

## UK- Environmental Observation Framework

### 16<sup>th</sup> Management Group Meeting

27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 10.00-15.45

MRC Head Office, 14th Floor, One Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN

#### Note of Meeting

##### Attendees:

Doug Wilson	EA (Chair)	Helen Beadman	UK-EOF
Amanda Charles	GO Science	Jane Smith	WERH (observer)
Amber Vater	UK-EOF (notes)	Keith Porter	NE
Andrea Turner	UK-EOF	Lawrence Way	JNCC
Andrew Watkinson	LWEC	Michael Schultz	NERC
Beth Greenaway	UK Space Agency	Peter Stephenson	ESRC
Bruce Truscott	Met Office (phone, AM only)	Richard Howe	FC
Caryn Le Roux	WG	Stefan Carlyle	EA (AM only)

##### Apologies:

Cathy Johnson	DECC	Joanna Drewitt	SG
David Allen	CCW	Mary Barkham	LWEC
Gwyn Rees	NERC CEH	Richard Walmsley	EA
Liz Tucker	Defra	Peter Costigan	Defra
Ian Davidson	EEA	Shaun Russell	WERH

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members and apologies were received. Jane Smith was introduced as an observer on behalf of Welsh Environment Research Hub.

#### 2. Minutes and Actions from 7<sup>th</sup> MGT

- 2.1. The minutes and outstanding actions were reviewed. Outstanding Actions 8 and 10 were to be covered under Items 5 and 7 respectively. The minutes 7<sup>th</sup> MGM were agreed.

#### 3. Sustainable funding mechanisms

- 3.1. The Chair informed Members that a positive meeting had been held with Sir John Beddington and that it is proposed a sustainable funding committee is established. Amanda was thanked for her help facilitating the process.
- 3.2. Amanda Charles thanked Members for their input into creating the critical list of observations for the Sir John Beddington meeting.
- 3.3. The operation of the proposed committee will be tested through consideration of a small number of case studies at the next meeting in September. It will then assess the short term vulnerability of the critical observations and review what programmes might be at risk in the future. Making assessments of better ways to deliver existing programmes will be part of the decision support framework which the committee will work with. Terms of Reference for the committee will be drafted and Members were welcomed to provide comments.
- 3.4. There was currently not an appetite in the John Beddington meeting for a common pool of funding but this would be reviewed again as necessary.

**ACTION 1: Amanda Charles to distribute the draft Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Funding Committee to Management Group Members for comment, 20<sup>st</sup> July 2012**

- 3.5. The next step will be for UK-EOF to gather case studies of examples of different issues for the next meeting with Sir John Beddington on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- 3.6. Criteria to assess vulnerability and criticality were discussed. The focus of the criteria should be specific enough to allow differentiation between activities.
- 3.7. UK-EOF will work with the Management Group members to gather further evidence about the vulnerability and criticality of programmes using the Assessment Tool. The tool will be amended to enable users to respond to questions to provide more information on the observations on the critical list. Space weather and international dependencies will be included in the analysis. UK-EOF will then conduct an analysis to help identify vulnerable critical observations.
- 3.8. Members discussed if 'need' should determine what observations are continued and should shape future programmes. Gaps should be identified based on the existing suite. The UK-EOF Statement of Need will be a good starting point for this analysis and 'need' could be achieved by focusing on headline issues which closely link to work within the LWEC challenge groups. This should be revisited in the future by the UK-EOF.
- 3.9. Observations which continue to support changes in policy could be highlighted. Need changes over time; however certain datasets can be used repeatedly to address different needs through data analysis. These datasets will make up the core suite to deliver policy needs over time and should be protected. The value of key observational activities, in terms of how they underpin other activities and broader evidence needs, should also be highlighted.
- 3.10. It was agreed that the Countryside Survey (once confirmed by Lawrence Way) should be used as a case studies to highlight what factors may need to be taken into account in a situation where devolution plays a strong part.
- 3.11. The Chair summarised that this was a complex area and UK-EOF would continue to work closely with Amanda Charles to support the committee. The case studies should be developed with caveats stating these are not necessarily the highest priority programmes but those which effectively illustrate the issues being addressed e.g. loss of skills/technology; research to operational programmes etc. The case studies developed by the nominated Members will be used as a dry run to ensure the committee will have the right tools to inform decision making. The process will be refined based on experience and in the future will be used to address vulnerable programmes. In the future the Statement of Need could be used as a basis to start to investigate long term critical requirements.
- 3.12. The Champions for the case studies were confirmed as Met Office (Jason & Argo); UKSA (Jason); DECC (Argo – TBC); JNCC (CS – TBC); NERC (Rapid); FC/ FR (Acid Waters); NE (ECN). BBSRC would be contacted to provide support for the Rothamsted case study.

