



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

BioNet System enhancements

Release notes 3.3.1



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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.

This release covers an upgrade of the BioNet Vegetation Classification applications and Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app Microsoft .NET framework (from .NET 3.5 to .NET 4.6), which the department's Digital Information Office recommended to address growing security risks as the previous .NET framework (3.5) was nearing end of life.

This release also covers a number of system enhancements to both the BioNet Vegetation Classification applications, most notably relating to vegetation condition benchmarks, and to the BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app relating to some changes in NSW status.

2. New functionality

2.1 BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app

There is no new functionality.

2.2 BioNet Vegetation Classification

There is no new functionality.

3. Enhancements

3.1 BioNet Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app

16. Change of NSW status 'Presumed Extinct' to 'Extinct'

Applies to: all users viewing the Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app

The change of NSW status from 'Presumed Extinct' to 'Extinct' has been made to align with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

17. New NSW status options 'Extinct in the Wild' and 'Collapsed Ecological Community' (774)

Applies to: all users viewing the Threatened Biodiversity Profile web app

Two new NSW status options have been added to align with the Biodiversity Conservation Act:

- 'Extinct in the Wild'
- 'Collapsed Ecological Community'

3.2 BioNet Vegetation Classification

3.2.1 Benchmarks

A number of updates relating to the management, display, export and transfer to web services of benchmark data have been made in preparation for the approval and rollout of enhanced vegetation condition benchmark data for wetter than average and drier than average years.

1. New benchmark variations

Applies to: Statutory Data Edit User and Administrators (for edit access), all users (for view access)

The current default Class/IBRA benchmarks used have Benchmark Variation of 'monthly average, following AVERAGE RAINFALL year'. Two new options have been added:

- 'monthly average, following WET RAINFALL year'
- 'monthly average, following DRY RAINFALL year'

These additional benchmark variations have been added in preparation for the release of additional benchmark data, including new Rainfall Threshold data (see below). This is currently a schema change only (i.e. no data have been populated yet), so currently, there is no impact on users.

2. New benchmark field

Applies to: Statutory Data Edit User and Administrators (for edit access), BioNet Vegetation Classification Public and Edit users (for view access)

A new benchmark field has been created 'Rainfall Threshold', which will display the amount of rain (mm) in the previous 12 months for the corresponding Benchmark Variation. This is currently a schema change only (i.e. no data have been populated yet), so currently, there is no impact on users. The data will be expressed as a range.

3. Table format change in Community Condition Benchmarks of PCT user interface

Applies to: All users (i.e. Public and Edit)

In the 'Community Condition Benchmarks of PCT' user interface, the table format to display the benchmark data has been modified in preparation for the additional benchmark data (the new Benchmark Variation and Rainfall Threshold data). The table has been changed from columns to rows to make the tables easier to view and sort in preparation for the greater volume of benchmark data. Once these data are available, users will be able to select vegetation condition benchmarks that better suit the environmental conditions based on the previous 12 months rainfall within their Vegetation Class/IBRA region of interest.

4. Functionality and table format changes in Administration > Benchmark management section

Applies to: Statutory Data Edit User and Administrators (for edit access), BioNet Vegetation Classification Public and Edit users (for view access)

Functionality has been developed to upload, import, manage, export, and transfer the new Benchmark Variation and Rainfall Threshold data to BioNet web services.

5. Minor editorial changes to Administration > Benchmarks section

Applies to: Statutory Data Edit User and Administrators (for edit access)

The following changes have been made to the Administration > Benchmarks section:

- hyperlink which was 'Go to benchmark defaults page' has been changed to 'Go to Manage Class/IBRA Default Benchmark Data page' to improve clarity regarding the type of default benchmarks
- the page title was 'Manage Benchmark default data' is now being called 'Manage Class/IBRA Default Benchmark Data' to improve clarity regarding the type of default benchmarks
- under 'Benchmarks by Status' tab, one of the search field names labels has been changed from 'PCT Common Name' to 'PCT Name' to ensure field name consistency throughout the application.

4. Documentation

Documentation for BioNet systems, including the user manual, quick guides and power queries are available via the BioNet resources page.

5. Warnings and known limitations

The new benchmark field and benchmark variations, listed above, will be included in a future release of the BioNet VegetationClassification_PCTBenchmarks Web Service.