

Utilisation of data in policy decisions by Proteus Partners – Proteus Impact Survey 2018

Summary

Proteus Partners were invited to complete a survey on the impact of the Partnership prior to the Annual Meeting in June 2018. This repeats surveys conducted in 2016 and 2017. 23 responses from 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 is undertaken annually to allow Proteus Partners and UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre to track the Partnership's 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 users continue to show increased familiarity with the Partnership
- 3) Data provided through the Proteus Partnership has consistently led to additional management actions over the last three years
- 4) Increased awareness and value for marine and coastal resources provided through the Proteus Partnership
- 5) Biodiversity assessments and application of the mitigation hierarchy are consistently high priority issues for Proteus Partners

Please note: due to the relatively small sample size of survey responses each year, results are unlikely to be statistically significant, rather they identify broad trends on the impact of the Partnership.

Survey demographic

The survey yielded 23 responses from 11 Proteus Partner companies, located within Australia, Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the UK and the USA. The responses were split between roles within the companies, with 14 technical/data users and nine policy/corporate users completing the survey. Respondents were situated in different teams within companies with the majority (15) situated in corporate Health, Safety and Environment, Sustainability or Environment teams (Figure 1). The remainder (8) were in site-based Health, Safety and Environment, Sustainability or Environment, business based Health, Safety and Environment (classified as Other), GIS, exploration, upstream or downstream roles.

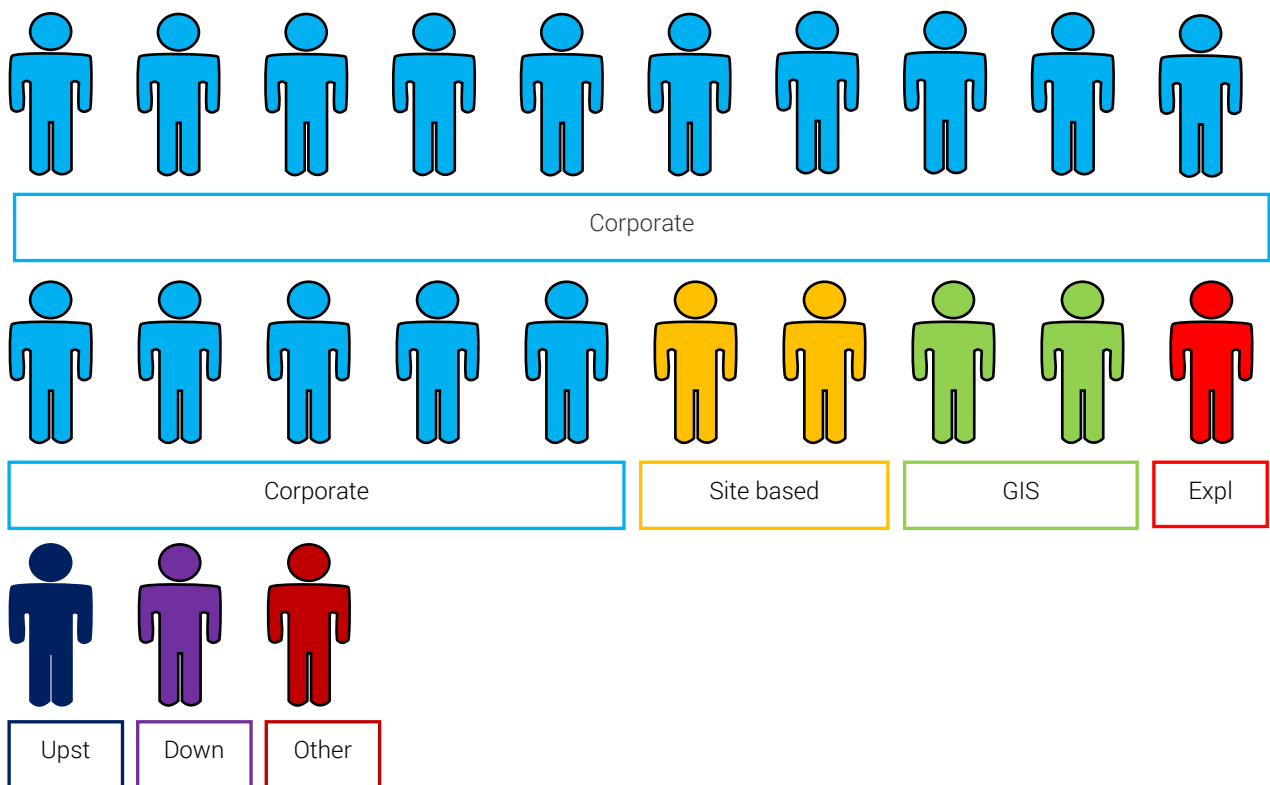


Figure 1: Survey respondent roles within Proteus Partner companies.

