

UK- Environmental Observation Framework

Data Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The UK-Environmental Observation Framework (UK-EOF) strives to change the way the UK perceives, values, archives and uses information from observation activities by working across public departments and agencies, the voluntary sector, industry and academia. The overall aim of the UK-EOF is to shape the UK's capability to:

"facilitate the ongoing environmental evidence required to understand the changing natural environment and its societal interactions, thus guiding current and future environmental management, policy, science and innovation priorities for economic benefit and quality of life".

Environmental evidence is based on data and information about the environment, which must be open to all if environmental outcomes are to be delivered speedily and effectively. The purpose of the UK-EOF Data Advisory Group (DAG) is therefore to deliver Transparency and Open Data across the Environment Sector, facilitated by exchange of knowledge on local, national and international data and information initiatives. The Data Advisory Group is an essential network of producers and users of environmental data and information and will act to coordinate UK implementation of the INSPIRE Annex III Environmental Monitoring Facilities (EF) theme on behalf of the UK Location Programme.

2. Vision and Aims

The major UK funders of LWEC have agreed to an ambitious vision where environmental data and information is open to all and held under a transparency policy and is reused. The aim of the UK-EOF is to deliver this vision and perform a strategic role which can be used to inform a variety of groups within and outside the LWEC partnership. The UK-EOF will, through the DAG, provide a neutral space to discuss and coordinate knowledge exchange between data and information initiatives.

DAG will serve as the focal point and keep a watching brief on Transparency, Open Data and information sharing. In this respect it is vital to understand the policy and practice of existing initiatives to enable the UK environmental data and information resources to be spent efficiently. With the support of the UK Location Programme, the advisory group will deliver options for the UK implementation of EF.

One of the mainstays of the programme is a knowledge base of environmental observations, which focuses on the development and operation of an [Environmental Observations Activity Catalogue](#), which is a priority for UK-EOF resources in 2010 - 2013. The catalogue must be maintained and updated by inputs of metadata from numerous environmental organisations. It also requires technical developments to meet the expressed needs of users. Recommendations will be provided for the UK-EOF Management Group for decision making.

3. Role

In relation to the DAGs role as a focal point, the group will:

- Serve as a key forum for co-ordination of data and information sharing initiatives that impact the environmental community, thus providing the links and expertise necessary to enable the most efficient use of UK resources to service and respond to the emerging Transparency and Open Data requirements.

- Maintain a watching brief and an overview of the initiatives in this space and highlight issues arising to the most appropriate body(s).
- Advise and provide information on best practice in Transparency, Open Data, data sharing and management across the environmental sector at UK, European and wider international level.

In relation to the UK-EOF catalogue, the role of the advisory group is to:

- Provide technical expertise and advice in all areas of data management at a UK, European and international level in order to guide the UK-EOF in how to build and populate the catalogue.
- Act as a conduit (business owner) for the catalogue information input from each organisation.

4. Communications and Knowledge Sharing

The UK-EOF Programme will work with DAG members in communicating advice prepared by DAG and the outputs from the UK-EOF Programme. The communications strategy of the DAG will be designed to support a community of practice among those involved in data and information management across the environment sector.

5. Membership

Members are representatives of the interests of the broadest environmental data and information community and /or those with specific technical and/or policy relevant roles in the data and information sharing community either at a UK, European or international level.

Participation is open to central and local government, academia, and research, the private and voluntary sector from across the devolved administration. Membership is flexible and the secretariat will seek to include new members where appropriate and where their expertise is required.

UK-EOF Management Group organisations are encouraged to send appropriate representatives to these meetings in order to ensure that any actions developed are taken in reference to LWEC and individual organisational priorities.

