

Integrated Biodiversity Management System Scoping Report: Project Plan

Dan Randow and Jim Fretwell, 8 September 2011.

Introduction

TFBIS has recognised a widespread need for an integrated biodiversity management system (IBMS) for regional councils. It has also recognised the potential to leverage the strengths of the existing Auckland Regional Council and Environment Bay of Plenty biodiversity management systems to create an IBMS.

The IBMS system should meet biodiversity management needs common to most regional councils. In particular, it should meet the needs of the recently published terrestrial biodiversity Monitoring Framework and should integrate with other systems including the Integrated Resource Management System (IRIS).

TFBIS (project 245) has agreed to fund a Scoping Report on the needs for an IBMS, the benefits of merging the Auckland Regional Council and Environment Bay of Plenty systems, and how such a merger could be achieved. The Scoping Report should provide a basis for a project to carry out a merger of the two systems. This is a plan for a project to prepare that Scope. This plan defines the questions that the Scope will address and a process for addressing those questions.

The Scope

The following will be engaged throughout the process of preparing the Scope.

- Staff of Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty.
- The Biodiversity Forum, IRIS and other key sector stakeholders.
- The Dataversity Community.

The Scope will determine the following.

- Requirements – the requirements that an IBMS must meet.
- Existing Systems – how the existing systems meet the requirements for an IBMS.
- Merger Options – options for a merger of the existing systems to meet the requirements for an IBMS, and an evaluation of those options.
- Recommended Option – details including cost-estimates for a recommended approach.

Requirements

The requirements definition will focus on the specific requirements of Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty, while taking into account the requirements of all regional, territorial and unitary authorities.

The Scope will outline the biodiversity data management requirements in the following areas:

- Functional and reporting requirements defined by the following:
 - Staff of Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty.
 - The functions performed by the existing systems.
 - Requirements documented by other local government organisations.
 - The *Recommended Monitoring Framework for regional councils assessing biodiversity outcomes in terrestrial ecosystem*.
 - *Measuring up*, the Ministry for the Environment environmental reporting discussion document.
- Interoperability with the following:
 - biodata systems such as NZOR, GBIF and the Biosecurity system being developed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Environment Bay of Plenty.
 - GIS, financial, CRM and operational systems including IRIS.
- Technical platform and architecture factors including maturity, compatibility, scalability and extensibility.
- Business factors including governance, licensing, implementation, support and maintenance.

Existing Systems

The Scope will evaluate the existing Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty systems with respect to the requirements for an IBMS. The existing systems will be evaluated with respect to their functionality, interoperability and technical and business factors.

Merger Options

The Scope will outline options for merging the Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty systems to build a system that meets the requirements for an IBMS. The options considered will reflect a broad interpretation of the term “merger” and may or may not include re-use of any currently implemented components.

Project Process and Budget

Output and Tasks	Participants	Timeframe	Budget
Project Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define project scope and plan 	Dan Randow (Consultant), Jim Fretwell (Project Leader), Julian Carver (Adviser).	30 August 2011	\$1,920
Determine Merger Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule and plan interviews Review requirements documentation Conduct interviews at Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty Document requirements and existing system fit Define, evaluate and document merger options Report to TFBIS, AC and EBoP Review project plan 	Dan Randow (Consultant), Jim Fretwell (Project Leader), Julian Carver (Adviser), Auckland Council and Environment Bay of Plenty staff	14 October 2011	\$15,920
Determine Recommended Option <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct workshop to evaluate merger options Conduct further interviews as required to determine details of recommended option 	Dan Randow (Consultant), Jim Fretwell (Project Leader), Julian Carver (Adviser), key AC and BoPRC staff.	30 November 2011	\$12,400
Prepare Final Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document Recommended Option in Detail 	Dan Randow (Consultant), Jim Fretwell (Project Leader), Julian Carver (Adviser).	20 December 2011	\$8,960
Total			\$39,200