

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum
9th Advisory Group meeting, 12 November 2018, 11:00-13:00

Boardroom, RSPB Scotland, Edinburgh Park

Minutes

Present

Ellen Wilson (RSPB) [Chair]; Gill Dowse (SWT); Nick Fraser (NMS); Jo Judge (NBN Secretariat); Ed Mackey (SNH); Scot Mathieson (SEPA); Sandra Marks (Scot Govt); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); David Roy (BRC); Rachel Tierney (SBIF); Christine Johnston (NBN Secretariat) [Minutes]

Apologies received

Andy Ford (CNPA); Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Claire Lacey (CIEEM); Joanne Porter (Heriot-Watt University); Jonathan Willet (BRISC)

1. Introductions

Rachel Tierney, recently appointed SBIF Development Officer, introduced herself to the meeting. Her post is hosted by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

2. Advisory Group changes

Sebastian Howell (Marine Scotland) has stepped down from the Advisory Group. A replacement is being sought.

3. Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (28 June 2018)

The minutes [*SBIF Advisory Group minutes DRAFT 28 June 2018*] were passed without correction and approved for publication on the Scotland pages of the NBN website.

Actions discharged:

AP AG05-8 CJ to continue to notify Advisory Group when papers and reports are released

AP AG05-12 CJ to start planning for a Holyrood reception

This action will be incorporated into the Advocacy Plan

AP AG06-6 CJ and EW to liaise with Sandra Marks over details for the Holyrood reception

This action will be incorporated into the Advocacy Plan

All actions **carried forward** relate to the Review and are listed in section 4 in the minutes below.

4. Update on the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure

The Final Report on the Review's recommendations will be published on 14 November 2018. Press releases have been planned along with a Twitter campaign to publicise the release.

A PDF of the Final Report will be available for download from the Scotland pages of the NBN website, along with an extract containing only the executive summary and list of recommendations, and a document summarising the Review process (that can be used as a briefing note). Hard copies of the Final Report will be distributed to key contributors and decision-makers.

Communications plan – Rachel Tierney

A draft Communications Plan for the next phase had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Comments, contacts and suggestions were sought.

Contributions of articles / blogs for monthly publication from now into 2019 on why the review recommendations matter to individual Advisory Group members and their sectors were sought and offered.

AP AG09-1 *RT to liaise with Advisory Group members and nominate months for blogs*

AP AG09-2 *All to advise names of Press Officers for inclusion in the Communications Plan*

The Communications Plan was approved in principle subject to the addition of relevant comments from Advisory Group members.

Organogram and Advocacy Plan – Rachel Tierney

A draft Organogram illustrating the network of organisations and groups, together with the names of key people with whom we need to be in contact during the advocacy phase, had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Comments and suggestions were sought.

The Advocacy Plan is still at draft outline stage and will be developed over the next few weeks.

AP AG09-3 *All to email comments on the comms plan and organogram to Rachel by 16 Nov*

Actions carried forward:

AP AG05-5 *EW to draft a short summary pitch(s) of the Review and its recommendations and circulate for input* [update post-meeting: a summary is now available on our web pages]

AP AG05-7 *RT and GD to write a communications and advocacy plan for 2018 onwards [the advocacy plan will be drafted in collaboration with the Advocacy Group]*

SBIF's next steps to 2020

Action Plan: it is proposed that an Action Plan be formed to maintain momentum and support the development phase. Support from Advisory Group members will be key to success and the group brainstormed ideas for providing that support. These included:

- Relay the messages around the recommendations to your own sectors and organisations, and enthuse about their importance and relevance
- Stress that everyone can contribute to the next stages and encourage individuals to engage in discussion around the recommendations
- Include reference to the recommendations at relevant meetings and keep on the agenda for key decision-making meetings (such as board meetings)
- Within your organisation promote the prioritisation of data mobilisation into the current data sharing infrastructure
- Maintain regular contact with the participants to the Review

It was commented that judgement needs to be exercised to ensure no conflict of interest arises for organisations that could be perceived to be major beneficiaries of infrastructure investment. We should also bear in mind that the level and extent of that investment is currently unknown.

AP AG09-4 *All to advise EW of their activities (for inclusion in monthly Highlight Reports)*

Funding: it was noted that continuation of the funding for a Development Officer will be required in order to continue stakeholder engagement activities and to work towards the creation of an implementation plan. Scottish Natural Heritage will shortly require notification of our requirements.

AP AG09-5 *EW to supply future funding requirements to SNH*

5. Any other business

Collaborative funding initiative– Scot Mathieson

SEPA and SWT are collaborating on a new conservation finance project with a view to bringing in new money for conservation projects. The project is tapping into the Natural Capital / Ecosystem Services agenda.

GD advised the next meeting is in December at which there will be a briefing on the Review and our recommendations.

OPAL – Ed Mackey

The OPAL (Open Air Labs) project funding comes to an end soon. It would be worth identifying the commonalities of interest and need between OPAL and SBIF and to work together where possible.

6. Date of next Advisory Group meeting

December 2018 – date to be agreed by Doodle Poll

*Joining by teleconference will be possible - details will be circulated in just before the meeting starts.
Please send a deputy if you are unable to attend.*