6. Current Members

Chair: Agreed DAG Member

Technical Secretary: UK-EOF secretariat; key contact: office@ukeof.org.uk

Advisors (not necessarily required to attend all meetings):

British Library

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Cefas)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Department of Environment Northern Ireland (DOENI)

Environment Agency (EA)

Gabriel Information Solutions Ltd

HR Wallingford

Joint Natural Conservation Committee (JNCC)

Living With Environmental Change (LWEC)

National Biodiversity Network (NBN)

Marine Biological Association (MBA)

Marine Environment Data and Information Network (MEDIN)

Met Office

National Physical Laboratory (NPL)

Natural England (NE)

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Rural Economy and Land Use programme (RELU)
Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Scottish Government (SG)
Satellite Applications Catapult
UK-Environmental Observation Framework (UK-EOF)
UK Space Agency (UKSA)
University of Edinburgh
University of Nottingham

Awaiting confirmation of membership from;

- Environmental Science to Service Partnership (ESSP)

7. Method of working

- Meetings of the Data Advisory Group will be held at least quarterly.
- The secretariat will set the agenda of the meetings with the Chair according to the current data and information issues facing the environment sector and which are brought to the attention of the community to UK-EOF secretariat or LWEC directorate.
- The DAG will advise the UK- EOF Management Group and the LWEC Delivery Group and where appropriate Defra environment sector data and information governance group(s).
- The chair of the group will be appointed from the membership of DAG and is responsible for managing the actions of the group.
- Members of DAG will provide updates on their initiatives via verbal input at the meetings and by completing a proforma – as necessary and at least bi-annually. UK-EOF will collate proformas and publish on the website as a resource for all (see www.ukEOF.org.uk/di_focalpoint.aspx).

**UK-EOF Programme
April 2013**

Annex A – Membership (April 2013)

Organisation	Representative(s)	Contact details
British Library	Elizabeth Newbold Joanna Kieniewicz	Elizabeth.Newbold@bl.uk Johanna.Kieniewicz@bl.uk
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture	Dave Morris	david.morris@cefas.co.uk
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Andrew Wharrad Christine Holleran Tim Ashleford	Andrew.Wharrad@defra.gsi.gov.uk christine.holleran@defra.gsi.gov.uk Tim.Ashleford@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Department of Environment Northern Ireland	Caroline Barry	Caroline.Barry@doeni.gov.uk
Environment Agency	Stefan Carlyle (Chair) Jon Mitchell	stefan.carlyle@environment-agency.gov.uk jon.mitchell@environment-agency.gov.uk
Gabriel Information Solutions Ltd	Miles Gabriel	miles.gabriel@environment-agency.gov.uk
HR Wallingford Ltd	Keiran Millard	keiran.millard@seazone.com
Joint Natural Conservation Committee	Dave Chambers	Dave.Chambers@jncc.gov.uk
Living With Environmental Change	Mary Barkham	Mary.Barkham@lwec.org.uk
National Biodiversity Network	Paula Lightfoot	p.lightfoot@nbn.org.uk
Marine Biological Association	Becky Seeley	bese@MBA.ac.uk
Marine Environment Data and Information Network	Gaynor Evans	gaev@bodc.ac.uk
Met Office	Ali Price	alastair.price@metoffice.gov.uk
National Physical Laboratory	Nigel Fox	nigel.fox@npl.co.uk
Natural England	Jonathon Budd Harjit Panesar	jonathan.budd@naturalengland.org.uk Harjit.Panesar@naturalengland.org.uk
Natural Environment Research Council	Mike Brown	mibr@ceh.ac.uk
Natural Resources Wales	Helen Wilkinson Barnaby Letheren	helen.wilkinson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk Barnaby.Letheren@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Rural Economy and Land Use programme	Veerle Van Den Eynden	veerle@essex.ac.uk
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Nathan Critchlow-Watton	Nathan.Critchlow-Watton@sepa.org.uk
Scottish Government	Peter Winstanley	Peter.Winstanley@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Science and Technology Facilities Council	Victoria Bennett Kevin Smith	victoria.bennett@stfc.ac.uk kevin.smith@stfc.ac.uk
Satellite Applications Catapult	Simon Agass	simon.agass@sa.catapult.org.uk
UK-Environmental Observation Framework	Helen Beadman Amber Vater	helen.beadman@ukeoforg.uk amber.vater@ukeof.org.uk
UK Space Agency	Beth Greenaway	beth.greenaway@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk
University of Edinburgh	Chris Higgins	chris.higgins@ed.ac.uk
University of Nottingham	Jeremy Morley	Jeremy.Morley@nottingham.ac.uk