

Introducing the SBIF Review

Ellen Wilson, SBIF Chair

BRISC Conference

29th October 2016

Why have a Review?

- Public petition for an effective infrastructure
- SBIF established the need for a Review
- Many stakeholders, many relationships
- Diverse needs and diverse priorities
- Things could be (a lot) better...

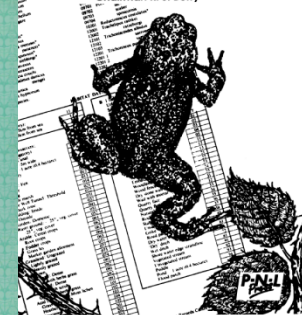
1975

Conference Report
BIOREC
Biological Recording
in Scotland **75**

1988

**Biological Survey
Need & Network**

Report of a Working Party
set up by the Linnean Society of London
Chairman R. J. Berry



1995

**BIOLOGICAL RECORDING
IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM**

Present practice and future development

SUMMARY REPORT

Department of the Environment

2006

JNCC 06 P18
December 2006

NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK - FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

by Steve Wilkinson

Background

11 The need for a national mechanism for accessing biodiversity data was first identified in a report commissioned by the Department of the Environment published in 1991, which suggested that over 50,000 individuals in the UK were actively involved in wildlife record collection but that the availability of these records was 'rather disparate and inefficient'.

12 In 1991, the UK Biodiversity Steering Group recommended establishing a co-operative network of biodiversity databases to improve the availability of biodiversity data. It recommended that the management of this network should fall to JNCC.

13 In addition, the UK Biodiversity Steering Group recognised that access to, and harmonising use of, the available data was a critical part of meeting the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at the Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

14 In 1996, the Joint Committee confirmed the need for such a national network of biodiversity databases and took the decision to undertake Researcher Biodiversity data software in order to facilitate the management and improve the quality of biodiversity data across the network. This development is now virtually complete with the roll-out of Recorder 5.

15 In 2000, the NBN Trust was formed with original representatives from JNCC, English Nature, Cornwall Council for Wildlife, Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Federation for Biological Recording, Environment Agency, the Marine Biological Association, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Freshwater Biological Agency and the British Ecological Society. Core funding for the Trust is provided through subscription from the partners. Specific partners also fund the acceleration of development work via specific partnership agreements. The Trust is currently reviewing its strategic priorities, particularly in respect of its stakeholder needs.

2013

ASSOCIATION OF
Local Government Ecologists

**ECOLOGICAL CAPACITY AND COMPETENCE
IN
ENGLISH PLANNING AUTHORITIES**

What is needed to deliver statutory obligations for biodiversity?