**ACTION 2: Helen Beadman to define criteria to assess vulnerability of programmes, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**ACTION 3: All Members to assess the usefulness of programmes and lead organisations to provide information on the additional criteria for observations in the critical list to support the Sir John Beddington debate, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**ACTION 4: Nominated Members to provide case studies for Sir John Beddington meeting, by 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

#### **4. Future of UK-EOF**

- 4.1. The Chair outlined the success of UK-EOF in supporting and initiating the work to inform the Sir John Beddington sustainable financing mechanisms debate. An outcome of this is the committee going forward which would need the continued support of UK-EOF. The Terms of Reference for the committee were being developed and would influence future funding of UK-EOF.
- 4.2. NERC and Defra would be discussing future funding of the programme at their next bilateral meeting. It was acknowledged that many organisations would need to wait for the CSR before committing funding after 2013.
- 4.3. Management Group representatives were asked to ensure that senior staff within their organisations are aware of the work of UK-EOF and where it has added value. It is likely that UK-EOF will have a strong role to play in informing decisions as we enter the next CSR period.

#### **5. The UK-EOF catalogue, implications of INSPIRE & future of the DAG**

- 5.1. Stefan Carlyle, the new Chair of the Data Advisory Group, provided feedback from the previous meeting and outlined the recommendation from the community for the future development of the UK-EOF catalogue. Members agreed the catalogue should be developed and that using CEH looked to be the most efficient option. This move would also ensure that the catalogue remained with one of the funders of UK-EOF.
- 5.2. Members enquired whether the upgrade would allow harvesting from other systems and how datasets would be managed which do not directly map on to networks. These functions would be confirmed and written into the specification. It was acknowledged that getting geospatial data into the catalogue will be a big task and the secretariat should analyse the likely impact on data provision in an implementation plan. The secretariat were asked to produce a full specification with CEH for the 7<sup>th</sup> Management Group Teleconference (31<sup>st</sup> August 2012) and to outline which upgrades were being undertaken for which purpose e.g. INSPIRE.
- 5.3. In terms of INSPIRE, Members were satisfied that the need to upgrade would ensure it would meet the December 2013 deadline to provide accessible, viewable and downloadable metadata.

**ACTION 5: Secretariat to work with CEH Lancaster to develop a full specification for the catalogue upgrade, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**ACTION 6: Secretariat to outline likely implications and benefits of the upgrade for data providers, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**ACTION 7: Members to review the catalogue update specification at the 8<sup>th</sup> Management Group Teleconference (31<sup>st</sup> August 2012)**

- 5.4. The future role and scope of the DAG had been reviewed by its Members at the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The DAG was seen as an important group providing a useful route for communication between environmental data initiatives. The DAG suggested

the scope and membership should be expanded and would cover data and information from research and observations. The group should also do more to address other data issues and increase communication channels. Members asked to review the current list of DAG attendees to ensure their organisations were involved and supported the proposed way forward for the DAG. It was acknowledged that representatives from the earth observation community should be encouraged to participate regularly.

5.5. Members were informed that the Open Data White Paper would be released on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**ACTION 8: Amber Vater to send the list of DAG Members to the Management Group, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**6. Finding efficiencies through coincident mapping**

6.1. Keith Porter reported on EA & NE lessons learnt from the coincidence mapping work. Benefits had been recognised by both organisations and it was recommended that this process could benefit others. These discussions would not have been possible without the UK-EOF.

6.2. One of the major barriers that NE and EA had come across was bringing together people and finding time to discuss how to realise the benefits. It was suggested that further studies could be carried out by the UK-EOF to investigate other areas for collaborations e.g. soils. Members were reminded that this tool, although useful, should be used with the understanding that coincidence of sites was not a direct indication of opportunity to collaborate. It does provide a starting point for exploring whether closer collaboration is feasible.

6.3. Amber Vater presented an update about the UK-EOF coincidence case study. Some work had progressed to plot two of the three Demonstrations Test Catchment sites. Thanks were given to Helen Michell at Natural England for plotting the site data. The Avon catchment showed a high level of coincidences at several points. The next steps will be to investigate the parameters measured by each of the observation programmes in the Avon catchment. The secretariat will investigate if any of these organisations are already sharing data or if they are aware of the other programmes. The secretariat will follow up by facilitating any potential collaborations or data sharing exercises and report findings back at the 17<sup>th</sup> Management Group Meeting.

