

Utilisation of data in policy decisions by Proteus Partners – Proteus Impact Survey 2017

Summary

Proteus Partners were invited to complete a survey on the impact of the Partnership prior to the Annual Meeting 2017. This repeats a survey conducted in 2016. 19 responses from all 11 Proteus Partner companies were obtained, with respondents asked to assess the value of the data, information and support provided, detail the utilisation of data in policy decisions and provide suggestions for improvements. This exercise will be undertaken annually to allow Proteus Partners and UNEP-WCMC to track the impact over time.

The survey revealed the following high-level results:

- 1) Proteus Partners were satisfied with the overall experience and delivery of the Partnership**
- 2) Technical/data users showed an increased familiarity with the Proteus Partnership in 2017 compared to 2016**
- 3) Data provided through the Proteus Partnership has a substantial impact on project development decisions**
- 4) IBAT data and WDPA data factsheets were the most valuable Proteus resources**
- 5) Climate change and natural capital were increasing priorities for Partners in 2017**

Survey demographic

The survey yielded 19 responses from 11 Proteus Partner companies, located within Australia, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the USA. The responses were split between roles within the companies, with 8 technical/data users and 11 policy/corporate users, however these users were based in many different parts of the company (Figure 1). Many users were from corporate health and safety, sustainability and environment teams, but there were also exploration, upstream and downstream users.

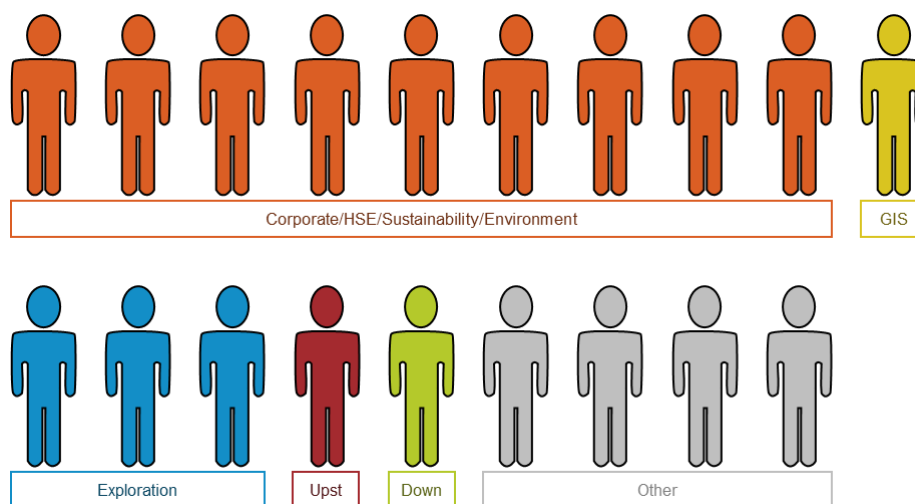


Figure 1: Survey demographic by function.

Methodology

Respondents were asked to evaluate the value of the data, information and support provided through the Proteus Partnership and suggest how the value can be increased in future. The survey was conducted between May and June 2017, and asked tailored questions depending on the respondent's role within the company: technical/data user or policy/corporate user. Technical/data users were asked specifically about data access, including the monthly release of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and internal GIS systems, whereas policy/corporate users were asked about the impact of data provided through Proteus on project development decisions, priority biodiversity and ecosystem service issues, and where Proteus can add value to these. Both were asked about the value they derive from the Proteus Partnership, their uses of the data, suggestions to meet Proteus Partner needs in the next five years, as well as their use and value of the various Proteus tools and resources.

High-level results

The following pages present five high-level results from analysis of the survey responses.

1) Proteus Partners were satisfied with the overall experience and delivery of the Partnership

Overall sixteen respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience of the Proteus Partnership. Fifteen were satisfied or very satisfied that the Proteus Partnership is meeting its objectives. Fifteen were satisfied or very satisfied with the way the Proteus Partnership is being delivered. One individual expressed dissatisfaction with the delivery of the Proteus Partnership and its delivery.