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 in May of 2018, 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 survey results

Here, we 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, 85% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience of the Proteus Partnership, 90% satisfied or very satisfied that the Partnership is meeting its objectives and 85% satisfied or very satisfied with the way the Partnership is delivered (Figure 2). Respondents also indicated a high likelihood in recommending the Proteus Partnership to a friend or colleague, with 80% of respondents assigning a score of 7-10 and only 20% assigning a score of 0-6.

Three individuals were dissatisfied with their experience of the Proteus Partnership and its delivery, while two believed the Partnership had not met its objectives in 2018. These results indicate a small decrease (5-10%) in respondent satisfaction of the Partnerships overall experience, delivery and ability to meet its objectives compared to 2017. We are exploring the reasons behind the less positive feedback and will undertake follow up actions as appropriate.

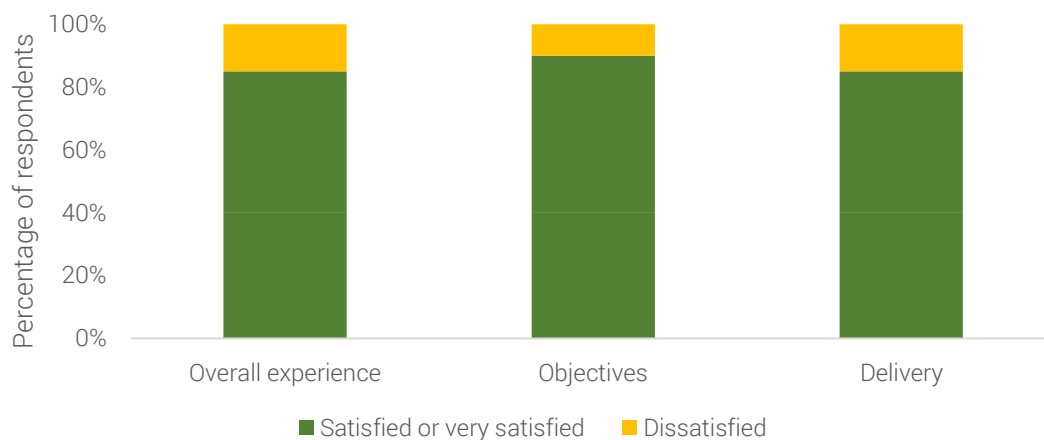


Figure 2: Satisfaction with the overall experience, objectives and delivery of the Proteus Partnership.

2) Technical users continue to show increased familiarity with the Partnership

Results showed that 25% of technical/data users were extremely familiar with the Proteus Partnership and 42% very familiar (Figure 3A). In comparison, the 2017 survey showed 22% of technical/data users were extremely familiar and 33% were very familiar, and in 2016, no technical/data users considered themselves extremely familiar and 37% very familiar with the Partnership. Therefore indicating a continued increase in technical/data user familiarity with the Partnership over the last three years. Technical/data users also indicated an increase of 11% in the number of respondents that placed a high value the Partnership in 2018 compared to 2017 and an increase in 42% from 2016.

In addition, the 75% of policy/corporate users were extremely familiar with the Proteus Partnership and the number of users who were moderately familiar decreased by 17.5% and those who were very familiar by 7.5% in 2018 (Figure 3B). The results also showed that 100% of policy/corporate users assigned moderate to high value to the Proteus Partnership improving from 2016 and 2017 scores of approximately 90% in both years.

