

## Catchment Data & Evidence FORUM 2020 – Summary

The Catchment Data & Evidence FORUM was organised by the CaBA Catchment Data User Group (CDUG), a multi-sectoral CaBA working group, consisting of data users, data providers and modellers. This year Covid – 19 meant that the FORUM moved online giving the opportunity to expand in scope to also serve Coastal Partnerships and The Nature Recovery Network with the aim of creating a **single integrated evidence community supporting all three initiatives to deliver the 25 Year Environment Plan**. To do this the organising committee was extended to draw on expertise from Water Companies, The Environment Agency, UKCEH, The Wildlife Trusts, Rivers Trusts and CaBA hosts. The focus of this year's FORUM was on **'Using data and evidence to change behaviours'** with a keynote presentation by Professor Alex Inman from Exeter University. A series of discussions, followed by interactive voting, were then used to set a workplan for the CaBA National Support Group. Five webinars followed the FORUM over the next two days to go into greater detail.



### Progress from last year's FORUM

**The Catchment Monitoring Cooperative (CMC)**, the key next step from last year's FORUM, now exists! A multi-sector working group has been set up and is meeting regularly; a [Hub Platform](#) has been developed on which the first phase of the consultation was hosted this summer; and multiple funding applications have been submitted in collaboration with key partners to develop elements of a future CaBA monitoring programme. The FORUM is working, the wider data and evidence community is helping to create consensus and co-designing a program of work which will provide the data and evidence to underpin the 25 YEP.

### What does CaBA need to do next based on feedback from this year's FORUM?

**Making data and evidence more engaging and accessible** (Session 1 and webinars). The flash talks (in the main FORUM event) provide: a shop window for the latest developments; continue to build knowledge capital; and strengthen the networks within the community that are required to build technical capacity across CaBA. **Four of the webinars, allowed focused progress in key data and evidence areas including a) Water industry, b) Biodiversity, c) Water resources and d) Health and wellbeing.** A fifth webinar supported the CMC by providing training to CaBA partnerships in water quality monitoring design. The combination of flash talks and webinars is a highly effective way to continue to build, refine and access the evidence base.

**There should be one data and evidence community to support the 25 YEP** so that CaBA, Coastal Partnerships (CP) and the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) have a common evidence base. This will allow much more rapid progress for each initiative and greater coordination between them. (Interactive polling of participants during the event showed that 67% support NRN and 54% support CPs being incorporated into future FORUMs).

**Influencing change through data and evidence** (Session 2) highlighted the key role that data and evidence plays in influencing audiences outside our community. Presentations from an investment banker, communications professionals, and large corporates (water company) all showed how data and evidence is central to the accumulation of sufficient financial capital to drive real change in the environment.

**The two greatest opportunities to engage with communities** identified by the FORUM were a) the **communication and visualisation of data** and b) **Monitoring**. This again emphasises the key importance of the CMC. Increasing links between the data and evidence community and communications professionals should be a focal area for progress this year and next. The keynote presentation, 'Using data to change behaviours', emphasised the importance of the **transparency** of the evidence base which supports **inclusive dynamic discussions**. This has been a central pillar of CaBA from the beginning. However, Professor Inman also emphasised that **data and evidence is the 'servant not the master' when it comes to changing behaviour**. This should be adopted by as one of the FORUM's guiding principles.

**Monitoring and Citizen Science** (Session 3) focused on the changing role of regulatory monitoring and development of the CMC. The Environment Agency are moving towards a dual approach combining **River Surveillance with Sentinel monitoring**. While this provides a more statistically powerful approach to support the development of policy and environmental reporting, it is weak in terms of **local evidence, investigation and management; this is the gap which the CMC should fill** (67%)<sup>1</sup>. Other key attributes of the CMC are that it should promote **collaborative action, avoiding the dangers of 'vigilante' monitoring** (52%) and **inform research, decision making and investment** (54%). The CMC should aim to encompass most areas of monitoring in the long-term; however, **short term priorities should focus on Water Quality** (71%); **reporting issues** (63%) and **habitat condition** (57%).

## How should government agencies respond?

**Back CaBA, Coastal Partnerships and the Nature Recovery Networks as the non-regulatory driving force behind the 25 YEP**. These initiatives should provide the focus for the non-regulatory improvement of the environment especially if they are building on a common evidence base. They are not competing initiatives.