Respondents also indicated a high likelihood in recommending the Proteus Partnership to a friend or colleague, with 8 “Promoters” assigning a score of 9-10, 6 “Passives” assigning a score of 7-8 and 2 “Detractors” with a score of 0-6 (Figure 2). We are exploring the reasons behind the less positive feedback and will undertake follow up action as appropriate

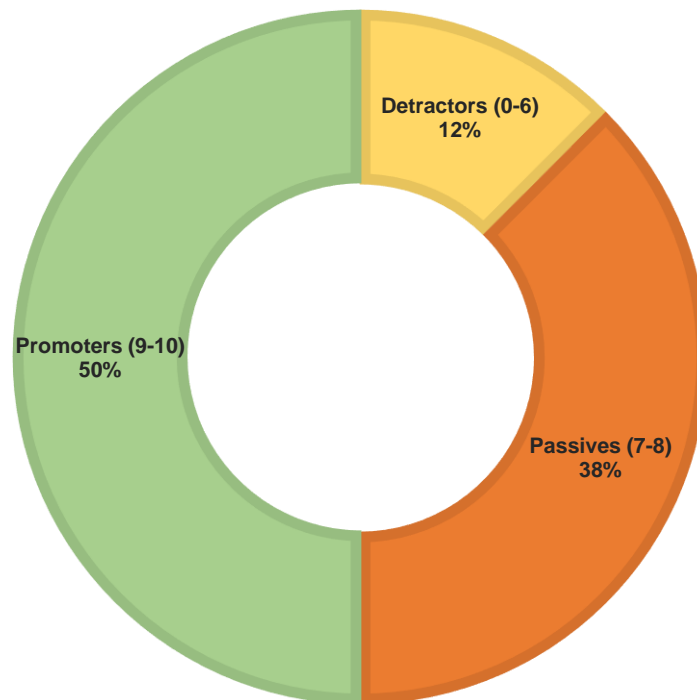


Figure 2: Likelihood to recommend the Proteus Partnership to a friend or colleague.

2) Technical/data users showed an increased familiarity with the Proteus Partnership in 2017

Generally, technical/data users were more familiar with the Partnership than last year. In the 2016 survey, no technical/data users considered themselves extremely familiar with the Partnership, whereas in 2017 two were extremely familiar and three were very familiar (Figure 3A). The majority of policy/corporate users were extremely familiar with the Proteus Partnership and most assigned high value to the Partnership.

In the 2017 survey, policy/corporate users tended to derive similar value from the Proteus Partnership as technical/data users. Five technical/data users assessed the Partnership as high value, three as moderate and one as slight value. Whereas, six policy/corporate users assessed the Partnership as high value, three as moderate and one as slight value (Figure 3B). Both policy/corporate and technical/data users generally highlighted an increased value of the Proteus Partnership in 2017 compared to results from 2016.

