ENABLING PROJECTS

1 SBIF Review Recommendations Implementation Project

(delivering and embedding changes to data flow, service provision, governance, funding and culture)

2 Technical Capabilities Project

(designing and developing capabilities to support the business changes)

ENABLING TECHNOLOGY

1 User interface, data warehouse and database/data management tools

2 Automation and testing tools plus requirement and software code management tools

3 Virtual classroom training tools and virtual collaboration tools

4 Content management tools (including video streaming)

5 Contact management tools and Microsoft Office software

6 Business Intelligence, GIS and other analysis, visualisation and reporting tools

BUSINESS CHANGES

1 DATA FLOW

Establish and normalise clear routes for record submission via affiliated channels that deliver records directly to the central data repository for immediate aggregation

Establish an online data management and verification portal for viewing and management of relevant records, automated where appropriate

Include use statistics and voucher specimen links in record metadata and offer a suite of data layers to aid analysis/visualisation

2 SERVICE PROVISION

Ensure that services are equally accessible to all sectors and standardised through the use of common tools and processes

Establish a Digital First approach so that all services are easily accessible online (e.g. taxonomic training and planning screening)

Bring together the service functions of NBN, BRC and LERCs to maximise synergies between taxonomic and technical expertise

3 GOVERNANCE

Appoint one lead governance body to be the independent supervisory authority for the biological recording infrastructure

Establish a Country Committee to oversee delivery of in-country services/products via a network of regional and national hubs

Establish a central service strategy with product ownership at the national level

4 FUNDING

Provide full funding in perpetuity for the activities of the lead governance body and to support the activities of 'super partners' who also deliver core platforms or services

Establish financial accountability and performance review processes to report on the use and value of the funding provided

5 CULTURE

Engender common goals, values and rapport between regional, national and central teams to create a One Team culture

All sectors realise value from making a genuine contribution in support of an Open Data infrastructure

Establish an Agile approach in all aspects of the development and operation of the infrastructure and its services

BENEFITS

1 Clear data flows and submission points, with feedback on quality and use, so Recorders know how to submit records and where their records are used

2 All data are of known quality, quickly and openly available and easily accessed through a single central data repository with links to voucher specimens and appropriate metadata

3 Services are consistently provided in perpetuity and Service Users know what services are available to them and are using them effectively for operational and strategic advantage

4 Recorders, Verifiers, Recording Groups and Recording Schemes have consistent access to high quality training and support and feel valued for their skills and contribution

5 A single organisation with oversight of the whole infrastructure creates cohesion while achieving economies of scale and the most efficient and effective risk management and use of resources

6 Organisations that provide or govern key parts of the infrastructure as a public service have sufficient funding and resources to do so effectively with improved well-being for staff and volunteers

7 Our skills base is increased with more people engaged in biological recording, more records being collected and verified, and fewer taxonomic gaps overall

8 The infrastructure makes a key contribution towards delivery of the Scottish Government's strategic goals, positioning Scotland as a global leader in the guardianship of biodiversity

9 Changes in species' distribution and abundance are more rapidly understood to inform appropriate responses to climate change and invasive species and to assess site condition/resilience and natural capital

10 Compliance with statutory requirements such as GDPR and good practice/standards required of affiliated partners and users of the infrastructure

OBJECTIVES

1 By 2025, establish and embed the preferred models for data flow, service provision, governance and funding to achieve the SBIF Vision

2 By 2025, provide consistent high quality services equally accessible to all public bodies in support of their statutory biodiversity duties and strategic goals

3 By 2025, better facilitate and grow the network of volunteer Recorders and Verifiers who are actively supporting, or being supported by, the infrastructure

4 By 2025, facilitate the open provision of biological records from all sectors for onward dissemination through a single central data repository

5 By 2025, establish a feedback mechanism for Recorders and Data Providers to showcase the use of their records and value of their contribution

6 By 2025, be universally recognised and valued for being the definitive provider of biological records in Scotland as a common evidence base for all purposes, all sectors and all generations

DRIVERS

1 Insufficient sustainable funding and resources to operate the biological recording infrastructure effectively

2 Demand for timely access to Open Data of known quality

3 Demand for complete coverage for service provision

4 Proliferation and complexity of competing data flows causes inefficiency, confusion and frustration

5 Insufficient support for, and recognition of, volunteers involved in biological recording

6 Demand to achieve the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Goals and UN Sustainable Development Goals