**7. Citizen Science & Environmental Observations**

7.1. Andrea Turner presented an update on the citizen science project being undertaken by Helen Roy and a team at CEH and the Natural History Museum (NHM). Members were advised that they may be contacted for their input to the citizen science questionnaire. The draft final report covering the motivations and demotivations of volunteers would be delivered on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the review of technologies would be delivered on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

7.2. The steering group were considering ways to promote the finished reports (webinars, workshops etc.). Members were asked to consider who, within their own organisations, should be made aware of the reports. There was also support for the contractors to publish a peer reviewed paper.

7.3. Beth Greenaway informed Members that a contract had been let by Norfolk Council to develop an application to record land and historic monument condition. Members agreed it would be beneficial to promote the app if the release coincides with the final citizen science report.

7.4. Members were informed that STFC were developing small scale technologies to measure certain gases. It was agreed Helen Roy should try and contact STFC about these technologies for inclusion in the report.

**ACTION 9: Members to contact Andrea Turner with contact details of people who should be informed of the citizen science report, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**ACTION 10: Andrea Turner to contact Beth Greenaway to find out when the Norfolk Council app would be released, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**ACTION 11: Andrea Turner to advise Helen Roy to contact STFC regarding developing small scale technologies, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

## **8. Update and progress**

8.1. Helen Beadman reminded Members that the current Delivery Plan could be found on Central Desktop. The status of each of the projects was discussed.

8.2. Andrea Turner is in the process of establishing a Climate Sub-Group, chaired by Cathy Johnson. This group would be used to steer the next steps for the climate theme in light of the unsuccessful tender. The group will have a wider scope which will be outlined in the Terms of Reference. It was noted ESA's Climate Change Initiative is funding work to develop ECVs from satellite datasets. Secretariat should ensure this is joined up. The secretariat was asked to revisit the tender and the scope of the PID. Lawrence Way offered to put Andrea Turner in contact with an expert from JNCC if the scope includes effects of climate on biodiversity.

8.3. Members agreed that the UK-EOF level of support to GCOS should be discussed with DECC to ensure future support was not too onerous on the secretariat. DECC's contribute to UK-EOF should be review if the level of support for GCOS should increase.

**ACTION 12: Andrea Turner to make contact with the space sector Climate Change Initiative and ensure this is joined up to the Climate Sub-Group, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**ACTION 13: Andrea Turner to contact Lawrence Way if the scope of the climate project covers biodiversity, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

8.4. Further direction from the UKWRIF was required to decide what work should be undertaken for the water theme. Members were informed that UK-EOF had been approached by Geoff Baxter (EA) in relation to the LWEC UK Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Research Strategy (see [LWEC FCERM Research strategy](#)). Members agreed that further discussion should be held to decide the role of UK-EOF in the FRERM

**ACTION 14: Helen Beadman to contact Dan Osborne in regards to UK-OF input to UKWRIF, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**ACTION 15: Helen Beadman to arrange a meeting with Geoff Baxter in reference to the UK-EOF's role in the FCERM, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

8.5. Members were reminded that Peter Costigan was the Champion for the Legislative Theme. With Peter retiring and the Defra representative unconfirmed, it was agreed this theme should remain on hold until further discussion could be arranged.

**ACTION 16: Helen Beadman to contact new Defra representative (when confirmed) and discuss if there is still a need for the legislative theme to go ahead**

- 8.6. Helen Beadman informed Members that the secretariat was now running with all staff in place although there was a 0.45 FTE reduction.
- 8.7. Cofunding agreements were sent in April and the secretariat is awaiting signed agreements to be returned before sending invoices for contributions for 2012/13. The project finances are available on Central Desktop.
- 8.8. It was agreed that Devolution should be added to the programme risk log. Members were informed that Northern Ireland would be contacted in the near future and recent conversations with Scotland Government and SEPA were improving relationships. The next Management Group Meeting would also be held in Scotland. All Members were reminded to ensure updates are being passed within their organisations.

**ACTION 17: Helen Beadman to update risk log, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**9. Member updates**

- 9.1. Andrew Watkinson informed Members that the LWEC review was still underway. UK-EOF is being considered as a potential area that the panel want to investigate. The Climate Challenge Steering Group was enthusiastic about the climate sub-committee and keen to know the next steps that will be taken.
- 9.2. Lawrence Way updated Members with further details form the Countryside Survey (CS) review which is being driven by Defra and other funding bodies. Evidence of impact of the CS is being gathered to evaluate if it has met its original objectives. The review will also look at future role and wider aspirations for CS. Members can feed into the review by connecting the steering group. Lawrence agreed to forward contact details to Richard Howe.