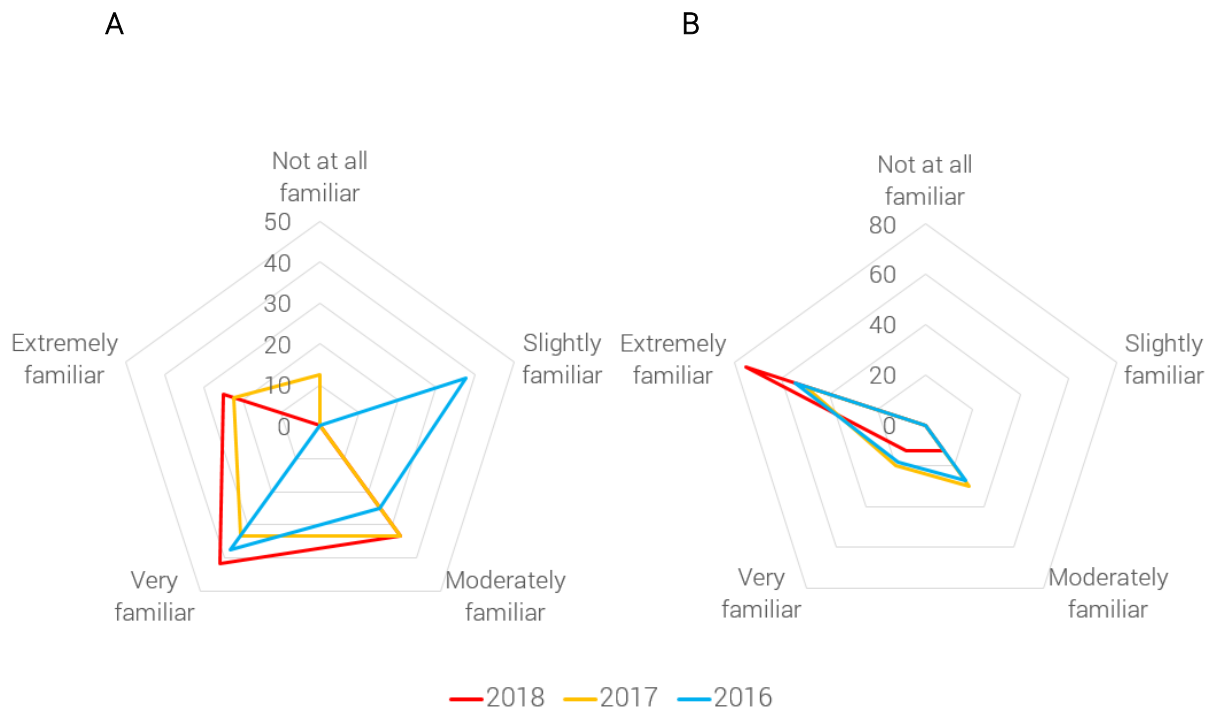


Figure 3: Familiarity of technical/data users (A) and policy/corporate users (B) with the Proteus Partnership, comparing results from 2016, 2017 and 2018.

3) Data provided through the Proteus Partnership has consistently led to additional management actions over the last three years

Results across 2016-2018 indicate that data provided through the Partnership has consistently led to additional management actions being taken as a result (Figure 4). Decisions not to develop have also been made based on either the data alone (8% across 2016-2018), or with the data as one of a number of factors (16% across 2016-2018). In 2018, Partners reported that data provided through the Partnership has contributed to the alteration of management activities or development decisions for an international pipeline project and has resulted in the alteration of tenure boundaries to avoid protected areas.