November 2013

FINAL REPORT

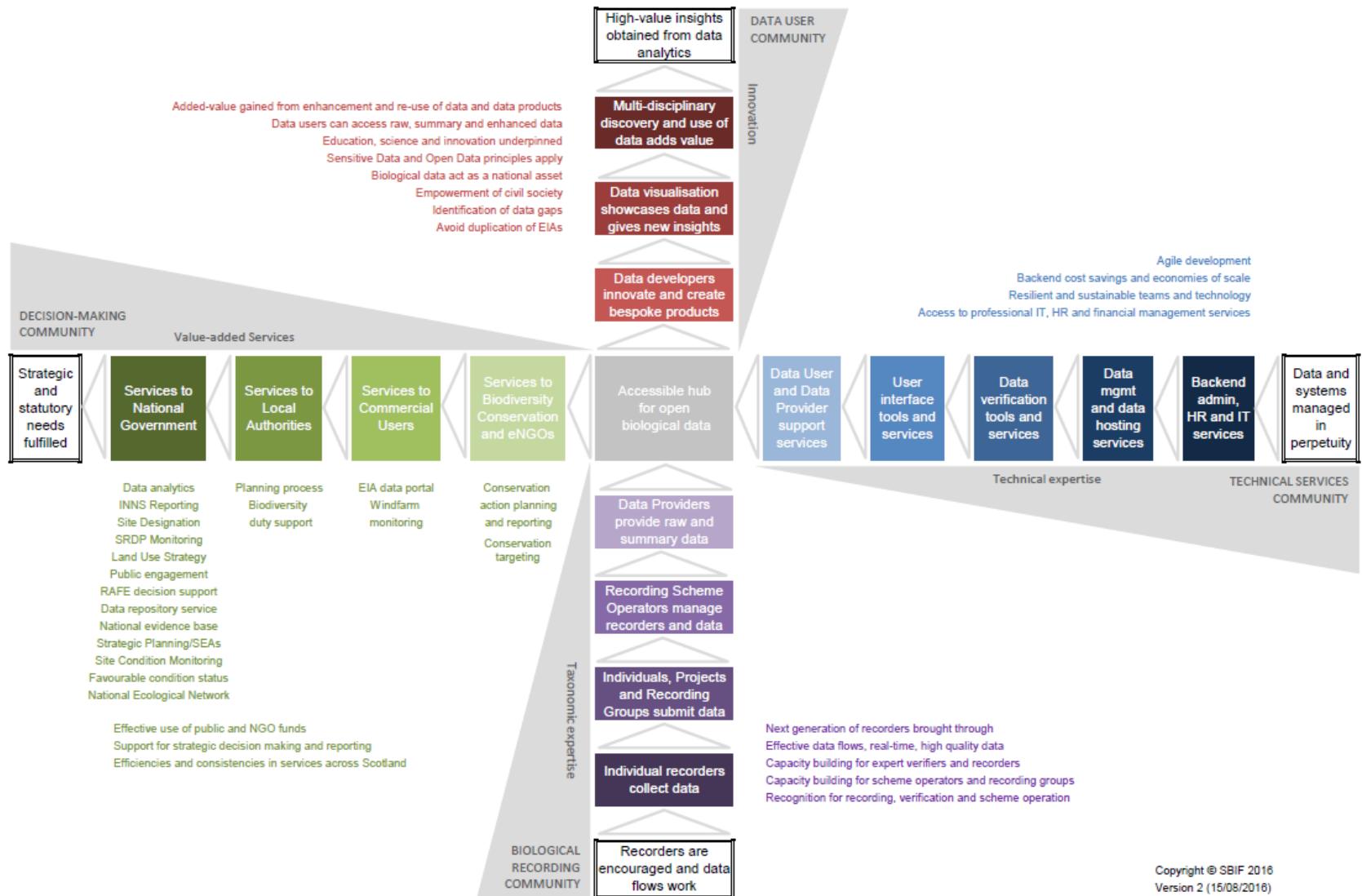
Prepared on behalf of the Association of Local Government Ecologists
Mike Oudon OBE, FRCGS
ALGEC Project Officer

To achieve the SBIF Vision

High quality species and habitat data will be collected and managed through a sustainable, co-ordinated and integrated local and national framework of organisations, partnerships and initiatives. These data will be available to ensure that Scotland's biodiversity, ecosystems and people benefit.

SBIF, June 2012

Review Scope and Value Model



What will we focus on?

- Understanding the position today
 - *What roles people play in delivering services/data*
 - *An analysis of the 'As-Is' position and what is problematic*
 - *What could and should be local, national or central?*
- Understanding the changes needed and what they would achieve and cost
- Identifying how we can be successful and sustainable
- Engendering ideas, willingness and energy

Key roles

1. Recorder
2. Verifier
3. Collection Curator
4. Recording Group Operator
5. Recording Scheme Operator
6. Data Provider
7. Data Developer
8. Data User
9. Service Provider
10. Service User
11. Funder

Key sectors

1. Academia
2. Commercial companies
3. Local Authorities and National Parks
4. Local Environmental Record Centres
5. Local Recorders and Local Recording Groups
6. Museums, Zoos and Botanic Gardens
7. National Data Centres
8. National Schemes and Societies
9. NGOs
10. Public bodies

What information will we need?

- Operational schemes and services and their costs
- Funding streams for schemes and services
- Alignment of data flows from recorder to user
- Alignment of services for commissioners and users
- Responsibilities and motivations
- Problems, issues and ideas for improvements

What have we got to gain?