**Transparency of data is key**. While the Environment Agency and Natural England have been at the forefront of the OpenData revolution over the past 5 years there are still key datasets that can and should be shared. Genuine concerns over data protection and IPR have prevented critical data from being widely accessible. Government agencies should continue to promote 'Open by default' and find innovative solutions that are consistent with IPR and licensing, but which allow communities to make evidence-based decisions. **Key datasets that remain difficult to access include NIRS, soil data (in particular carbon) and EDM data from water companies**.

**The Environment Agency needs the CMC**. The combination of the new regulatory monitoring with the CMC potentially provides the ideal base from which to grow collaborative action and robust regulation and reporting. Over the next year multiple funding applications will be submitted promoting citizen science. The Environment Agency should use its position to nudge each application so that it forms part of a coordinated CMC rather than backing multiple, competing initiatives which will not be adopted widely due to the lack of co-design.

## What worked well in this year's FORUM?

**Feedback on the day confirmed that 100% of attendees found the FORUM useful** and the online format was 90% 'Good' or 'Excellent'. The face to face networking time that has been an extremely valuable part of previous FORUMS was to some extent replaced by the webinars which allowed in depth discussions to take place. However, the online format allowed a far wider attendance with over 200 attendees from 100+ organisations attending across the 3 days.

## Priorities for next year's FORUM

**The communication and visualisation of data and evidence** could be the theme for next year's FORUM. There was also significant interest in building capacity in social science however, the demand for this was still below 50% of attendees and as such has not yet reached the highest priority for future FORUMS.

**FORUM outputs:** <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/catchment-data-and-evidence-forum-2020/>

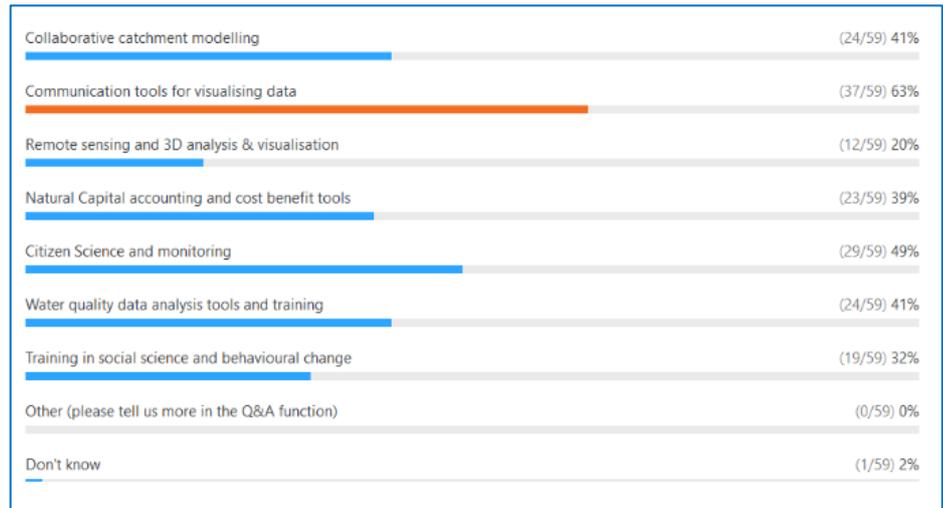
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<sup>1</sup> The percentages shown in brackets relate to the percentage of attendees who chose this option during the interactive poll. You can see the full polling results in Annex 1.

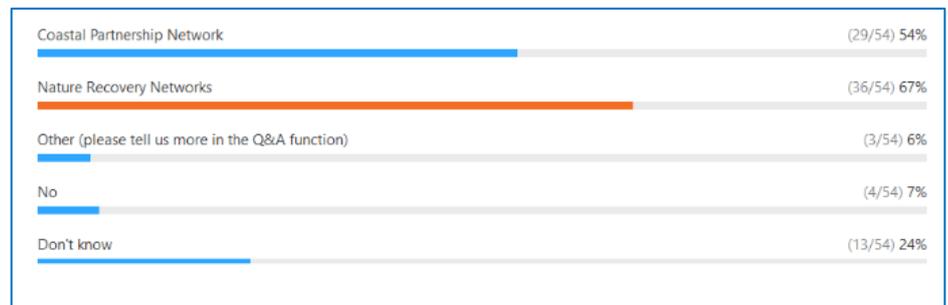
## Annex 1: Voting Results

The first set of questions were about opportunities for the FORUM and data and evidence community to become more inclusive and engage communities

1. Where are the greatest opportunities for the data and evidence community to support CaBA in engaging with communities? (Please select your top 3).