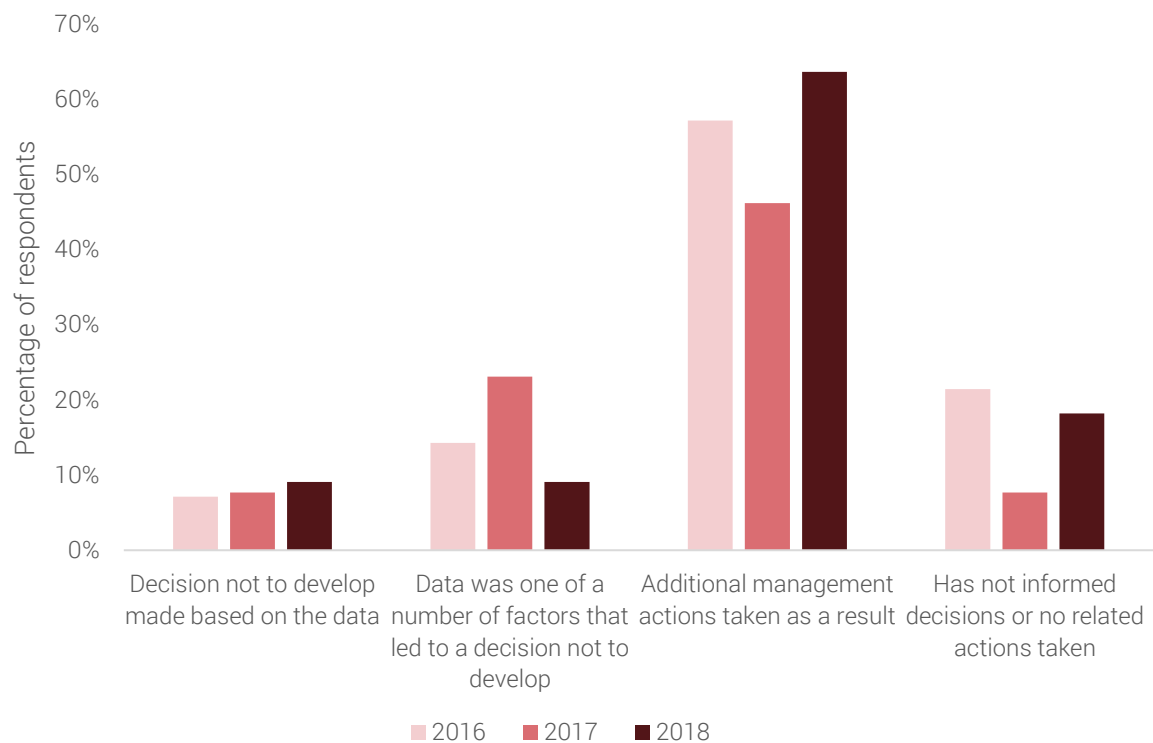


Figure 4: Impact of data provided through the Proteus Partnership on decision-making, comparing 2016-2018 survey results.

4) Increased awareness and value for marine and coastal resources provided through the Proteus Partnership

Overall results from 2018 indicate increased awareness and value of marine and coastal resources, despite a slight reduction in the number of respondents attributing a high value to the resources (Figure 4). There has been a substantial decrease in the number of respondents who do not know about marine and coastal resources since 2016. In addition, even though Ocean+ Data has only been operational since the first quarter of 2018, 60% respondents were aware of the resource and 50% assigned some to high value to the resource.

Interestingly, in 2018 90% respondents indicated that they utilise biodiversity resources from sources other than the Proteus Partnership compared to 29% in 2017. These include the Local Ecological Footprinting Tool, data from Environmental Impact Studies, and various national-level databases.

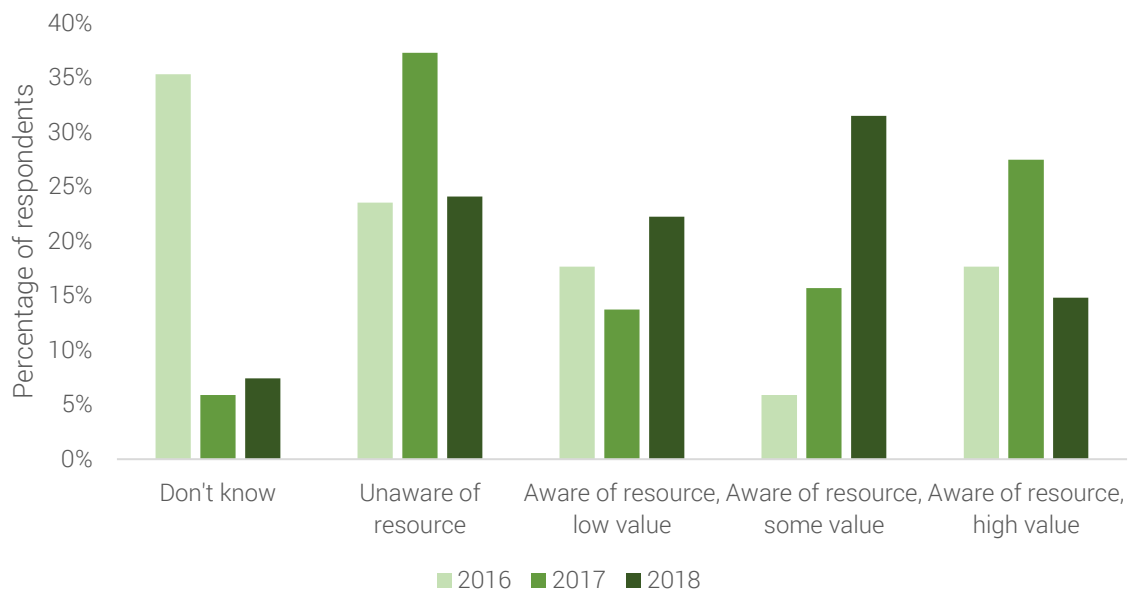


Figure 5: Awareness and value of marine and coastal resources from 2016-2018.

5) Biodiversity assessments and application of the mitigation hierarchy are consistently high priority issues for Proteus Partners

There is a strong trend across 2016-2018 showing that biodiversity assessments and the application of the mitigation hierarchy are high priority issues for Partners. Ecosystem services assessment has increased as a priority issue from 2016 to 2017/2018, while biodiversity metrics have decreased in priority from 2016-2018.

