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ND UNESCO Biosphere
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- 10 year strategy consultation
 - Thank you to everyone that took the time to review and give feedback on our 10 year strategy, the consultation closes tonight at midnight
 - Rivers and waterbodies feature heavily in the strategy, which is directly relevant to the Estuary Forum and work of its members
 - We have successfully recruited a new Ops and Partnership Manager, Tom Hooper, who will champion the strategy with the Biosphere Partnership and projects
 - See below an excerpt from Target 2:

Target 2: 50% of river waterbodies at 'good' ecological status & none at 'poor'	
Long-term ambition	All rivers & waterbodies ecologically healthy, & resilient to abstraction, pollution & climate pressures
10-year target	50% of river waterbodies at 'good' status & none at 'poor' or 'bad'

Headline metric	(1) % of river waterbodies achieving 'good' or better ecological status under the Water Framework Directive, and % at 'poor' status
Other KPIs	(2) Number of waterbodies improved from 'moderate' or 'poor' to 'good' status (3) Number of waterbodies with active restoration or natural flood management projects
Year 1 milestones	- Establish baselines for all metrics & KPIs - Identify all river waterbodies at 'poor' status & make a plan - Identify which river waterbodies can be improved to 'good' & make a plan - Identify the rivers at risk of deterioration from good or moderate - Develop a public-facing 'My Biosphere Rivers' dashboard to track progress
Year 3 milestones	- Programmes & funding in place for all identified waterbodies
Year 5 milestones	- Demonstrable progress in all identified river waterbodies

Policies to assist reaching the target include:

- Data from all sources about the state of the rivers should be made public and updated at least monthly.
- Local Authorities should explore through planning obligations mechanisms to help improve water quality and hold more water in the upper catchments.
- Foster strong collaboration with the new water regulator and cooperation with South West Water.

- Nature recovery plan
 - We are also in the process of reviewing and signing off the last 5 years of our Nature Recovery Plan, and committing to the next 5 years
 - There are many working groups, ranging from woodland to marine, composed of organisational representatives including the EA, DWT, WRT, and the DBRC
 - Of direct interest to the TTEF is the Wetlands and Waterbodies working group, and I'll keep the forum updated as to its progress.
- Photo competition
 - In the summer we ran a #MyBiosphere community photo competition, which received plenty of entrants. Thank you to the TTEF for helping promote the photo competition.
 - There was good representation of the estuary and its fantastic landforms, habitats, and wildlife.
 - Winners are currently on display at Barnstaple Library until the 7th November, after which an online gallery will be available (URL link incoming...)



- Smart biosphere
 - Sensor “furniture” has been installed on the Taw bridge; we plan to install the sensors themselves in the coming days.
 - Torridge bridge sensor is planned for install in November.
 - Croyde marine buoy to be deployed by Severn Seas Shipping in November.
 - Westward Ho! Buoy has been ordered and we expect delivery around February.
 - Data will be made publicly available on the Smart Biosphere website.

- Biosphere Communities
 - TTEF members requested that we consider the impact of pet flea treatments (and similar pesticides) on river water health; targeted behaviour change with communities. I have liaised with Pesticide Action Network and their Devon hub, and hope to give an update soon.
 - Pleased to share successful recruitment of our South Molton Community project worker, Jack Woolfenden, whom many members of the forum will know from previous environmental projects.
 - Ongoing summer events, into autumn and winter events, designed at citizen science and water quality (see John Puddy’s report on the Taw Torridge River Champions).