

## NBN Trust High Level Activity Plan for 2021/22

This high level activity plan supports the NBN Trust Strategy 2021 – 2025 and sets out the key activities identified for action in 2021/22. This high level plan will in turn be supported by a detailed work plan. Many of the activities in the first year of the new strategy are focussed on investigation and exploring exactly how we will undertake activities in future years to ensure we deliver what our key stakeholders and members need.

It will not be possible to undertake all of these activities with the current level of resource. Therefore, additional funding will be sought for aspects of this plan.

### **Strategic Objective 1. Enhance the accessibility and usability of the UK's wildlife data**

#### **Key activities for 2021/22**

- a) Increase the amount of high resolution data accessible through the NBN Atlas
  - i. Fully implement the two-tier system
  - ii. Engage with data providers to encourage upload of high resolution data

(NB The two-tier project aims to provide a mechanism by which two resolutions of the same record can be stored on the NBN Atlas. A generalised (blurred) lower resolution version will be available for public viewing and download (in accordance with the licence conditions) while a higher resolution version will only be accessible for download by pre-approved users.)

- b) Collaborate with data partners to Investigate the feasibility of making data available for ingestion into the NBN Atlas using web service APIs
- c) Provide more online help and training on how to use the NBN Atlas and its tools
  - The current online help and training will be reviewed and updated where necessary.
  - The help portal will be reviewed and the user experience improved, attention will be given to providing help in the most accessible formats e.g. video, step-by-step guides etc.
- d) Research user needs with regard to NBN Atlas and its tools
  - Is the NBN Atlas delivering what our users need? Are the current tools fit for purpose?
  - What other tools would users find useful?
- e) Investigate collaborations with NBN Trust members to promote innovation, and increase confidence, in the use of AI for verification
- f) Investigate the potential for, and if appropriate pilot, a direct online submission route to the NBN Atlas to increase the flow of open data

### **Strategic Objective 2. Empower providers and consumers of wildlife data through engagement and collaboration at the regional, national, and global levels**

#### **Key activities for 2021/22**

- a) Engage with professional bodies such as the Society for the Environment, CIEEM, ALGE and the Landscape Institute to promote the use and sharing of data by their members
- b) Increase collaboration with those who collect and use marine data

- c) Increase engagement with academia
- d) Increase engagement with the general public through iNaturalist UK
  - The NBN Trust, in partnership with the Marine Biological Association, will become the UK Network Node for iNaturalist UK
  - (NB Data on iNaturalist will not automatically be transferred to the NBN Atlas)
- e) Consult with Network members to identify services the NBN Trust could provide e.g. convening training courses/workshops, negotiation with suppliers for discounted bulk services etc.
  - (N.B. It is not suggested that the NBN Trust will provide the training, just procure discounted courses tailored for members with appropriate training providers)
- f) Identify joint ventures, such as funding bids, with Network members to achieve increased shared resources or create savings

**Strategic Objective 3. Communicate the value of wildlife data for use in decision making and research and to inspire a wonder in nature**

**Key activities for 2021/22**

- a) Undertake research to understand our audiences better, e.g. how they use data and what is important to them, leading to (in this and future years) communications tailored to the different audiences such as:
  - i). Publishing a series of data use stories showing how the use of data has had a positive impact on nature
  - ii). Production of material (e.g. infographics, bite-sized information) relating the collection and use of data to people e.g. the journey from recording to use, how nature is important to our lives
  - iii). Showcasing the work of network members and guide consumers of data and information products to the relevant organisations for their purposes
  - iv). Provide links to research and projects that have used data from the NBN Atlas
- b) Produce, in collaboration with Network members, guidance for end-users of data and information e.g. developers, planning officers etc. to explain what and how wildlife data should be used, including for Biodiversity Net Gain and Natural Capital Assessments

**Strategic Objective 4. Develop the strength and sustainability of the NBN Trust**

**Key activities for 2021/22**

- a) Seek to negotiate a multi-year partnership agreement with the country nature conservation bodies and JNCC
- b) Explore additional project and core funding from Trusts and other funding mechanisms including legacy funding, climate change related funding, leveraging private sector environmental and social governance etc.
- c) Revamp the membership scheme to ensure it provides relevant benefits for members, to grow membership and the income it provides

- d) Expand the provision of services in collaboration with partners at a multi-regional and national level
- e) Develop a technology horizon scanning plan including, but not limited to, developing the NBN Atlas

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