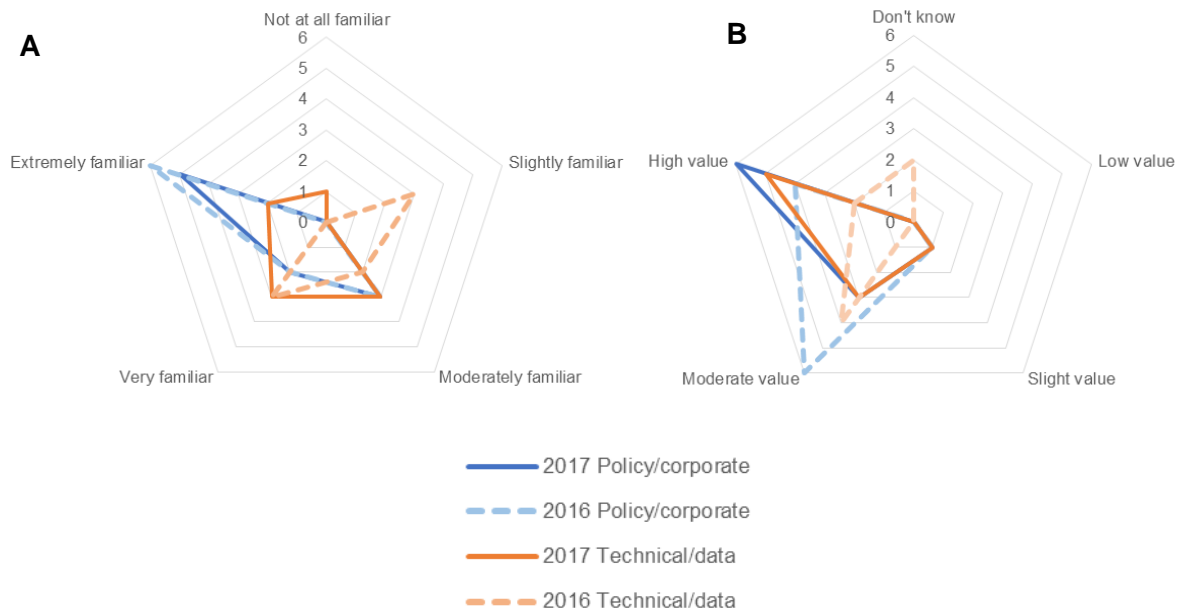


Figure 3: Policy/corporate and technical/data user familiarity (A) with the Proteus Partnership and overall derived value (B) comparing 2016 to 2017 survey results.

3) Data provided through the Proteus Partnership has a substantial impact on project development decisions

Data provided through the Proteus Partnership had substantial impacts on project development decisions in the last two years, with eight respondents in 2016 and six in 2017 indicating that additional management actions were taken as a result, and two respondents in 2016 and three in 2017 indicating that data was one of a number of factors that led to a decision not to develop (Figure 4). In 2016, three respondents reported that data were not used to inform decisions or that data was used to inform decision-making, but no related actions were taken, whereas in 2017 only 1 respondent said that data were not used to inform decisions.

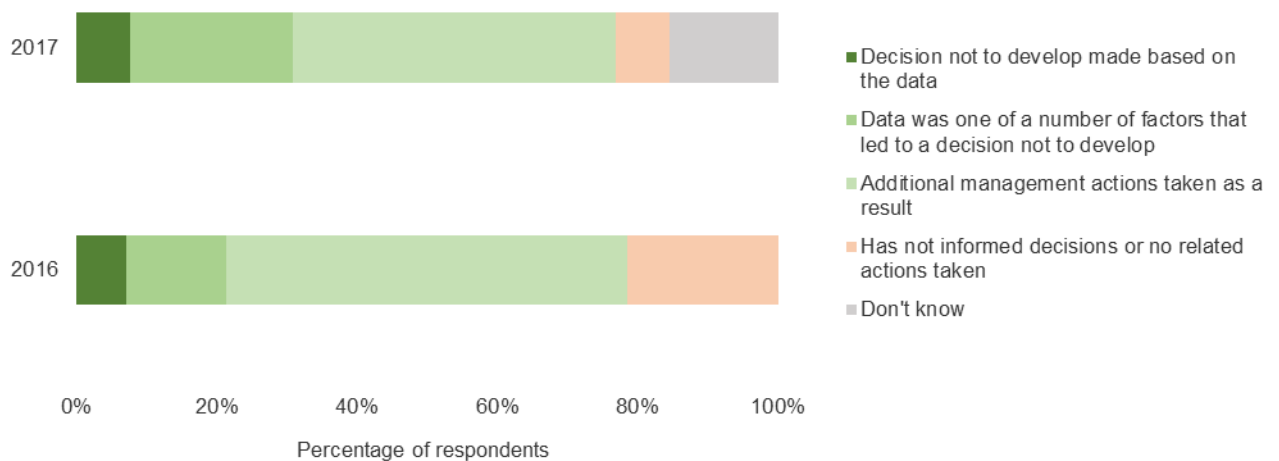


Figure 4: Impact of data provided through the Proteus Partnership on decision-making, comparing 2016 to 2017 survey results.

4) IBAT data and WDPA data factsheets were the most valuable Proteus resources

The majority of tools and websites provided through the Proteus Partnership were accessed on a monthly basis. As in 2016, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) and Protected Planet tended to be used more regularly. As in 2016, the Ocean Data Viewer was less well used, with four technical/data users never having accessed the Ocean Data Viewer.

The IBAT Map Viewer, data in IBAT, data download features and WDPA data factsheets provided through the Proteus website tended to be the resources perceived as of most value.

However, a number of policy/corporate and technical/data users were unaware of the specific resources provided via the tools and websites, notably the Ocean Data Viewer Marine Data Manual and the IBAT Proximity toolkit, and those that were aware of these resources attributed a low value to them (Figure 5).