- Resilient and sustainable teams and technology
- Effective, well-aligned services; better decisions
- High value insights and innovation from Open Data
- Making the most of our collective talents and synergies
- Greater support and recognition for key roles
- Scotland being demonstrably effective and can-do

Review principles

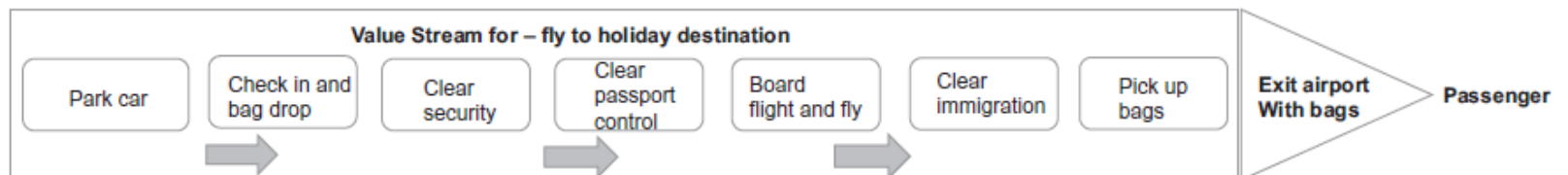
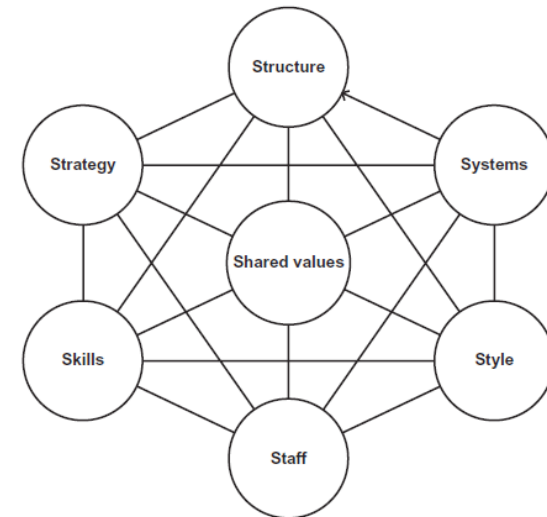
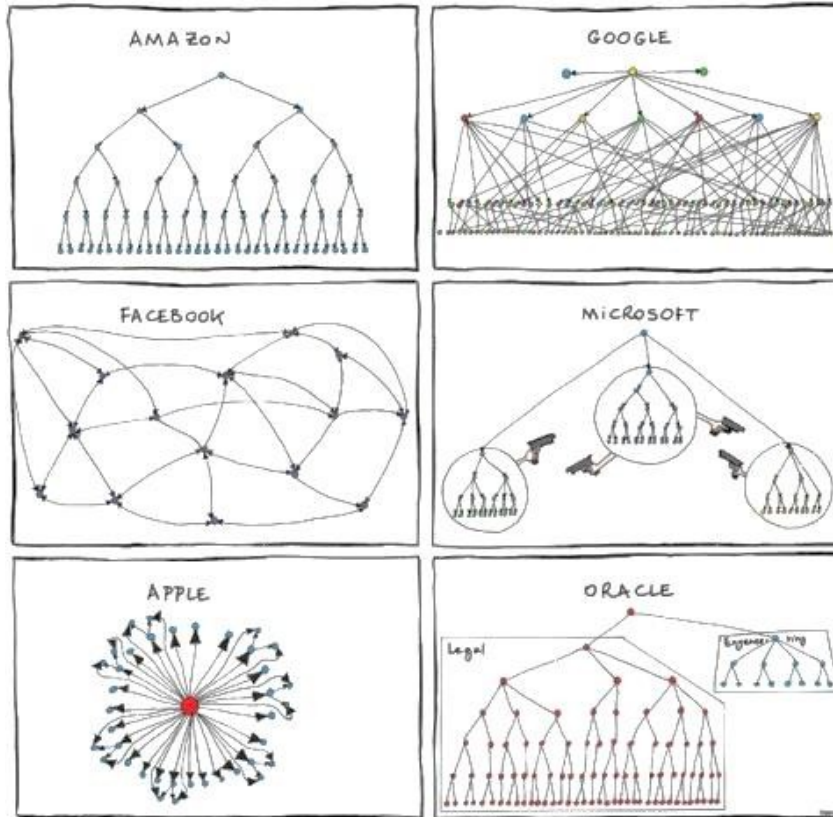
- **Formal mgmt** with gateways and highlight reports
- **Efficient**, low cost, concluding within 12 months
- **Fair**, giving equal opportunity to all to input
- **Supportive**, creating a safe space for all
- **Thorough**, giving attention to significant aspects
- **Solution-focused**, resolving six key issues
- **Informed** by perspectives from all four countries

And resulting in more data reaching more people for more benefit more easily, increasing the value of, and satisfaction with, our infrastructure...

