Department of Planning and Environment

BioNet System enhancements
Release notes
February 2022 (Release 3.3.2)

Cover photo: Brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*), Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. John Spencer/DPE.

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Background

BioNet is the repository of biodiversity data maintained by the Department of Planning and Environment and contains species sightings and systematic survey, vegetation classification and threatened biodiversity data collections used by a wide range of organisations. BioNet data are held across three separate website applications: BioNet Atlas; BioNet Vegetation Classification; BioNet Threatened Biodiversity.

The majority of the data maintained in these applications are also available via BioNet web services that are maintained in parallel with the applications. This release covers new functionality and enhancements to the BioNet Atlas application, including major changes to the functionality of the Threatened Biodiversity module in line with Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) updates.

New functionality

BioNet Atlas

Species sightings

1. New clickable History link for all records visible via the Species sightings module

Applies to: DPE staff with a secure login.

A clickable History link has been developed to display changes to fields within the Sightings tab and Location tab. This History link displays any field that has been updated, the value that it has changed from and to, the date updated, by whom and the reason why.

Species names

2. New clickable History link for Species Maintenance

Applies to: DPE staff with TSProfile or Maintenance role.

A clickable History link has been developed to display changes to fields within the Species Maintenance form. This History link displays any field that has been updated, the value that it has changed from and to, the date updated, by whom and the reason why.

Threatened Biodiversity

3. New clickable History links to display changes to both Profile details and Profile Description fields

Applies to: DPE staff with TSProfile or Maintenance role.

Clickable History links have been developed to display changes to fields within the;

- Profile details section,
- 'Description tab' of the 'Descriptive text and photos' section.
- 'Assessment', 'Risk weighting & SAII" and 'RFS' tabs within the 'Ecological data' section.

This History link displays any field that has been updated, the value that it has changed from and to, the date updated, by whom and the reason why.

4. New functionality to delete Threatened Biodiversity Profiles

Applies to: BioNet Atlas Database Manager

If a Threatened Biodiversity Profile is created in error, the Database Manager now has the ability to delete profiles via a scripted back-end process. This only applies to new Profiles that have not been populated by Accountable Officers.

BioNet Threatened Biodiversity web app

There is no new functionality.

BioNet Vegetation Classification

There is no new functionality.

Enhancements

BioNet Atlas

Species Sightings search

5. Correction of download records server error in the Species Sightings Search

Applies to: All users of BioNet Atlas – both public and secure applications

This is to correct a server error in the public application where the application was unable to access the path specified.

Import spreadsheet

6. Bulk data imports can now accept missing leading zeros in the Species Code field

Applies to: Registered Users, holders of a Sensitive Species Data licence, DPE staff with a secure login, Maintenance users

The user interface has been changed to cater for missing leading zeros in the species code field of the submitted .csv file for both Standard Sighting Import and Systematic Survey Sighting Import. Both upload and import of these files now work.

Flora surveys

7. A minor bug in the 'Expand all' link in the Replicate Species tab has been fixed (bug fix)

Applies to: Sensitive Species Data licence holders, all DPE staff with a secure login

A bug was impacting the 'Expand all' link on the Species tab of the Replicate section, preventing all species associated with a replicate to be displayed on screen. This has now been fixed.

Species names

8. Additional fields in Species Maintenance

Applies to: Registered users, holders of a Sensitive Species Data Licence, and all DPE staff with a secure login to BioNet Atlas.

Two new fields have been added to Species Maintenance to identify classification of weed species or whether the species is a widely cultivated native species. These fields feed into the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology Calculator (BAM-C) to assist in the calculation of biodiversity values.;

- 'High Threat Weed' – containing the options:
  - o 'High threat weed - manageable', and:
  - o 'High Threat Weed – not manageable'

The High Threat Weeds list is currently found in the <u>BAM calculator landing page</u> but will be updated to a refreshable power query once the fields in the Species names fields are populated. See <u>Manageable high threat weeds practice note</u>.

