

UKEOF Data Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

Environmental evidence is based on data and information about the environment, which must be open to all if environmental outcomes are to be delivered efficiently and effectively. The purpose of the UKEOF Data Advisory Group (DAG) is therefore to support delivery of and advice on methods for data integration, sharing, and transparency across the environmental observing sector, facilitated by the 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 also act to coordinate UK implementation of the INSPIRE Annex III Environmental Monitoring Facilities (EF) theme on behalf of the UK Location Programme.

2. Vision

The UK Environmental Observation Framework held a think tank in 2008 where a UK Vision for Data Sharing was developed

"People/organisations in 'UK plc' actually share and reuse environmental observation data to inform policy decisions, expand knowledge, contribute to international activities, stimulate markets for innovation, improve operational capabilities and improve their responses to the changing environment."

Sharing Environmental Observation Data Think Tank 2008

UKEOF supports this vision by providing the DAG, which acts as a focal point and neutral space to discuss and coordinate knowledge exchange between data and information initiatives relevant to the environmental observations community.

3. Role

- Serve as a key forum for co-ordination of data and information sharing initiatives that impact the environmental observations community
- Advise and provide information, to the UKEOF Management Group and other bodies as appropriate, on best practice in data integration, transparency, open data, data sharing and management across the environmental sector at UK, European and wider international level
- Support co-ordination of the UK implementation of the INSPIRE Annex III Environmental Monitoring Facilities (EF) theme
- Manage the UKEOF observations catalogue: ensuring the information contained is up to date, through provision of technical expertise for the platform, and provision of advice to data providers in areas of data management.

4. 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 either at a UK, European or international level.

5. Current Members

Co-Chair: Richard Ostler (Rothamsted Research)

Co-Chair: Sophia Ratcliffe (National Biodiversity Network (NBN))

Secretariat: UKEOF Secretariat; key contact: office@ukeof.org.uk

Members:

British Library	Natural England (NE)
British Oceanographic Data Centre	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Office of National Statistics (ONS)
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA NI)	Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Environment Agency (EA)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
	Scottish Government (SG)
Geospatial Commission	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)
HR Wallingford	UK Hydrographic Office
Joint Natural Conservation Committee (JNCC)	UK Space Agency (UKSA)
Marine Environment Data and Information Network (MEDIN)	UK Data Archive, University of Essex
Met Office	University of Leicester
National Biodiversity Network	

6. Method of working

- Meetings of the Data Advisory Group will be held quarterly.
- The secretariat will set the meeting agenda with the Chair according to the current data and information issues facing the environment sector
- 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.