Create simple and advanced modes/levels for users. Advanced 'tab' containing more complex tools and mapping (This was also raised in workshop 3)
    f. Add descriptions to attributes
    g. Customisable pages after log in

2. Records
    a. Ability to comment on records
    b. Ability to record if a species has been eradicated (important for Invasive Non-native Species)
    c. Improve recording and viewing of null records
    d. Ability to comment on verification status e.g. for verifiers to verify unconfirmed records (potential links to iRecord for verification?)
    e. Email alerts sent to data providers (or recorders?) on verification and any other comments left

3. Data providers
    a. Data provider automated upload to NBN (button or frequency)
    b. Ability to upload new records and append to existing datasets (rather than uploading whole dataset again)

4. Species information
    a. Enable users to clearly view when a species is not designated

5. Spatial portal
    a. Simplify download of species layers
    b. Plot data by species
    c. Provide notifications when new data is available within a specified area
    d. Niche views i.e. some habitat comparison and links through to Pantheon for example
    e. Refresh button in spatial portal upload once all has been selected
    f. Add Irish Vice Counties spatial layer
    g. Should the spatial portal offer more complex analysis*?

6. Data downloads
    a. Add filters on download – select which attributes the user requires

7. Central hub
    a. **Potential for the NBN Atlas to be the central hub for species lists** e.g. designated species listings

8. Licences
    a. Clear signs/sign posting to NBN Atlas users when viewing data with a commercial licence and where fuller resolution is available from the data provider.
    b. Button to toggle on and off commercial licencing

9. General
    a. RSS notifications/feeds

b. ***There is a wide range of user groups – all things to all users or be more defined in its best use?** (This was also raised, and explored in more depth in workshop 2)
c. Keep help videos updated.

Next steps

The information gathered at the workshop will be taken forward and built upon through stakeholder workshops in 2018.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the workshop.