- 'Widely Cultivated Native Species'

The term 'widely cultivated native species' was introduced with the revision of the BAM 2020. It is captured in the definition of scattered trees, when applying the scattered tree streamlined assessment, and in planted native vegetation streamlined assessments.

The definition in the BAM is: Widely cultivated native species: a variety of a native species developed in cultivation, usually for the purposes of agriculture, forestry or horticulture, and which, when reproduced retains its distinguishing features, and any native species listed on the high threat weeds list published in the BAM-C.

Threatened Biodiversity

These are the major changes to the functionality.

9. Implement a number of changes to the Threatened Biodiversity module as part of Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) changes.

Applies to: TS Profile users, TS Profile users with Profile Assessment role and Maintenance users

1. *Assessment* tab
In order to highlight the SAII principles and describe why each principle was assigned a value for the entity, a new tab labelled 'Risk Weighting & SAII' was created. Sensitivity to Loss, Sensitivity to Gain, Level of Biodiversity Concern, Biodiversity Risk Weighting and SAII were moved to this new Risk weighting and SAII tab
   a. Add a new field 'Survey Comments' to the Assessment tab
   b. Delete obsolete fields from the Assessment tab, which are no longer referenced in BAM 2020 – 'SAII Threshold', 'SAII Threshold Type' and 'SAII Threshold Condition' values where appropriate for Species, Populations and TECs
   c. Update field labels
      - o For Dual Credit Species – change all Threatened Species Profile attribute labels from "Breeding" to "Species credit" and from "Foraging" to "Ecosystem credit"
      - o Change Patch Size values to reflect those stored in the BAM Calculator
         - Change Patch size value "5 - 24 ha" to "5 - <25 ha"
         - Change Patch size value "25 - 100" ha" to "25 - <100 ha"
         - Change Patch size value "> 100 ha" to ">=100 ha"
      - o Re-label 'Months of survey comments' as 'Survey Comments'

d. Format improvements
  o On the Assessment tab, the data entry box for the fields 'Habitat Constraints', 'Habitat Constraint Breeding' and 'Habitat Constraint Foraging' have a widened for easier use

2. *Risk weighting & SAII* tab
As mentioned above in the Assessment tab section, a new tab, 'Risk weighting & SAII' has been added to the Ecological data section to improve functionality. In this tab:
  a. The following sections were moved from the Assessment tab:
    i. Serious and Irreversible Impacts
    ii. Sensitivity to Loss Calculate pop-out
      a. Now represented as the SAII Principle(s) section
    iii. Level of Biodiversity Concern which incorporates the following as per the previous model:
      a. Sensitivity to Loss
      b. Sensitivity to Loss Calculate button (pulls summary details from the SAII Principles section)
      c. Justification (for Sensitivity to Loss) as per previous model
      d. Sensitivity to Gain or Sensitivity to Gain Species credit and Sensitivity to Gain Ecosystem credit, as appropriated for each Class of Credit as per previous model
      e. Sensitivity to Gain Calculate pop-out as per previous model
      f. Level of Biodiversity Concern or Level of Biodiversity Concern Species credit, as appropriate for each Class of Credit as per previous model
      g. Biodiversity Risk Weighting or Biodiversity Risk Weighting Species credit, as appropriate for each Class of Credit as per previous model

  b. Serious and Irreversible Impacts section has been moved to the top of the screen for prominence.
  c. SAII Principle(s) replaces the Sensitivity to Loss calculate pop-out. This section is displayed as follows:
    a. Each Principle is composed of SAII status, the Principle value and a free text Justification field, which contains information or references that justify the SAII status for a Principle. The Principles are related to:
      i. Principle 1 – rate of decline of a species, population or ecological community.
      ii. Principle 2 – reduction in population size
      iii. Principle 3 – limits to geographic distribution
      iv. Principle 4 – ability to respond to change
  d. Re-order Sensitivity to Gain fields from lowest to highest potential impact of the BAM calculation, so that field options are listed from low risk to high risk
  e. Update field labels
    o For Dual Credit Species – change all TSP attribute labels from "Breeding" to "Species credit" and from "Foraging" to "Ecosystem credit"
  f. Change 'Sensitivity to Potential Gain' to 'Sensitivity to Gain'
  g. Change Sensitivity to Loss field order to match BAM guidance
  h. Add information buttons - Display SAII BAM 2020 field information points
  i. Fix errors
    o Calculate sensitivity to gain when Lifespan is driver. Previously Lifespan was not being used to calculate Sensitivity to Gain when if represented the highest risk
    o Ensure edits are not lost from Risk weighting and SAII screen when Sensitivity to Loss or Sensitivity to Gain pop outs are opened. Note: the screen redesign has removed the Sensitivity to Loss pop-out.