2. Should we broaden the focus of CDUG and the FORUM to include the Coastal Partnership Network and Nature Recovery Networks? (Please select all that apply).



The next set of questions were about the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative proposal consultation, development and future focus.

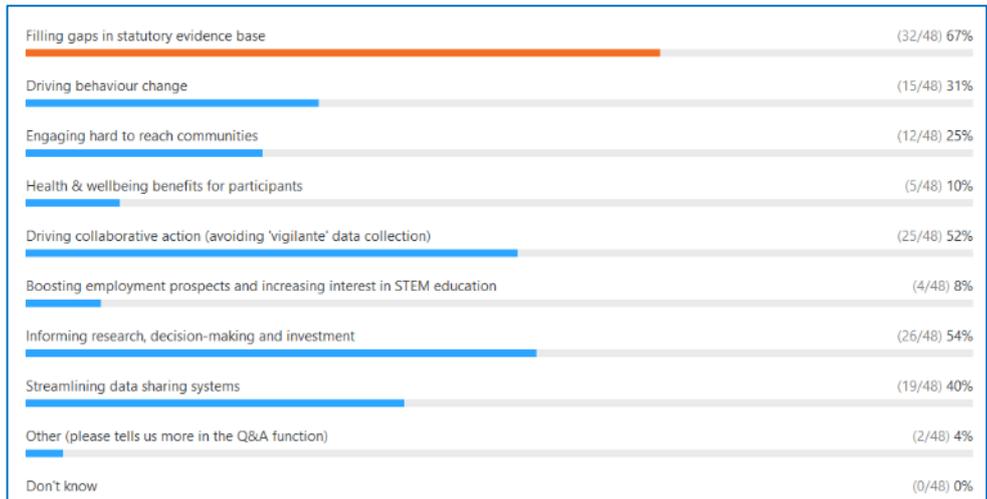
3. Have you submitted a consultation response either individually or via your organisation?



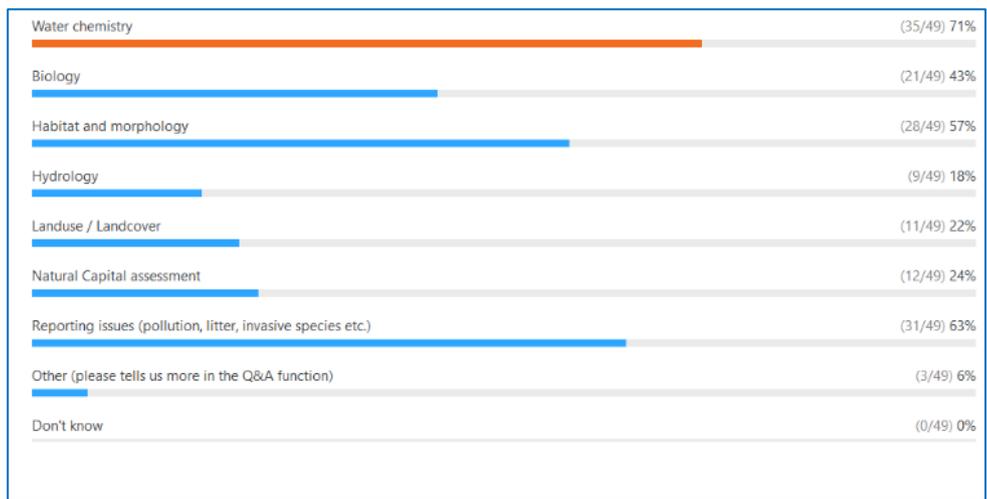
4. If you haven't responded can you tell us why not?



