BioNet Systems enhancements

Release notes
November 2016
Version 1

Find out more about your environment at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Contents

Background

BioNet is the repository of biodiversity data maintained by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and contains species sightings and systematic survey, vegetation classification and threatened entity data used by a wide range of organisations. BioNet data is held across three separate website applications;

1. BioNet-Atlas

2. BioNet-Vegetation Classification

3. BioNet-Threatened Species

To support changes proposed under the biodiversity legislation reforms, two phases of systems enhancements are planned prior to the proposed commencement of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Local Land Services (Amendment) Act in July 2017.

Changes identified in this release include Phase 1 enhancements to the BioNet-Atlas and BioNet-Vegetation Classification website applications. In total, 31 changes have been implemented for this Phase 1 release, ranging from bug fixes and minor enhancements to new features.

Major Phase 2 enhancements are planned for release in July 2017.

Who is affected by the changes?

BioNet-Atlas application

Please note, within the BioNet-Atlas application, access to the various modules varies based on User Role. These controls are in place to prevent inadvertent edits to data and protect details of sensitive information. Table 1 provides a breakdown of all of the modules and applicable user roles that each of the 25 changes apply to. Each of the numbers in the table refer to the unique number given to each change – refer to the 'New features' and 'Enhancement and fixes' sections for specific details.

Table 1: User role access to each of the modules in the BioNet-Atlas application

		User role						
		Public	Registered	Sensitive Species Licence	Sensitive Species Licence + survey data entry rights	OEH staff (Edit role)	OEH staff (TS Profile role)	OEH staff (Maintenance role)
Module	Search	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	VIS Flora survey	-	4, 7, 19, 20	4, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	3, 4, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	3*, 4, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	3*, 4, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	2, 3*, 4, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
	Import spreadsheet	-	13	13	13	13	13	12, 13
	Codes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Species	-	26	26	26	26	26	26
	Fauna survey	-	-	7, 19, 20, 25	3, 7, 19, 20, 25	3*, 7, 19, 20, 25	3*, 7, 19, 20, 25	2, 7, 19, 20, 25
	Atlas sightings	-	-	-	-	1,10, 11	10, 11	10, 11
	TS Profiles	-	7, 14, 15, 16	7, 14, 15, 16, 17	7, 14, 15, 16, 17	7, 14, 15, 16, 17	7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
	Admin	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
	Other – applies across multiple manuals	8	6, 8	6, 8	6, 8	6, 8	6, 8	6, 8

* applies to only those datasets for which the user has been granted access to

#'s in the table refer to the unique number for each change – refer to the 'New features' and 'Enhancement and fixes' sections for specific details.

BioNet-Vegetation Classification application

Of the six changes to the BioNet-Vegetation Classification database, three apply to VIS-C Edit users and three apply to VIS-C Public users.

New features

BioNet-Atlas Application

The following new features have been applied within the BioNet-Atlas application;

Atlas sightings module

1. In response to the need for OEH staff to be able to search on records by Observer, and by the unique code for each record provided by the observer, two new search fields have been added to the Atlas sightings module; 'Observer name' and 'External key'. This is particularly useful in assisting users who are providing data pursuant to their Scientific Licence, by being able to search and provide advice on details of their records that have already been included into the system (access to functionality applies to all OEH staff only).

Systematic Survey modules (both VIS Flora Survey and Fauna survey)

2. Survey details are sometimes set-up incorrectly, with Sites attached to a Survey later being deemed more appropriate to sit within another Survey. To enable this edit to be made more efficiently, the ability to move a Site or Census from one Survey to another has been introduced. Note that only OEH staff with Maintenance role can make this edit, to ensure the movement of Sites and Census' does not adversely affect existing records (applies to OEH Maintenance role only).

3. The ability to update all records of a species across an entire survey has been introduced. This is generally useful for replacing unknown species. For example, species originally entered as 'Unknown X', can be later updated once the identity is determined (applies to holders of a Sensitive Species Licence and OEH staff, but only for those datasets the user has been granted access to).

VIS Flora Survey module

4. The ability to search records by the Census key (the identifier for a unique Site and Survey) has been introduced, allowing the user to now identify all of the sighting keys attached to that Census. This change is consistent with the fauna survey module (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

Admin module

5. Within the application, there can be duplicate observer entries for the same person, though with varying levels of contact details; some entries may have outdated contact details or others very scant details, which can prompt the person entering a new sighting to create another Observer detail entry. In order to simplify the data entry process when selecting from multiple observer entries and enable duplicate observer details to be removed from the

system, the ability to merge observers has been introduced. Note that as a security measure to ensure only true duplicate Observers are merged, this functionality is limited to OEH Maintenance (applies to OEH: Maintenance role only).