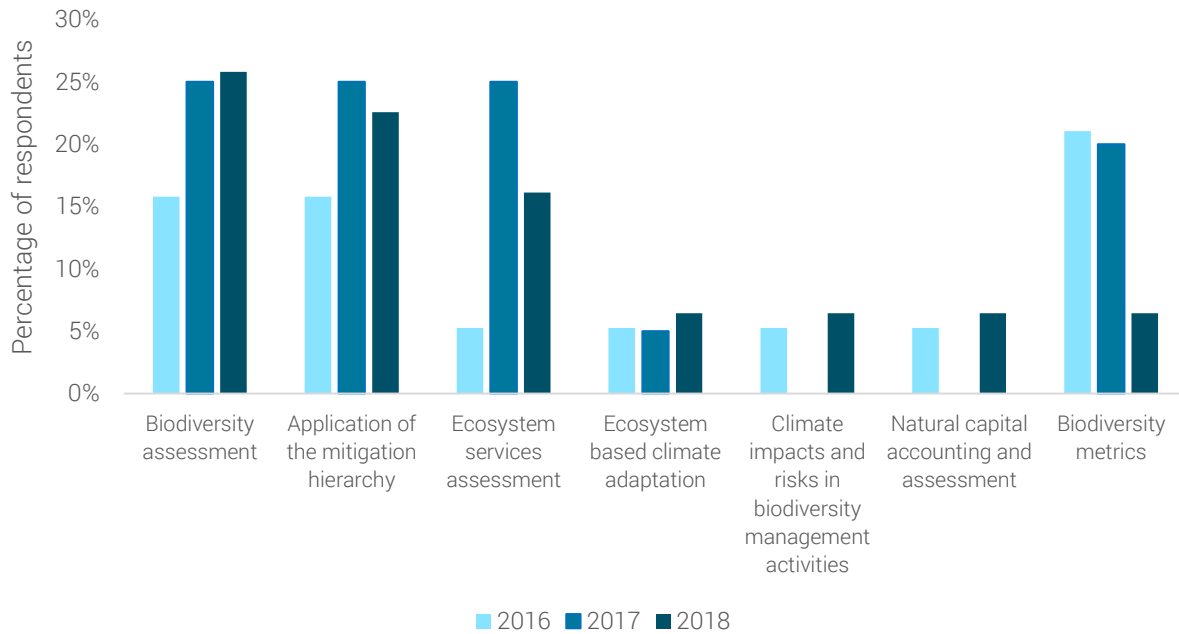


Figure 6: Priority issues for Partners related to biodiversity and ecosystem, comparing 2016-2018 survey results.

Proteus Partnership in the next five years

As in previous surveys, users were asked to comment on how Proteus could evolve to meet their needs with regards to biodiversity information in the next five years. The suggestions were mostly around data management, data gaps and quality, country-level data and general developments for the Partnership (Table 1).

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

Suggestion	
Country-level data	Invest in partnerships in countries that are currently in the 'too hard basket' i.e. those countries that have seen no or very limited improvement in quality of protected area data over last few (or in some cases) many years
	Include data from the Atlas of Living Australia, to provide a one stop shop for publicly available data
Data management	Provide a REST end point to load data directly into individual company ESRI Portals for ArcGIS software
	Provide flexible and user-friendly spatial data management tools to analyse the latest identified biodiversity hotspots
	Incorporate a system to enable users to upload shapefiles and choose a buffer around a region and then use the tool to search all relevant data (across databases) to define which species / protected areas may be impacted on by potential operations
Data gaps and quality	Expand marine baseline data
	Identify and communicate gaps in data coverage and areas of poor data quality
	Is there a greater role for big datasets (GBIF, LEFT) in addition to the WDPA, Red List, etc. in informing industry decisions?
	Add cumulative impacts information to the existing data
	Make available climate change adaptation information
	Expand Red List species datasets and include Ecosystem Services
	Continue to provide excellent data quality in the far reaching areas in the world
	Ensure that data is as current as possible
General development	Develop processes that are robust that can be used as a base for the risk assessment process
	Meet the priorities for companies identified through the survey
	Facilitation of face to face partner discussions/forums more than once a year in other parts of the world
	Reduce cost of Partnership membership
	Engage with other voluntary associations on accreditation, benchmarking and harmonizing data to create one system
	Improve data sharing across Proteus Partners