

Dear NOW Community,  
Hi All,

2024 10 04

best wishes from Helsinki. The days are getting shorter, and the smell of autumn is in the air. It's sunny but getting chilly. All is well in NOW; the community is active, and many things are happening – once-off and ongoing updates, regional projects, and new developments of NOW infrastructure are underway.

Three new experts joined the NOW Advisory Board this summer – Maia Bukhsianidze from the Georgian National Museum joined as a regional coordinator of Caucasus, Alexander Bakhia and Jeremias Glogglar, both PhD students at the University of Helsinki, joined as data curators. Welcome!

While ongoing data edits are done regularly by many of us from the Advisory Board, large data integration projects usually relate to PhD research. Currently, Yanell Braumuller is actively adding data on carnivores, Alexander Bakhia is adding data on the Caucasus, Jeremias Glogglar is synthesizing the East African record, and Sania Zubaid is starting to synthesize the Siwaliks data in NOW. In addition, a lot of data from China has been recently curated and updated by Liu Liping.

A long-term project to renew the user interface of NOW is ongoing. We were able to start the planning and the initial development work over the summer. Some of you have already had a chance to test the new interface, and more opportunities will come soon. The work will continue mainly via student coursework, which will take time. During the first phase, the new interface will only be available for viewing, querying, and visualizing the data; data editing will continue to be done via the current interface in the near future.

While, for starters, the functionality of the new interface is planned to be identical to the current one, now is a good time to consider feedback, wishes, and preferences. Is there anything critically missing from the functionality of the NOW user interface? Is there anything that would be very convenient to have, even if not critical? Is there anything else to consider? As always, get in touch, drop me or Kari Lintulaakso an e-mail.

Take care and be well,  
Indrè  
The General Coordinator of NOW