The responses related to the Ocean Data Viewer will be explored at the Proteus pre-meeting: “Enhancing marine and coastal biodiversity screening”.

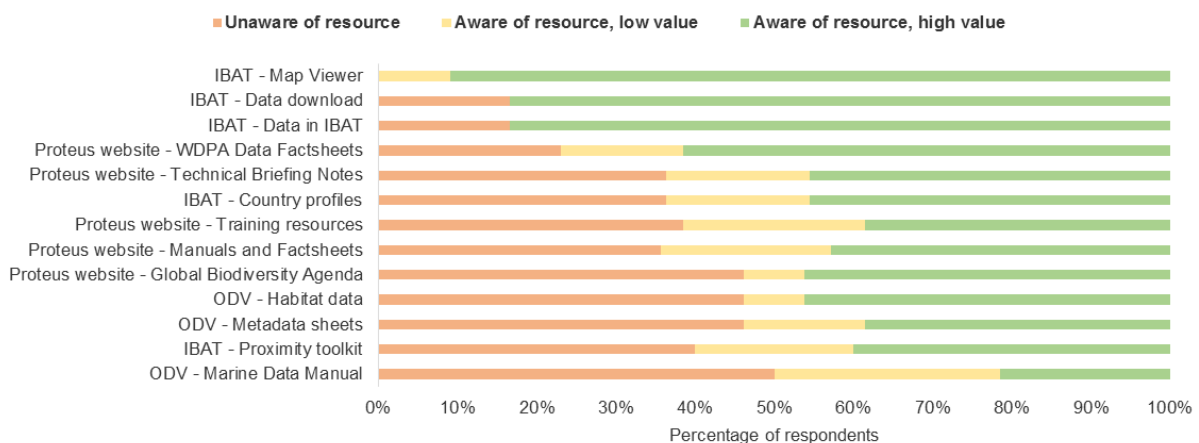


Figure 5: Value of resources and tools within the Proteus toolkit.

5) Climate change and natural capital were increasing priorities for Partners in 2017

The majority of respondents indicated that climate impacts and risks in biodiversity management activities, natural capital accounting and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation were priorities for their respective companies, increasing substantially in priority from the previous year (Figure 6A). These were also areas in which respondents felt Proteus could add value (Figure 6B). In addition, the collective respondents' results indicate that the topics of biodiversity assessment and application of the mitigation hierarchy have decreased in priority from 2016 to 2017.