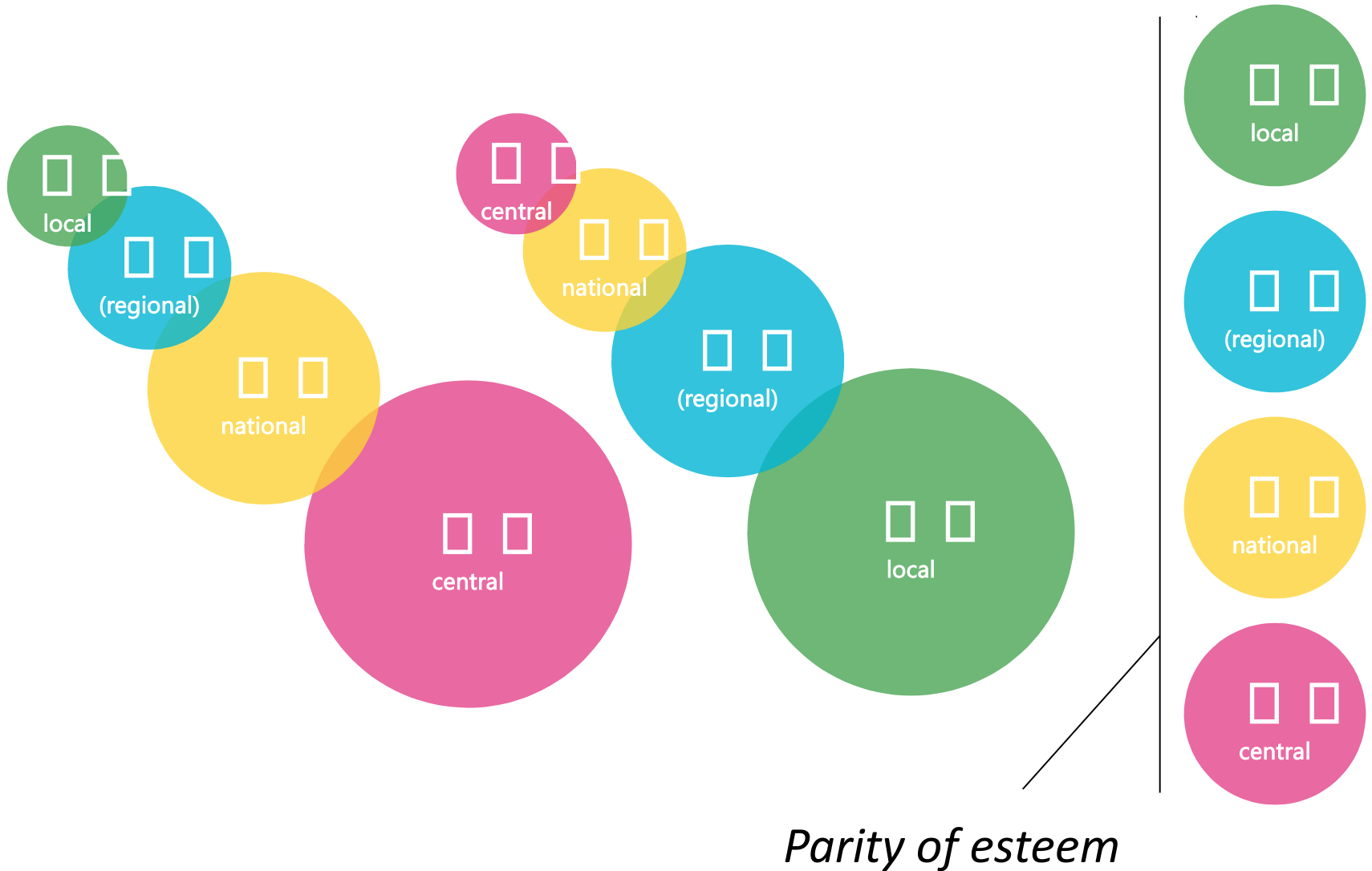
What are the six key issues?

1. Complexity, low resilience, and funding challenges
2. Lack of easy access to discover all data
3. Open data principles challenge our business models
4. Patchy provision or duplication of services
5. Lack of alignment and degree of challenge between and within sectors and organisations
6. Lack of certainty, direction and action on localising, nationalising or centralising services

What/how do we want to be?

