



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

BioNet System enhancements

Release notes

March 2020 (Release 3.2.4)



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1. Background

BioNet is the repository of biodiversity data maintained by the Department of Planning, Industry 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 to the applications.

The BioNet Enhancement Project (3.2) is underway to ensure BioNet is ready to accommodate a major upgrade of Eastern NSW Plant Community Type (PCT) data. This release includes enhancements to both BioNet Vegetation Classification and BioNet Atlas to support the Eastern NSW PCT data rollout, as well as a number of bug fixes. Major changes in this release relate to spatial intersect of flora survey sites against environmental layers that will form part of the environmental envelope definition for new Eastern NSW PCTS.

Concurrent with this release is the publication of the first version of the BioNet Systematic Flora Survey web service. Refer to BioNet Web Services Release Notes March 2020 (Release 3.2).

2. New functionality

2.1 BioNet Atlas

There is no new functionality.

2.2 BioNet Threatened Biodiversity app

There is no new functionality.

2.3 BioNet Vegetation Classification

There is no new functionality.

3. Enhancements

3.1 BioNet Atlas

3.1.1 Threatened Biodiversity

1. Legal status fields for Threatened Biodiversity profiles (bug resolved)

Applies to: BioNet Admin users within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment staff.

A bug developed after the previous release (Release 3.2.3) in the maintenance section for the Threatened Biodiversity profiles module, where the fields 'NSW Status' and 'Commonwealth Status' were not displaying correctly. This has been fixed so the drop-down menu now populates with all relevant Acts.

3.1.2 Various modules (Import spreadsheet, Flora surveys Data maintenance and Fauna Surveys Data Maintenance)

2. New environmental variables for a site (enhancement)

Applies to: all users.

A new feature has been implemented that enables BioNet Atlas to automatically capture several environmental variables for a site via a spatial layer intersect process. This occurs when new sites are created, or the location associated with a site is modified. The following values are captured from raster datasets and are presented for each site under the Physiology tab in the Calculated Environmental Variables table:

- Elevation in metres ASL (above sea level)
<https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/modified-digital-elevation-layer>
- Annual rainfall in millimetres
<https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/anuclim-annual-mean-rainfall-raster-layer>
- Mean annual temperature in degrees Celsius
<https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/anuclim-annual-mean-temperature-raster-layer>

Each systematic flora survey plot will be intersected with these environmental layers. This will be used to define an environmental envelope for new eastern NSW plant community types that are currently under development. These values will be applied in future PCT identifications procedures.

3.2 BioNet Threatened Biodiversity application

There have been no changes.

3.3 BioNet Vegetation Classification application

3.3.1 Various

3. Missing IBRA values in 'Export all PCTs' and 'PCT Descriptions' reports (bug resolved)

Applies to: Vegetation Classification Public and Edit (Reports/Exports menu)

A bug occurred in the Reports/Exports > 'Export all PCTs' output, post Release 3.2.3, where several PCTs were missing IBRA/subregion information. This bug has been resolved and now all IBRA (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia) information is presented for PCTs in these reports.

4. Missing PCT Name data in Benchmarks by PCT 'Export Data' (bug resolved)

Applies to: Vegetation Classification Edit (Administration > Benchmarks menu)

In the Benchmarks by PCT page 'Export Data' output, several PCTs were missing PCT Name information. This bug appeared post Release 3.2.3 and has been resolved such that now all PCT Name information is presented for PCTs in this export.

5. Ensure changes to benchmarks in BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit are only published if status is 'Approved' or 'Decommissioned' (bug resolved)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Public

In R3.2.3 a bug was identified that would enable changes to benchmarks other than to 'Approved' or 'Decommissioned' PCTs to be published. This bug has been resolved and now benchmarks are only able to be published to Vegetation Classification Public if the PCT Definition Status is 'Approved' or 'Decommissioned'. Any other changes to benchmarks in Vegetation Classification Edit are not published. This change to show only Approved or Decommissioned PCTs is reflected in the PCT Vegetation Condition Benchmarks report and export from Vegetation Classification Public.

6. Validate PCT names at PCT Core data upload (enhancement)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit users (Upload/Import PCT Data Management Routines)

PCT Names are validated at upload to ensure duplicate PCT names are not created. This mirrors the validation which occurs in the BioNet Flora Surveys Data maintenance module where PCTs are created.

7. User passwords being reset at registration (bug resolved)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Public (User registration)

A bug was causing a reset of initial passwords defined by users on registration and the users were being sent the reset password via email. This bug has been resolved and initial passwords are now not reset and a new password is not provided to users with the registration email. Users will be able to login using the passwords they set initially on registration.

8. PCT Benchmark status now displays 'decommissioned' statuses (enhancement)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit users (PCT EDIT)

Where benchmarks for a PCT are decommissioned due to the PCT being decommissioned, 'decommissioned' is now displayed for the benchmarks status in the PCT screen banner area.

9. Benchmark upload/import did not attribute new benchmarks to PCT with 'Decommissioned', 'Withdrawn' or 'Rejected' statuses (bug resolved)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit users (Benchmark)

Previously, when a user imported new Class/IBRA benchmarks, they were applied to PCTs regardless of PCT Definition Status. Changes have been made to ensure that when new Class/IBRA benchmarks are imported, they are not applied to PCTs with a 'Decommissioned', 'Withdrawn' or 'Rejected' PCT Definition Status.

10. Field names corrected in Vegetation Classification Upload/Import UI (enhancement)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit users ([Upload/Import PCT Data Management Routines](#))

Two field names have been revised in the taxon upload/import screen to clarify that the data in these fields relate to individual taxa rather than growth forms:

- 'Growth_Form_Group_Freq' to 'Species Frequency'
- 'Growth_Form_Median_cover_score' to 'Median Cover Score'

11. Field names corrected in Vegetation Classification PCT Edit user interface (enhancement)

Applies to: BioNet Vegetation Classification Edit users (PCT Edit)

Two field names have been revised in the PCT Edit screen to clarify their meaning:

- 'Scientific Name' to 'PCT Scientific Name'
- 'TEC listed' to 'TEC assessed'

4. Documentation

Documentation for BioNet systems, including the user manual, quick guides and power queries are available via the [BioNet resources homepage](#).

5. Warnings and known limitations

No warnings or known limitations specific to this release.