

Meeting report

Proteus Annual Meeting 2018

Post-meeting: Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool – training and consultation on redevelopment 22nd June 2018

The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

Objectives of the day

- Provide Proteus members unfamiliar with IBAT a refresher course on its use
- Present the beta version of IBAT version 3 to secure Proteus member feedback on design, user friendliness and fit with user needs

Presentations

Workshop: IBAT training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recap on IBAT functionality (Katie Leach, Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IBAT developments (Eugenie Regan, IBAT Manager, IBAT Alliance) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of IBAT Version 3 and testing of Alpha release (Yichuan Shi, Project Manager – IBAT Redevelopment, UNEP-WCMC) [download]

Supporting Materials

- Agenda [\[download\]](#) and participant list [\[download\]](#)

Recap on IBAT functionality

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool contains data on protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, and IUCN Red List Species provided by four leading conservation organisations (IUCN, Conservation International, BirdLife International, and UNEP-WCMC). The tool allows users to generate reports that provide information on the biodiversity features within a selected area or a country of interest.

Feedback

- Attendees stressed that the breakdown of different biodiversity features (e.g. by IUCN management category) is highly valuable. For example, some companies have made internal commitments relating to not operating in certain IUCN management categories of protected areas, and have requirements that arise from their membership to industry associations. The breakdown of different Key Biodiversity Areas was seen as a lower priority feature.
- Attendees suggested that a filter or sorting functionality for the species grid pages would be helpful for users. The ability to input coordinates or draw a boundary and receive a list of species based on this would be highly valuable. With this feature it would be helpful to know the area represented by the polygon boundary. Having the context beyond the site boundaries may also be useful in interpreting the results of the overlap with species, for example, a small number of species may require a large amount of attention if they are threatened within the wider landscape.
- A short paragraph of text in the report outlining formal support/certification from the IBAT Alliance partners would add weight to the reports.

- Attendees expressed concern regarding analytics on user activity to inform strategic investment by IBAT in data quality. Potential reputational risks were the main concern.
- Regarding species data, attendees were interested in being able to view a species' range directly in IBAT and in hearing more about migratory species data since this may help them to address issues of seasonality. However, it was noted that there are complexities in viewing range data, particularly when overlapping several species' ranges.

IBAT – Past & future

Recommendations and feedback on the current tool resulted in the creation of new business plan in 2017. The business plan noted the importance in developing a new portal, introducing a new pricing structure, and improving marketing and communications. The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool's goals for 2020 are to improve the user experience, secure new users, and achieve greater impact. This has started with creating a modern and versatile online tool with enhanced user interaction and backend data improvement capacity.

Question and Answers

- **On national data:** The core datasets collate a large amount of data that are provided by national authorities, however the tool itself does not directly receive other information and data from individual countries.
- **On finances:** IBAT is in a healthy financial situation in 2018. Over USD 700,000 was secured in revenue in 2017 and IBAT is on track for USD 1 million revenue in 2018.
- **On partner input to marketing and promotion:** IPIECA and some Proteus Partners have already expressed that they would be interested in supporting promotion of IBAT within their membership and among their technical users.
- **On the value of Proteus beyond IBAT:** Partners subscribe to IBAT automatically as part of their Proteus membership. IBAT is a tool that comes ready for use –there is no additional support provided beyond the tool. Proteus gives Partners access to significantly more datasets, including the Critical Habitat screening layer and over 30 marine and coastal datasets. Proteus also allows Partners to nominate priority countries for data updates, working with UNEP-WCMC to directly improve the datasets they use, and receive direct support in the form of training, data verification, and technical assistance tailored to their needs. Finally, Proteus Partners can draw on the convening power of UNEP-WCMC to access expertise, both through the Annual Meeting, and throughout the year.
- **On IBAT users in government and the agricultural sector:** A small number of government entities use IBAT. The old business model did not fit the capacities and resources of agricultural industries, which is a major reason for developing the new business offering and pricing structure.

Presentation of IBAT Version 3 and testing of Alpha release

The new tool will have improved aesthetics and incorporate new features, including: polygon and linear feature drawing; multiple site reporting; a new dashboard for high-level portfolio comparison; new reporting functions based on International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 6, the Global Reporting Initiative, and freshwater biodiversity; custom report building functions; and the inclusion of Web Map Services. An Alpha version of the tool was released in June 2018 and will be iteratively refined through feedback mechanisms for final release in October 2018. Proteus Partners can create an account to access the Alpha version of IBAT Version 3 via the following link:

http://ibat.ibat_staging.linode.unep-wcmc.org

Questions and Answers

- **On web service availability:** Web Map Services are currently available for the World Database for Protected Areas, but UNEP-WCMC are working closely with the IBAT Alliance to secure permission to provide the IUCN Red List data as a Web Map Service.
- **On timeframes for the final release:** The final release of the redeveloped tool is expected in October. Partners will be able to continue using the current version of the tool until the end of the year.
- **On data transfers to the new tool:** Data from existing IBAT accounts will be moved to the new system using very strict security protocols to ensure that client data is secure.

Break-out Group Feedback

We thank Partners for providing feedback on the prototype report structures which are to be included in the Alpha release. This feedback will be analysed and incorporated into the reporting functions provided in the final release.