

3rd UKEOF Conference. Integrating Environmental Observations to Meet Evidence Needs

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 15th March 2023 09:30-15:00

Virtual Event (via Zoom)

Goal: Share knowledge on the latest approaches to integrating multiple types, and sources, of data in order to address pressing environmental questions. To also consider the untapped potential in this field, as well as the limitations and challenges to be overcome.

09.30: Welcome and Introduction to UKEOF and the Conference

- **Dr. Ben Ditchburn** (UKEOF chair)

09.40: Opening Keynote

- Environmental evidence to inform policy development – Examples from the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) programme
Dr. Emily Hawkes (Defra)

10.15: Session 1

Speakers will provide examples of initiatives with a significant data integration component, their impact on scientific understanding, management and policy, and lessons learnt.

- Innovative data visualisation tool to aid addressing pharmaceutical pollution in the water environment in Scotland
Dr. Lydia Niemi (Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI)
- Understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity: the importance of using multiple lines of evidence
Dr. Mike Morecroft (IPCC)

10.55: Break

11.15: Introduction to Session 2

- **Dr. Ben Ditchburn** (UKEOF chair)

11.20: Session 2

Speakers will provide examples of emerging projects where integration of forms of information is vital. Emphasis on challenges and approaches.

- National Field Verification Centre for Earth Observation: the creation of a new national repository of validated training data to support the needs of machine learning and AI models.

Prof. Bridget Emmett (UKCEH) and Dr. Donna Lyndsay (OS)

- Reporting of the ecological impacts of air pollutants under Defra's UK APIENS initiative
Dr. Ed Rowe (UKCEH)

12.00: Q & A and discussion session covering the morning's presentations

12.20: Lunch

13.15: Introduction to Session 3

- **Dr. Ben Ditchburn (UKEOF chair)**

13.20: Afternoon Keynote

- An introduction to the UKRI Flood & Drought Research Infrastructure project
Dr. Gareth Old (UKCEH) and Matthew Fry (UKCEH)

13.45: Session 3

- An introduction to what the Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative (CastCo) project is aiming to bring to the Citizen Science movement
Paul Hulme (The Rivers Trust)

14.05: Introduction to Afternoon Breakout Session and Group Allocation

14.15: Afternoon Breakout Session

Participants will gather in facilitated small groups to discuss the following questions:

- **What are the emerging environmental questions where evidence is most needed?**
- **What types of environmental evidence will be most in demand over the next decade and where are the current gaps?**
- **What aspects of evidence integration are proving most effective and what can we learn from them?**

14.45: Summary of Afternoon Breakout Discussions and Next Steps

- **Dr. Ben Ditchburn (UKEOF chair)**

14.55: Closing Remarks and Official Close of the Conference

- **Dr. Ben Ditchburn (UKEOF chair)**

15.00: Close