Enhancements and fixes

BioNet-Atlas Application

The following enhancements and bug fixes have been applied within the BioNet-Atlas application;

General (applies across multiple modules)

6. History (audit) information regarding when a page was last edited and by who, has been included across additional pages within the application (applies to all but Public users).

7. There was a bug with some PDF's that had been uploaded in the graphics tabs throughout the application not displaying correctly. This has been fixed, with all uploaded images across the various modules (e.g. TS Profiles, VIS Flora survey, Fauna Survey) now displaying correctly (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Licence holders and all OEH staff).

8. Date time fields across the entire application have been upgraded to capture seconds (hh:mm:ss), as previously not all date/time fields recorded seconds. This was done to ensure data compatibility between recording devices and the database. This change is designed to support multiple camera trap images (applies to all users).

Search module

9. All of the disclaimer and acknowledgment tick boxes have been removed. This aims to remove unnecessary barriers by simplify the steps involved in generating a search (applies to all users).

Atlas sightings module

10. There was a bug which prevented OEH staff with Data Entry or TS Profiles roles, from opening an existing record that had been imported via a spreadsheet. In order to enable the sighting to open, the link to the spreadsheet has now been supressed, for all but Maintenance user role (applies to all OEH staff only).

11. A Site number field was added to the Datasource tab for existing sightings. Where sightings are part of a systematic survey, this enables the site level details to be easily accessed (applies to OEH staff only).

Import spreadsheet module

12. During the import of survey data, if potential duplicates were identified, the error message returned was unclear as to potential duplicates being the root cause of the error. This bug has been fixed to now display a meaningful error message and a list of potential duplicate records for Maintenance staff review (applies to OEH staff: Maintenance role only).

13. The import of data import spreadsheets has previously increased the load on the system, with large datasets often timing out. The import process has now been batched to run after hours. For users that have uploaded their spreadsheets, this means that they should now expect a minimum of an overnight delay before their records are available on the public/internal BioNet website (applies to all users with Registered, Sensitive Species License holders or OEH access who upload spreadsheets).

TS profiles module

14. The 'Rural Fire Service' (RFS) tab of the 'Ecological data' view for a selected species contains details about fire sensitive species. This information refers to the Threatened Species Hazard Reduction List of the Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code. An error in the system meant details in this tab were previously editable, resulting in some OEH Threatened Species Officer's (TSO's) inadvertently changing data without realising the impact on Rural Fire Service programs. A control has now been imposed making the RFS tab read only (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

15. On the TS Profiles main page, the 'GeneralType' search field allows users to search across a variety of common groupings, such as 'birds', 'marsupials' and 'marine mammals', in addition to 'Key Threatening Processes', 'Threatened Ecological Communities' and 'Endangered Populations'. Due to the way details around Endangered populations are stored in the application, searching on this value will return no results. To avoid misleading search results, the 'Endangered Population' option has been removed from the Threatened Species Profiles search of 'GeneralType' (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

16. An oversight in the system meant that 'Threat' categories (accessible via the 'Descriptive text' and 'photos' link button), were previously editable by all holders of a Sensitive Species License. This exposed the data to the potential for inadvertent edits which would have implications for all users. This has been corrected so that only OEH staff (at TS Profile or Maintenance level) can edit or delete threat categories (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

17. In the TS Profiles reports, users required the following fields to be added;

In the .pdf format; the fields 'Profile status', 'Commonwealth listing status' and 'Accountable officer name' have been added.

In the .xls format; the fields 'Profile status' and 'Commonwealth status' have been added

(applies to OEH staff with TS Profiles and Maintenance access).

Systematic Survey modules (both VIS Flora Survey and Fauna survey)

18. Sighting Key and Status information has been included in the Survey Screens. This enables cross referencing between the Sighting and Survey modules (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Data Licence holders and OEH staff, though Registered users cannot access the Fauna survey module).

19. When a Replicate or Census is reviewed, the resulting data set displayed is now sortable by the column of attributes displayed, i.e. each of the fields in the results lists can be clicked on to sort the entire list of results in ascending or descending order according to the field selected, e.g. sorting all records based on date, or common name (applies to Registered, Sensitive Species Data Licence holders and OEH staff, though Registered user cannot access the Fauna survey module).

