

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum - 15th Advisory Group Meeting,
Thursday 7th Nov 2019, 13:00 – 16:30

Attendees: Gill Dowse (SWT); Nick Fraser (NMS); Guy Harewood (Stirling Council); Jo Judge (NBN); Claire Lacey (CIEEM) [until 1500]; Rachel Tierney (SWT / SBIF); Glenn Roberts (NESBReC); Ellen Wilson (RSPB), Ed Mackey (SNH); Debs Muscat (ALERC)

Apologies received: Andy Ford (CNPA); Scot Mathieson (SEPA); Jo Porter (Heriot Watt); David Roy (BRC); Wilma Harper (NBN Trust); Jonathan Willet (BRISC), Craig Macadam (Buglife),

1) Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting (14 June 2019) [attached: 20190904 SBIF Advisory Group MINUTES_v0.3.docx]

- Approval of the minutes

The minutes [SBIF Advisory Group MINUTES_v0.3.docx] were passed and approved for publication on the SBIF Advisory Group pages of the NBN website.

- Actions and matters arising

AP AG10-4 CL to advise the name of a possible contact at Marine Scotland – follow up action for RT to meet with Linda Rosborough, SWT Chair

- ONGOING - RT has not yet met with Linda Rosborough, SWT Chair and will follow up to arrange this meeting through SWT.

AP AG11-3 RT to approach contacts about joining the Advisory Group

- ONGOING - As per AG10-4.

AP AG09-4 All to advise EW of their SBIF-related activities (for inclusion in quarterly Highlight Reports) [next report will be published in October 2019]

- ONGOING

AP AG13-1 RT to draft and circulate a comms plan

- ONGOING – to be written with a redrafted business case (to be developed in conjunction with NBN Trust)

AP AG14-1 RT to provide a draft briefing for ECCLR Committee to Advisory Group for their input and contribution, including exploring if there have been previous relevant parliamentary questions and compelling stories from within the Committee member's consistencies.

AP AG14-2 RT to speak to JP re. MASTS Annual Science meeting in October

AP AG14-3 SM to share Marine Scotland contact with RT

AP AG14-4 RT to share briefing notes with EM for Evidence and Surveillance Monitoring Programme meeting

2) Round robin on SBIF related activities

Ed Mackey is to step down from the SBIF Advisory Group as the SNH representative following his retirement on the 20th December. SNH are seeking a replacement for Ed on the Advisory Group. The SBIF Chair thanked Ed Mackey for his ongoing support and commitment to SBIF and the whole Advisory Group wished Ed an enjoyable retirement.

The SBIF Chair welcomed Debs Muscat (Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre Manager, and ALERC Director) and Wilma Harper to the SBIF Advisory Group (WH is an NBN Trustee and Director of TWIC and has lots of experience of change management).

Claire Lacey is to step down from the SBIF Advisory Group as the CIEEM representative but will remain as a marine representative. The SBIF Chair thanked Claire for her ongoing support to the Advisory Group.

- **AP AG15-1 RT** to update CL details on SBIF website.
- **AP AG15-2 CL** to speak with Annie Robinson and Mathew Panel about the most suitable CIEEM reps for the SBIF Advisory Group in the future.

Past events:

- EM and RT provided briefing on marine for Clive Mitchell for meeting 07/11/2019
- The evidence session to the ECCLR Committee was well received
- CL and RT published an article on SBIF in the September CIEEM InPractice journal
- EW and RT met with Natural England to discuss the SBIF Review and the implications for England which was well received. Natural England continue to be supportive of SBIF Review

Forthcoming events

- SPNCH conference in June – SBIF have submitted an abstract to speak.
- BRC meeting at Edinburgh Museum in March.

AP AG15-3 RT to speak to DR about attending BRC meeting at Edinburgh Museum.

- TM: Vesbupter review for biodiversity just been published
- RT to present at the NBN Conference
- RT to present at the Scottish Biodiversity Science Conference
- RT to present at TWIC Conf
- CL contacted people on CIEEM committee who work for consultancies to put CL in touch with junior ecologists who are undertaking data searches – received some bullet points about what could be used in future iterations. CL to forward to RT and JJ
- CL to explore a brainstorming event with consultant ecologists to get ideas of future state
- DM has spoken to ALERC staff in Scotland, and Glenn. Currently getting up to speed with SBIF positions
- SNH undertaking review of surveillance and monitoring needs into the future. EM gave update to this group on 18/09/2019 – SBIF part of the package under consideration with regards to future evidence needs.
- EM gave update to biodiversity and geodiversity group – not previously been closely engaged with SBIF and well received. Lead on SoN reporting and climate response. SBIF fits well with their interest

3) Summary of feedback from Outline Business Case [EW]

- Feedback from version 2 has indicated that there is greater emphasis on scoping studies than expected and that the future state has greater buy-in than is indicated.
- There is a need to continue our sense of momentum.
- There is a need to be explicit about when the governance of NBN Scotland will commence.

- There is a need to more strongly link our business case to the State of Nature, Climate Emergency, Biodiversity Crisis and IPBES Global Assessment and the meeting of the Aichi targets.

We already have strong buy-in from the community and the Outline Business Case perhaps has too much emphasis on Scoping Studies. From our early versions EW will now cast the implementation of the recommendations as a single investment programme with two tranches. These tranches allow choices to be made about pace and scope of delivery – for discussion under Item 4.

4) Next steps and approach going forward [EW] [see attached draft: SBIF Review Investment Case – draft v0.1 20191106 1317]

Discussion points:

- SBIF Review Investment Programme
 - Options, Projects and Costs
- Programme Approach and Programme Management
- Programme Governance
- Document Circulation (see section 12)
- Future Advocacy

Our aim is to rapidly complete the Investment Case, following discussion with the Advisory Group, for submission by end of November.

EW to recast as an Investment Programme using the branding ‘Investing in Nature – the Evidence’.

The Advisory Group needs to be very clear what is meant by ‘NBN Scotland’ as there still hasn’t been a clear signal on this from NBN Trust. WH stressed that NBN Trust are a long way from being able to agree on NBN Scotland and that it needs to be very clear about who is making the decisions.

It was stressed that the first project is to find answers to the outstanding questions and, if the outcomes are different to those outlined in the SBIF Review, then Project 1 needs to explore how to still deliver the Review recommendations.

The Investment case should simply state our case, outline what the investment proposal would look like, set out delivery options and proposed projects, with an accompanying cover note.

It was discussed that we have a strong case to sell ‘the infrastructure’, the associated investment is in practical action to restore and preserve biodiversity – the infrastructure enables this to be more effective. The timescale is a decade.

GD acknowledge and thanked everyone for all the input into the previous drafts which have progressed the process to get us to here.

It was agreed that we still need to confirm the Governance of Programme (within Project 4 “Biodiversity Evidence Base” of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy) and SNH will advise who will fill the role of Programme Exec.

AP AG15-4 EW & RT to send draft on 18th November for the Advisory Group comment

AP AG15-5 EW & RT to send final document to EM on 2nd December to be forwarded to Scottish Government

Hopes for document

- Keep it brief
- Include a simple table with costings
- Generate clarity around the distribution lists – what are they for?

AP AG15-6 RT to liaise with TM and EW to include economic appraisal into Investment Proposal

AP AG15-7 RT to send briefing document to NESBReC

5) Any other business

GR – NESBReC exploring when to have face to face dialogue with MSPs, send briefing document and invite to NESBReC for wider discussion

6) Date of next meeting

To be confirmed once the Investment Proposal has been submitted to Scottish Government