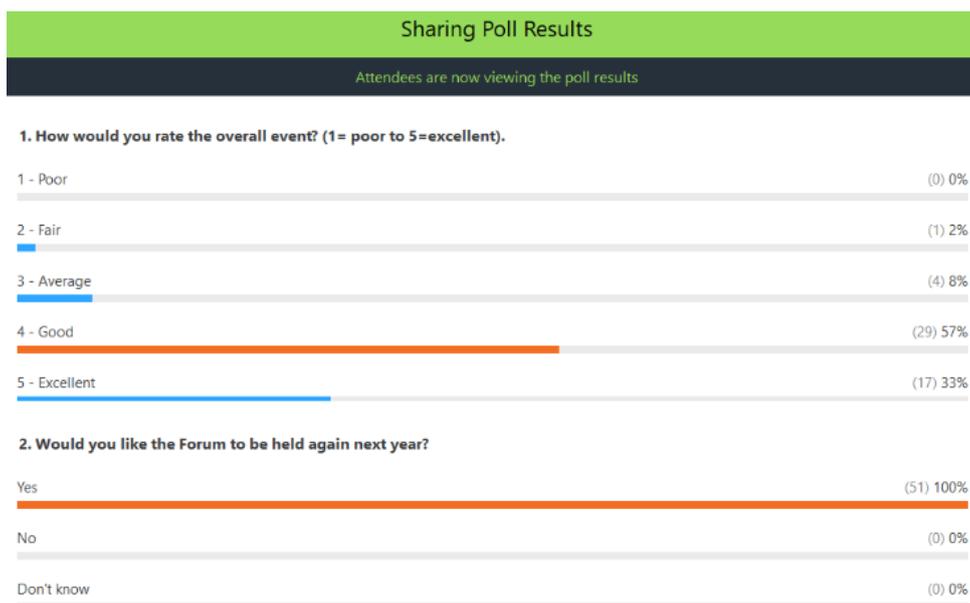
5. Which do you think are the most important benefits the catchment monitoring cooperative can deliver? (pick 3).



6. Which of these do you think we should include within the scope of the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative? (pick 3).



**The final set of questions provided feedback on the day**



## Annex 2: Webinar Summary

### Webinar 1 Advancing data sharing between the UK Water Industry and CaBA

**Organisers:** Northumbrian Water, Mersey Rivers Trust, Westcountry Rivers Trust, The Rivers Trust, CaBA Urban Working Group

**Key Theme: Water Industry**     [Watch webinar](#)

Case studies were presented illustrating how CaBA partnerships and water companies are sharing local data in some areas and how this is being used to help develop and deliver joint, multi-benefit projects. Participants then shared their views on opportunities, barriers and support needs in this area via an interactive survey poll. People felt that the greatest opportunities for collaboration were around citizen science monitoring (64%) and catchment management of phosphate (64%). Barriers to data sharing exist around commercial sensitivity (68%) and lack of technical capacity within CaBA partnerships to analyse and use water industry data (50%). The greatest support needs for the CaBA NSG to focus on are providing greater understanding about the water industry data that is available (75%) and technical support to CaBA partnerships to use it (65%).

### Webinar 2 Data and evidence to support habitat restoration and nature recovery

**Organisers:** The Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, River Restoration Centre, Environment Agency, The Rivers Trust, CaBA Biodiversity Working Group

**Key Theme: Biodiversity**     [Watch webinar](#)

Habitat Mapping for rivers and lakes is being refined, and the mapping will be used to influence both the new Defra Nature Strategy and River Basin Management Plans. Natural England presented the new [Priority Habitats website and data portal](#) which has been developed to support this work and explained how CaBA Partnerships can share their knowledge on particular sites to help identify river and lake restoration priorities and drive future investment in these areas. The webinar also introduced some of the latest data, evidence and tools available to CaBA partnerships to support habitat restoration and nature recovery included the new [national habitat network maps](#).

### Webinar 3 Designing a water quality monitoring investigation

**Organisers:** Westcountry Rivers Trust, The Rivers Trust, Pete Lloyd (independent consultant)

**Key Theme: Water Quality**     [Watch webinar](#)

This interactive webinar supported development of the CMC by providing training to CaBA partnerships in water quality monitoring design, including setting objectives, choosing a strategy and equipment and visualising results.

### Webinar 4 Making catchment data more accessible to end users

**Organisers:** UKCEH

**Key Theme: Water Resources**     [Watch webinar](#)

This webinar introduced some of the latest catchment data, tools and resources developed by UKCEH which CaBA partnerships can use to build and support their catchment evidence base particularly in the area of water resources, including the [UK-Scape Hydrology API and data integration tool](#), the [Drought Data Hub](#), the [UK Water Resources Portal](#), the [CAMELS – GB dataset](#) and the [UK Lakes Portal](#).

### Webinar 5 Connecting communities with natural capital: An evidence base

**Organisers:** Ribble Rivers Trust

**Key Theme: Health and Wellbeing**     [Watch webinar](#)

Ribble Rivers Trust introduced the innovative [health and wellbeing evidence base](#) they have developed to support connecting communities with natural capital. This key national resource will support CaBA partnerships to identify opportunities where the creation or improvement of publicly accessible blue & green space could have the greatest benefits for people's health and wellbeing.

