



Proceedings of the Eighteenth Stakeholder Forum on Non-native Species

**Held on-line and at
The Harbour Hotel, Bristol**

15 June 2022



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. Since 2008 it has been used to facilitate the active involvement of stakeholders in taking forward the GB Strategy.

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.

Overall, 99 attendees from a broad spectrum of organisations attended the Forum (44 online and 55 in The Harbour Hotel, Bristol)



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

PROGRAMME

GB STRATEGY REFRESH

Registration

Welcome address (Richard Pullen, Defra)

Update on progress since 2021 Forum (Niall Moore, GBNNSS)

Updates and presentations

GB Strategy refresh (Clare Watson, Defra)

Non-native Species Inspectorate (Iain Henderson, APHA)

Supporting local action in England, Scotland and Wales
(Joe Payne, Defra; Stan Whitaker, NatureScot; Tomos Jones, WaREN)

Workshop sessions (please choose one workshop)

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|--------------------|--|
| Workshop 1: | Prevention, surveillance and rapid response
(chapters 3 and 4) |
| Workshop 2: | Long-term management, awareness and collaboration
(chapters 5, 8 and 10) |
| Workshop 3: | Evidence, regulation, governance and prioritisation
(chapters 6, 7 and 9) |

15:20 Open session

15:50 Closing remarks/next steps

16:00 Close

Workshop 1 – Chapters 3 and 4: Prevention, surveillance and rapid response:

Co-chairs: Olivia Euesden and Niall Moore (Scribe)

General aim

To get feedback from stakeholders on the current draft of Chapters 3 and 4 of the GB Strategy.

Go through the chapters one at a time.

Collate 3 key points for feedback in the final session of the forum.

Prompts

General

Are there any general comments on the text in Chapter 3/4?

Is the objective appropriate – is it ambitious enough? Too ambitious?

Are the actions appropriate? Do they need more ambition? Are they sufficiently action focussed? Are there any missing? Are there any that should be removed? Do they tie in/underpin the objective for the chapter and the aims of the strategy overall?

More detailed prompts (only if needed)

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?

Inspectorate

- What are the key priorities for the Inspectorate?

Contingency and rapid response

- How can we improve contingency responses in terms of number, speed and outcome?
- How can we increase the number and speed of rapid responses?
- Do we need more capacity?
- Is there a role for an INNS inspectorate in contingency and rapid response?

Horizon scanning

- With the next horizon scanning exercise not due until 2024 how could we improve what has been done?

Workshop 2 – Chapters 5, 8 and 10: Long-term management, awareness and collaboration.

Co-chairs: Stan Whitaker and Theresa Kudelska (Scribe)

Prevention

Support funding of long term projects (current short term funding cycle impacts long term projects of strategic national importance)

- Use spatial prioritisation to inform funding
- Need a replacement for LIFE funding, some INNS funds ring fenced
- Link in to protected species / other drivers to prioritise INNS control

LAGs need more coordination. (The following are potential tasks for LAG coordinator?):

- Try to establish LAGs in areas where there are gaps / priority areas.
- Action to encourage more volunteers – river keepers / guardians could be used as a model to encourage involvement.

- Coordinate volunteers (insurance, H&S etc) so that there is not lots of repetition across LAGs
- Provide centralised support to identify appropriate spatial scales

Challenges in management – lack of training / equipment (guns and licences), health and safety issue

What are the 20 top widely spread species that are prioritised (as referenced in the introduction)? Review and update this list at regular intervals.

Public awareness

Key Action 8.2:

- increasing coverage of INNS issues – this could be supported by developing and maintaining a list with stakeholders of ideas for items / articles.
- Novel media:
 - Set up an INNS YouTube channel / webpage where videos on INNS control, research etc can be found.
 - Sci-fi literature could be used as a way of showing alternative futures where INNS are left unmanaged.

Key Action 8.3: could engage with new Natural History A level.

Key Action 8.4: other ways to monitor public / stakeholder awareness:

- regularly monitor social media analytics.
- Approach Defra Behavioural Insights team

Pathway Action Plans

PAPs should have their own comms plans.

Inspectorate

- There should be a comms plan to support the Inspectorate (e.g. to inform key stakeholders groups of their responsibilities / relevant legislation).
- A formalised alert / reporting system should be set up to inform the Inspectorate of online sales, releases etc and communicated to stakeholders and other agencies (including what to report).

Research

- Keep a list of potential INNS projects / research questions and engage universities to direct students to these to help answer INNS questions.
- Influence funding bodies such as NERC.

Collaboration and Partnership

There is a disjoint between the objectives and actions to address sharing information between GB and other countries.

Mention OSPAR here.

Support is also needed for GB as well as OTs. There is a lack of skilled staff.

- Practical skills are needed.
- Share staff across projects? Set up apprenticeships and training opportunities so people can have a career in INNS control.

Build on delivery partnerships

Sharing information:

- Concern about loss of good practice / information sharing through LIFE projects. Need to maintain this, could be on a species or habitat specific basis.
- How do LAGs share info? Is this addressed? Is support needed (e.g. by LAG coordinator to maintain online LAG forum and direct LAGs to it)

Could more be done through existing forums, BIC etc?

Workshop 3 – Chapters 6, 7 and 9: Evidence, regulation, governance and prioritisation.

Co-chairs: Sarah Webster and Leasa Fielding (Scribe)

General aim

To get feedback from stakeholders on the current draft of Chapters 6, 7 and 9 of the GB Strategy.

Go through the chapters one at a time.

Collate 3 key points for feedback at the final session of the forum.

Prompts

General

Are there any general comments on the text in Chapter 6/7/9?

Is the objective appropriate – is it ambitious enough? Too ambitious?

Are the actions appropriate? Do they need more ambition? Are they sufficiently action focussed? Are there any missing? Are there any that should be removed? Do they tie in/underpin the objective for the chapter and the aims of the strategy overall?

More detailed prompts (only if needed)

Evidence

- How do we best ensure the delivery of the evidence strategy and buy-in from researchers and funders?

Regulation

- How do we optimally communicate changes in legislation/listing etc. with relevant stakeholders?
- How do best ensure consistent enforcement of existing legislation?

Risk assessment and Prioritisation

- How do we best ensure that stakeholders are kept informed on progress with risk assessments, especially those that underpin listing?



Organisations attended

Angling Trust
Angus Council
APEM Limited
APHA - Non-native Species Inspectorate
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)
Bristol Water
Bristol Zoological Society
British Canoeing
Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
CABI
Cardiff Harbour Authority
Cefas
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
DAERA Plant Health Division
DAERA/NIEA
Defra
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Environment Agency
Fish Health Inspectorate, Cefas
Fisheries Management Scotland
Forestry Commission
GB NNSS
Hawk Board
Marine Biological Association
Marine Scotland, Scottish Government
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
NatureScot
Newcastle University
NIEA/DAERA
Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative
North Wales Wildlife Trust
NTS
Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association
Property Care Association and AECOM
River South Esk Catchment Partnership
School of Justice, University of Central Lancashire
Scottish Government
Scottish Invasive Species Initiative
SEPA
South West Lakes Trust
South West Water

Tees Rivers Trust
The British Association for Shooting and Conservation
Turtle Tally UK / NCRW
UK Squirrel Accord
Universty of Leeds
Wales Resilient Ecological Network project (WaREN)
Welsh Government
Yorkshire Water
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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