**ACTION 18: Lawrence Way to send contact details to Richard Howe (and others on request) of the CS steering group, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

- 9.3. Caryn Le Roux informed Members that the Living Wales Programme was still underway. The single body would be in place by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 and the shadow body was now in place. There is still much to organise between the bodies.
- 9.4. Members agreed that there was a strong need to maintain good links with the devolved administrations. This would be helped by hosting the next Management Group Meeting in Scotland and reconnecting with Northern Ireland.
- 9.5. Beth Greenaway gave an overview of some of the current activities UKSA are involved in. There is a strong drive to identify areas where earth observations could be useful to add value to and enhance in situ monitoring datasets through the Space Innovation and Growth Strategy.
- 9.6. A meeting will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July to investigate how emissions from agriculture, land use change etc. can be measured using space applications to provide evidence for the emissions inventory.
- 9.7. 14<sup>th</sup> September ISIC, UKSA and LWEC will hold a workshop to discuss joining up the space and in situ communities. The workshop will aim to find gaps which earth observation data can fill. TSB funding is available to meets some of the demands.

9.8. A Major European Space Solution conference will be held in London on the 3-5<sup>th</sup> December.

9.9. Living Planet Symposium will be held in September 2013 (London) which will aim to stimulate interest and create markets for space solutions.

**ACTION 19: Beth Greenaway agreed to send a summary of the UKSA update to Members for reference, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**10. Proposed dates / locations of next meeting(s)**

10.1. The Chair confirmed the date of the 8<sup>th</sup> MG Teleconference as the **31<sup>st</sup> August 2012** (10.00-12.00) and it was agreed that the secretariat would send out a Doodle Poll to collate dates for the 17<sup>th</sup> MG Meeting (w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012) which will be held in Scotland.

**ACTION 20: Amber Vater to send out a Doodle Poll to confirm dates for the 17<sup>th</sup> MGM, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**11. A.O.B**

11.1. Members agreed that the content of the meeting papers was at the right level to inform them of necessary information for the meeting. The secretariat was asked to prepare future papers with the same level of detail.

**Meeting Closed at 15.40**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>When</b>
1	Amanda Charles to distribute the draft Terms of Reference for the Sustainable Funding committee to Management Group Members for comment	Amanda Charles 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
2	Helen Beadman to define criteria to assess vulnerability of programmes	Helen Beadman 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
3	All Members to assess the usefulness of programmes and lead organisations to provide information on the additional criteria for observations in the critical list to support the Sir John Beddington debate	All Members 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
4	Nominated Members to provide case studies for Sir John Beddington meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Met Office, UKSA, DECC, JNCC, NERC, FC/ FR, NE, BBSRC 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2012
5	Secretariat to work with CEH Lancaster to develop a full specification for the catalogue upgrade	Secretariat 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
6	Secretariat to outline likely implications and benefits of the upgrade for data providers	Secretariat 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
7	Members to review the catalogue update specification at the 8 <sup>th</sup> Management Group teleconference	All Members 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
8	Amber Vater to send the list of DAG Members to the Management Group	Amber Vater 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
9	Members to contact Andrea Turner with contact details of people who should be informed of the citizen science report,	All Members 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
10	Andrea Turner to contact Beth Greenaway to find out when the Norfolk Council app would be released	Andrea Turner 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
11	Andrea Turner to advise Helen Roy to contact STFC	Andrea Turner 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012

16<sup>th</sup> UK-EOF MGM

	regarding developing small scale technologies		
12	Andrea Turner to make contact with the space sector Climate Change Initiative and ensure this is joined up to the Climate Sub-Group	Andrea Turner	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
13	Andrea Turner to contact Lawrence Way if the scope of the climate project covers biodiversity	Andrea Turner	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
14	Helen Beadman to contact Dan Osborne in regards to UK-OF input to UKWRIF	Helen Beadman	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
15	Helen Beadman to arrange a meeting with Geoff Baxter in reference to the UK-EOF's role in the FCERM	Helen Beadman	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
16	Helen Beadman to contact new Defra representative (when confirmed) and discuss if there is still a need for the legislative theme to go ahead	Helen Beadman	
17	Helen Beadman to update risk log	Helen Beadman	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
18	Lawrence Way to send contact details to Richard Howe (and others on request) of the CS steering group	Lawrence Way	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
19	Beth Greenaway agreed to send a summary of the UKSA update to Members for reference	Beth Greenaway	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
20	Amber Vater to send out a Doodle Poll to confirm dates for the 17 <sup>th</sup> MGM	Amber Vater	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012