## Annex 3: Presentations and Weblinks

Watch the session videos all the way through or click the talk titles to open the video at that location. Click the weblinks or further info column for key resources or further information.

Morning Session Video: <https://youtu.be/ugQvsgQrVqM>

Afternoon Session Video: <https://youtu.be/vnmUhFxtjqk>

Talk title and Video Link	Presenters	Organisation	Weblinks or Further Info
<b>SESSION 1</b>			
<a href="#">Welcome to the Forum</a>	David Johnson, Lucy Butler	CaBA Technical Support Team	<a href="#">Forum Outputs</a>
Keynote (awaiting amendment)	Alex Inman	University of Exeter	<a href="#">Contact</a>
<a href="#">NFM Modelling – Developing collaborative end user scenarios</a>	Barry Hankin	Lancaster Environment Centre and JBA	<a href="#">Q-NFM Project</a>
<a href="#">CaBA Coastal Data Package</a>	Lucy Butler	CaBA Technical Support Team	<a href="#">Coastal data resources</a>
<a href="#">Modular River Survey – 2020 Update</a>	Dave Gurnell	Cartographer	<a href="#">Modular River Survey</a>
<a href="#">The SCIMAP Toolkit: Sediments, Nutrients and FIOs</a>	Sim Reaney	Durham University	<a href="#">SCIMAP Website</a>
<a href="#">NFM Ponds &amp; Wetlands: Estimating potential storage capacity through GIS analysis</a>	Catherine McIlwraith	The Rivers Trust	<a href="#">NFM analysis and using Lidar GIS Tutorials</a>
<a href="#">Drones for Conservation</a>	Adrian Hughes	RSPB	<a href="#">Drones for GIS – Best Practice</a>
<b>SESSION 2</b>			
<a href="#">Visualising Data</a>	Jayne Mann	CaBA Communications	<a href="#">Contact CaBA Support Team</a> <a href="#">Canva</a>
<a href="#">Portable water quality kits: Their use in monitoring and farmer engagement</a>	Holly Pearson	Westcountry Rivers Trust	<a href="#">Westcountry CSI</a>
<a href="#">Natural Capital Investment in Catchments</a>	Dan Hird	Triodos Bank	<a href="#">More information</a>
The Petteril Catchment Project – An evidence based approach to decision making (not available online)	Amina Aboobakar	United Utilities and The Rivers Trust	<a href="#">More information</a>
<a href="#">Natural Capital Data Cycling under the ELMs Trial</a>	Jenny Phelps	FWAG SW	<a href="#">ELMS Trial Hub site</a>
<a href="#">Natural Capital Register and Account Tool</a>	Rachel Lenane	Environment Agency	<a href="#">Contact EA Natural Capital Team</a>
<a href="#">EA's Inventory and tool for cost effectiveness</a>	Emily Carter	Stantec	<a href="#">Contact Stantec</a>

SESSION 3			
<a href="#"><u>Update on monitoring</u></a>	Ben Bunting	Environment Agency	
<a href="#"><u>River Surveillance Network</u></a>	Rich Walmsley	Environment Agency	
<a href="#"><u>Sentinel EDM (Evidence Decision Making)</u></a>	James Finigan	Environment Agency	
<a href="#"><u>iWarfe Project</u></a>	Marie Taylor	Dales to Vales Catchment Partnership	<a href="#"><u>More information</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Water Quality Monitoring in South Cumbria</u></a>	Jayne Wilkinson	Becks to Bay Catchment Partnership	<a href="#"><u>Becks to Bay website</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Intermittent and ephemeral streams – why and how we should keep monitoring when the flow stops</u></a>	Cath Sefton	UKCEH	<a href="#"><u>More information</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Shoresearch Citizen Science and Marine Champions Programme</u></a>	Tim Ferrero	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	<a href="#"><u>Shoresearch</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wyre Estuary BioBlitz</u></a>	Tom Myerscough	Wyre Waters Partnership	<a href="#"><u>Wyre Estuary BioBlitz 2021</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>CMC Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative</u></a>	Liz Chudoba Julie Vastine  Emily Bialowas	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring Izaak Walton League of America	<a href="#"><u>Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Developing a Catchment Monitoring Cooperative</u></a>	Michelle Walker	CaBA Technical Support Team	<a href="#"><u>Catchment Monitoring Cooperative Hub</u></a>