These are additional changes to functionality.

10. Profile details section - Populate 'Not listed' in NSW status or Commonwealth status fields where the entity is not listed as either a NSW Status profile or a Commonwealth Status profile

Applies to: all users with a secure login

Listing of on entity on either the Biodiversity Conservation Act, or the EPBC are held in the Profile details section in the fields 'NSW status' and 'Commonwealth status'. Where appropriate, the NSW Status or Commonwealth Status will be populated in the Sensitivity to Loss Justification field in the Level of Biodiversity Concern section. If an entity is not listed on either Act, the value now displays as 'Not Listed' in the Profile details section of the Ecological data screen.

11. Assessment tab - On creation of a new Profile, ensure that Paddock Trees, Patch Size and Percent Native Veg Cover are not pre-populated (bug fix)

Applies to: TSProfile users

On creation of a new Profile, the fields Paddock Trees, Patch Size and Percent Native Veg Cover are not pre-populated. These fields will now display '—choose—' and will need to be populated. A previous bug was causing these to be auto-populated.

12. Assessment tab - For newly created TEC profiles, the Biodiversity Credit Class field is set to blank

Applies to: TSProfile users

When a new TEC profile is created, the Biodiversity Credit Class default value populated was 'Species Credit Class'. This has been changed to a blank value. Existing validation code will then force user to choose a Credit Class before saving

13. Assessment tab - Lock edit access for selected fields in the Assessment tab

Applies to: DPIE staff with TSProfile and TSProfile with Profile Assessment Role.
- Lock edit access for select fields unless user has Profile Assessment Role (i.e. lock edit access to AOs and restrict to BOS Branch). As these fields impact the BAM Credit Calculator, edit access is restricted to the Offset Assessment & Systems team who oversee content in the BAM Calculator
  - Patch size; Percent native vegetation cover; Habitat Constraints; Months of survey; Months of Survey Breeding; Survey Comments and Unit of Measure

14. Risk weighting & SAII tab - In the Sensitivity to Gain Fauna pop-up, display first option as 'Choose' (bug fix)

Applies to: TSProfile users

In the Sensitivity to Gain Fauna pop-up of the Risk weighting & SAII tab, all dropdowns now have '--choose–' as the first item in the list.

15. Risk weighting & SAII section - For EPBC Act TECs, the listing status is recorded in the Level of Biodiversity field

Applies to: TSProfile users.

For EPBC TECs, where a TEC only has an EPBC Act status, ensure that the EPBC Act listing status is recorded on the Risk weighting & SAII screen under Level of Biodiversity Concern. This is to accommodate the splitting of TEC Profile into BC Act TECs and EPBC Act TECs.

16. Remove obsolete threatened entity reports

In the Report tab of the Threatened Biodiversity module, obsolete reports have been removed.
Applies to: all users with a login to BioNet Atlas.
- Remove several obsolete threatened entity reports
  - BioBanking report
  - Empty data report
  - PADACS report
  - Response to management report
  - Threatened Species audit report

BioNet Threatened Biodiversity web app

There have been no changes.

BioNet Vegetation Classification

There have been no changes.

Documentation

Documentation for BioNet Atlas, including the user manual, quick guides and power queries are available via the <u>BioNet resources homepage</u>.

Warnings and known limitations

No warnings or known limitations specific to this release.