



Proceedings of the Seventeenth Stakeholder Forum on Non-native Species

Held via Zoom

30 June 2021

Introduction

The GB Non-native Species Stakeholder Forum was established in 2004 to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to help shape policy and also to hear about key developments in policy and delivery. It is also used as an opportunity to facilitate networking with colleagues working on non-native species issues across GB. The Forum has been held annually since 2004 and is seen as a key element of the GB approach to non-native species.

This year the Forum was held completely online because of Covid restrictions.

The morning sessions consisted of talks to update on developments in the past year. The afternoon workshop sessions provided the opportunity for stakeholders to have a wide-ranging discussions.

Up to 90 delegates joined the Forum online.

NOTE: The views summarised in the workshop reports represent the views as they were expressed by our Stakeholders.

PROGRAMME

Dial in open

Welcomes from Richard Pullen (Defra) and
Matthew Bird (Scottish Government)

Outline of the day and GB Strategy Review process Niall Moore (NNSS)

Setting the scene presentations

Progress since strategy launch in 2015 - Niall Moore

Case study talks

- Pathway prioritisation, PAPs and contingency planning - Olaf Booy (NNSS)
- Horizon scanning, alerts and Asian hornet modelling - Helen Roy (CEH)
- Public awareness - Lucy Cornwell (NNSS)

Strategy Review: initial results - Paul Stebbing (APEM)

Introduction to workshop sessions (aim: to help identify key priorities for the future strategy and barriers to achieving the strategy's aims)

Workshop session:

- **Workshop 1:** Prevention: PAP implementation, horizon scanning, inspectorate, contingency planning
- **Workshop 2:** Early Warning, Rapid response and strategic long-term management
- **Workshop 3:** Public awareness: website revamp, Be Plant wise, Check Clean Dry,

Open session

Closing remarks/next steps

Close

Workshop Reports

Workshop 1: Prevention: PAP implementation, horizon scanning, inspectorate, contingency planning

Chair: Sarah Webster and Iain Henderson

General aim

To help identify key priorities for the future strategy and barriers to achieving the strategy's aims.

Specific prompts

Pathways

- How do we make sure the PAPs are implemented?
- If the suite of PAPs were fully implemented would we achieve the 50% reduction in establishments called for in the draft IAS target for the CBD?
- Suggestions for any pathways that need urgent attention that are not covered so far.

Inspectorate

- How can stakeholders support / best interact with any INNS inspectorate that is established?
- What are the key priorities for the Inspectorate?
- Is there a role for stakeholders in intelligence gathering? If so, what are the priorities?

Contingency response

- How can we improve contingency responses in terms of number, speed and outcome? Do we need more capacity?
- Is there a role for an INNS inspectorate in contingency response like what happens in Bee and Plant Health for instance?

Horizon scanning

- With the next horizon scanning exercise not due until 2024 how could we improve what has been done? (The trade were suggesting they need a greater input next time as they have good insight on specie that are in trade).

Workshop 2: Early Warning, Rapid response and strategic long-term management

Chair: Jo Long and Theresa Kudelska

General aim

To help identify key priorities for the future strategy and barriers to achieving the strategy's aims.

Specific prompts

Early Warning

- Is the current approach to alerts working (we cut the previously large number of alert species down to 19)?

Rapid response:

- What are the key priorities for rapid response in the next iteration of the GB Strategy?
- How do we best ensure that rapid responses are really rapid?
 - o Do we need greater resources or to develop more specialist capacity for example?
 - o Or are other barriers more important – legislative, worries about public response etc.

Long-term management:

- How do we identify *priority sites** for long-term management/eradication?
- The EAC called for the mobilisation of a biosecurity citizen army like New Zealand
 - o Is this feasible? Desirable?
 - o How would we best recruit and maintain volunteers for this army?
- At what scale should we coordinate long-term management and how can we ensure it is strategic and tied into GB, national and regional priorities?
- What are the best mechanisms to fund long-term management – prompt perhaps with: Environmental Land Management schemes, a LIFE successor, other?

* Priority sites is the term used in the draft new CBD target for IAS:

..... and eradicate or control invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts by 2030 in at least [50%] of priority sites.

Workshop 3: Research strategic plan (discussion of draft plan)

Chairs: Niall Moore (GB NNSS) and Sarah Webster (Defra)

General aim

To provide feedback on the updated NNSS website and help identify key priorities for the future strategy and barriers to achieving the strategy's aims.

NNSS website updates

What should be included on the website homepage?

- Link to ID sheets
- Links to BPW and CCD

Are the new groupings logical?

- yes

What is the single change we could make that would make the new website more useful to you or your audience?

- Make it easier to find what you are looking for – new footer is helpful
- Make it clearer when risk assessments are open for consultation
- Ability to pull up a list of species by taxonomic group, environment, location (e.g. recorded in Scotland)
- Reliable search function
- Automatically generate citation for references

Any other feedback?

- On homepage, avoid duplication by renaming “species information” in the green box to something else
- Spell out “Local Action Groups (LAGs)”
- “RAPID Life Project”
- Merge “Europe” with regulation page? Rename as “European Union”

NNSIP factsheet

- Title on RHS of factsheet, e.g. “Resources”
- Change “Contents” to something else, e.g. “Background”
- Move links to LHS?
- BBSI should be BSBI
- Native range map less important, move this elsewhere?

Public awareness

What should be our key priorities for future public awareness work?

Check Clean Dry

- Adverts on travel tickets
- Materials for paddle-boarding – CRT have a video
- Ask Boating PAP group to review the list of priorities – should paddle-boarding and open water swimming be added due to the number of new people taking up the activities over the last year?
- Target water users that aren't part of a club through shops selling kit (online and in person)
- Other channels include commercial hire venues, riparian landowners, tour operators, accreditation schemes (e.g. green flag)
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Be Plant Wise

- Behind CCD in progress, less engagement from the trade.
- Public / botanical gardens are an important stakeholder and provide opportunities for education – Horticulture PAP group to consider this.
- Online retailers and information sources to include information flagging potential invasiveness

Other

- Pets PAP needed and a light campaign could come out of this
- Promote relevant campaigns / materials to families over school holidays (taking part in activities). CCD, recording and alien detectives. Share alien detectives etc through other schemes such as OPAL
- We need to do more to link with climate and biodiversity emergencies
- Could include more philosophical discussions in Invasive Species Week – on biodiversity, what a healthy environment would look like etc

What are the barriers to doing this?

- Resources
- Engagement from industry / stakeholders
- Lack of proactive media work

Feedback from attendees

No feedback forms were given out this year because it was held online.

Acknowledgements

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