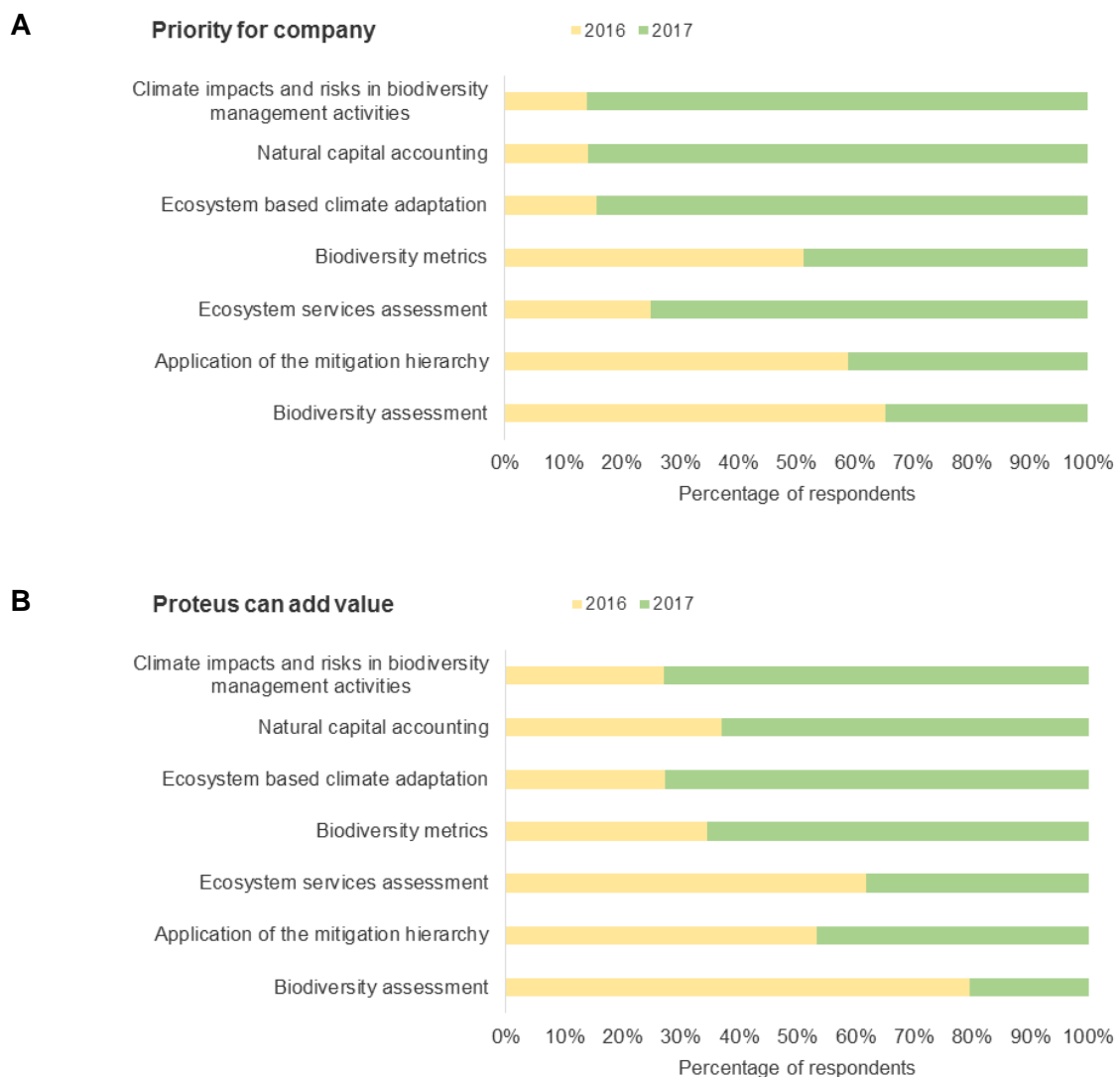


Figure 6: Priority issues for Partners related to biodiversity and ecosystem services (A) and the potential value of the Proteus Partnership in adding to efforts (B) comparing 2017 to 2016 results.

Proteus Partnership in the next five years

Respondents indicated that Proteus was “critically important”, a “great partnership” and the data provided through Proteus is “relied upon to inform business decisions”. Partners appreciated the “consistent dataset delivery format for Ocean Data Viewer datasets” and the “direct contact with staff at UNEP-WCMC”, but felt that some datasets were “overly complicated for business needs”. Partners expressed an interest in webinars and training sessions on Proteus and on protected areas/other important areas for biodiversity.

As in last year’s survey, users were asked how Proteus could evolve to meet their needs with regards to biodiversity information in the next five years. The suggestions were mostly around protected areas, data developments and general developments for the Partnership (Table 1).

Table 1. Suggested improvements to Proteus biodiversity information in the next five years.

Suggestion	
Protected areas	Anticipating future protected areas/community claims
	Better, and more concrete information about the protected areas
	Work with national government organisations to improve the management of their protected area networks and areas of biodiversity value
	Improve site-level information on PAs management and on other area types i.e. forestry, where local regulations are in place, including critical habitat proxy and biodiversity indicators if possible
	Several features in the WDPA have corrupt geometry, so consider checking and repairing these
Data developments	Access to a wider range of datasets and integration with regional/national datasets
	Include ecosystem services
	Assess potential for nature-based capital
	Climate change risk mapping
	Continue to improve data quality in developing countries
	Automation of data updates
	App
	Help us think how we can turn the data into risk-based priority areas, e.g. critical habitat, no-development legislation
	Information to understand the difference between the two mangrove datasets
General developments	Develop a matrix that can connect early investment in biodiversity management to return on investment due to stopping operations/claims/fines
	Look ahead for role in Key Business Indicators etc.
	Provide a platform with experiences identifying and managing biodiversity features, as well as contacts for key taxonomic groups
	Globally relevant, accepted and relatively easy to apply metrics - working with government stakeholders to create a level playing field where it is advantageous to be a leader in responsible environmental (especially biodiversity and ecosystem services) management