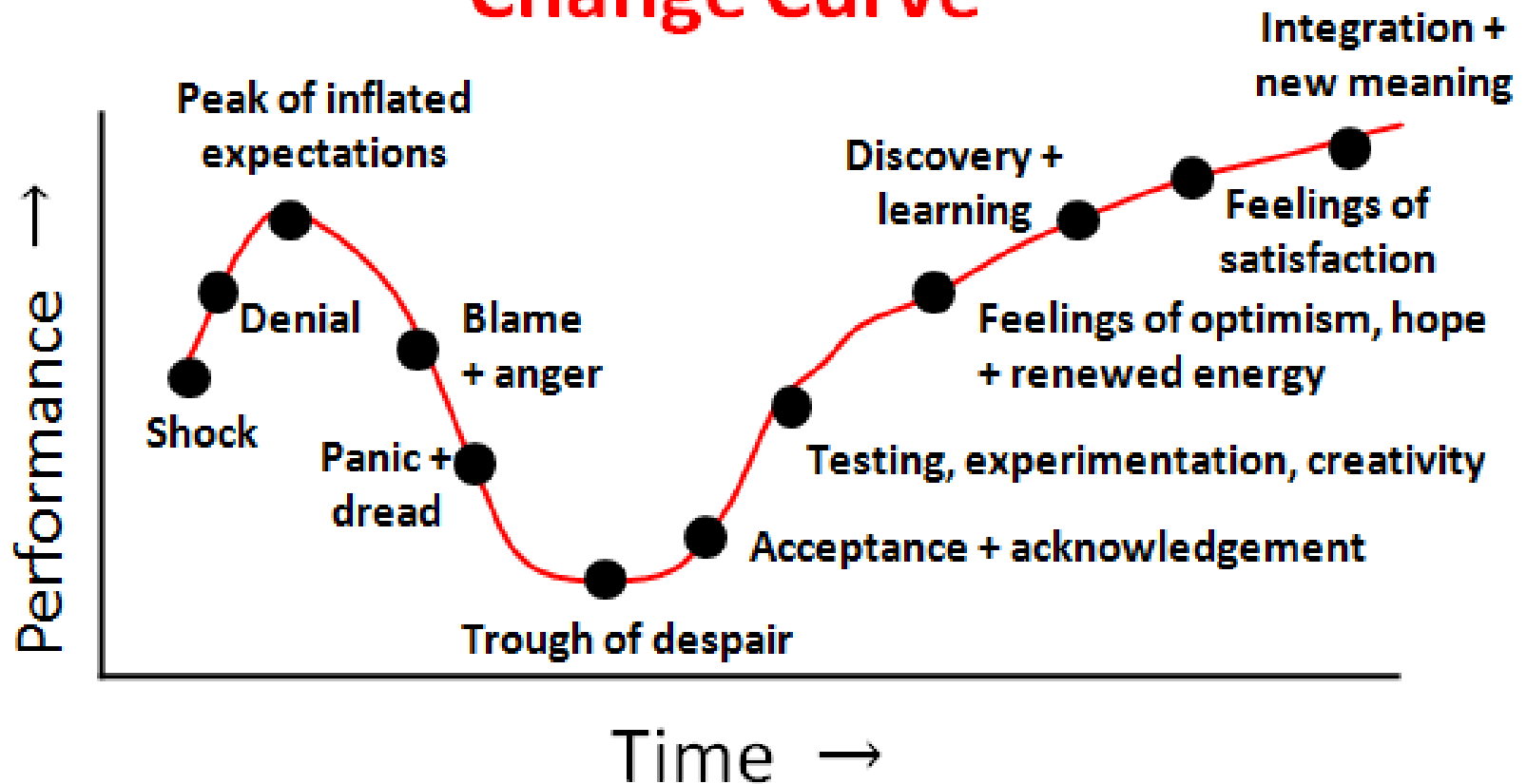


What could be central/national/local?



Expectation management

Change Curve



Coming soon: the SBIF Questionnaire

- What do you **do**, what do you **need**?

As a Recorder, I need: ABC (requirements) so that: XYZ (benefits)

- What **problems** have you got?
- What **ideas** do you have for they could be resolved?

- What costs and funding do you have?
- Where do you operate?

Potential timeline

- **Now to Christmas:** focus on the questionnaire
- **January:** forming a high-level business case for change
- **February to March:** workshops to evaluate options
- **April onwards:** forming the detailed business case and consulting on impacts and transition arrangements

Any Questions?

Papers and highlight reports for the Review are on the SBIF pages of the NBN website. Links to the Questionnaire to follow.

The questionnaire will be widely promoted in November.