VIS Flora Survey module

20. If a user attempts to enter (or edit to) a duplicate species record (i.e. if the same species is entered into the same survey, replicate, subplot and stratum), previously no error message displayed and the user was unable to save the record. A duplicate check has now been imposed so that an error message is now returned when a user attempts to enter (or edit) a duplicate species record in VIS Flora Survey (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

21. In the 'Replicate' screen, a null stratum (value ' ') has been removed from species details stratum list, to avoid duplicate entries. Previously the duplicate check allowed stratum 'null' to be duplicated with stratum '-' resulting in duplicate entries not been flagged (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

22. A new validation rule ensures that any replicate for a site must now always contain an observer name. Previously this was not required, resulting in records with blank observers, and existing records without observer details unable to be edited until the observer field was populated (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

23. Observer search now includes a pop-up information button which displays full observer details. This allows the user to easily select the correct observer without the need to search and open observer details in a separate tab (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

Fauna survey module

24. On the Survey page, a bug was preventing the removal of Principals (primary observers). Additional observers could be added to the list of Principals, though not removed. This has now been fixed (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

Species module

25. In Species Maintenance page (for both flora and fauna), the Private Native Forestry (PNF) checkbox has been included. Having this flag visible ensures that any changes to species taxonomy does not inadvertently result in the loss of PNF information (applies to Sensitive Species Licence holders and OEH staff).

BioNet–Vegetation Classification Application

The following enhancements and bug fixes have been applied within the BioNet-Vegetation Classification application;

'Print PCT' button

26. A new 'Print PCT' button has been included in the header section, to print the PCT information from the PCT public version of the database. It will print the same information available in the community profile report for the PCT public version as a pdf document (VIS-C Public).

27. A new 'Print PCT' button has been included to print the PCT information from the PCT edit version of the database. It will print the same information available in the community profile report for the PCT edit version as a pdf document (VIS-C Edit users).

Display PCT ID

28. When the list of Plant Community Types are displayed using the Community Identification Tool, 'an additional column' the PCT ID is included in the search results enabling you to link directly to the PCT from the search results (VIS-C Public users).

29. When the list of Plant Community Types are displayed using the Community Identification Tool, 'an additional column' the PCT ID is included in the search results enabling you to link directly to the PCT from the search results (VIS-C Edit users).

Link PCT ID to PCT

30. A new link 'Open PCT', has been created to the 'PCT Display' screen from the 'Community ID Screen'. This makes it easier for users to open the selected PCT directly from the 'View summaries' page, bypassing the need to go through the Search and Display PCT (VIS-C Public users).

31. A new link 'Open PCT', has been created to the 'PCT Edit' screen from the 'Community ID Screen'. This makes it easier for users to open the selected PCT directly from the 'View summaries' page, bypassing the need to go through the Search and Display PCT (VIS-C Edit users).

Documentation

The majority of documentation for all BioNet user guides that is available via http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/bionet-guides-manuals.htm. Additional documentation for the BioNet-Vegetation Classification application is available within the application.

The following documents have been updated as a result of changes implemented in this release:

BioNet-Atlas manuals;

- BioNet-Atlas user manual
- http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/AtlasOEH.pdf
- BioNet-Atlas licensed user manual
- http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/restricted/120509AtlasLic.pdf
- BioNet – Flora Systematic Survey Public User Manual
  http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/vegetation/110766VISSFPub.pdf
- BioNet - Flora Systematic Survey Restricted user manual
- http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/restricted/120557VISFS.pdf
- BioNet – Fauna Systematic Survey Licensed User Manual
  http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/restricted/120507FSLic.pdf
- BioNet – Fauna Systematic Survey Licensed User Manual (OEH)
- http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/atlas/restricted/FaunaSurveyOEH.pdf

- BioNet-Vegetation Classification manuals;
- Public user manual
  http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/140286VISPUM.pdf
- Edit user manual (available once logged into the application
  http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/Visclassification.htm)
- PCT ID Tool user manual
  http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/120546PCTIdToolUserManual.pdf

Warnings and known issues

To view maps, install Adobe flash http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

To print maps in pdf format, you will need http://get.adobe.com/reader/

For the site to function correctly, you will need to allow pop-up windows to display.

Operating System Requirements for BioNet

This release of BioNet-Atlas and BioNet-Vegetation Classification is supported on the following Browsers and Operating system;

Operating system	Required browser versions
Windows 7	IE8 and above