

UK Environmental Observation Framework

19th Management Group Meeting

Tuesday 23rd April 2013

Etc Venues, 57 North Wharf Road, Paddington, London, W2 1LA

Note of meeting

Meeting aims:

1. Provide input to on-going activities
2. Note progress with on-going activities

Attendees

David Allen	NRW	Sophie Isaacs	UKEOF
Mary Barkham (Telecon)	LWEC	Cathy Johnson	DECC
Helen Beadman	UKEOF	Andy Nisbet	NE
Jodie Clarke	NERC	Terry Parr	CEH
Hannah Collins	ESRC	Liz Tucker	Defra
Ben Ditchburn	FC	Andrea Turner	UKEOF
Joanna Drewitt	SG	Amber Vater	UKEOF
Bill Eason	NERC	Richard Walmsley	EA
Richard Howe	FC	Doug Wilson (Chair)	EA

Invited Speaker

Stefan Carlyle EA

Apologies

Amanda Charles	GO-Science	Shaun Russell	WERH
Pat Corker	DOE NI	Michael Schultz	NERC
Nathan Critchlow-Watton	SEPA	Bruce Truscott	Met Office
Ian Davidson	EEA	Lawrence Way	JNCC
Caryn le Roux	WG		

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including new members:

- Ben Ditchburn (Forestry Commission) to take over from Richard Howe.
- Bill Eason (NERC) to take over from Michael Schultz (from June).
- Terry Parr (CEH) to take over from Gwyn Rees.

2. Minutes and Actions from 18th MGM

The Minutes and Actions list from the 18th Management Group Meeting were checked and agreed.

3. UKEOF review updates / outputs (Paper B)

3.1 Liz Tucker provided a brief background and update to the UKEOF review. There has been good engagement from all partners throughout the review process. Defra has

completed their internal process and welcomes the review, and would like to continue their support for UKEOF. NERC's internal process is still taking place and the review report and joint response will be circulated as soon as it is available. A formal discussion will then be set up to discuss the response to the review.

3.2 The Chair highlighted that there are two areas to consider for the future UKEOF work programme:

- The number and topic of different initiatives, (e.g. citizen science)
- A broader understanding of the pressures emerging for environmental observations.

3.3 Liz Tucker noted that, in terms of the longevity of UKEOF, Defra would like to put a 3 year agreement in place to give UKEOF sustainable long term planning, and would like to see other organisations doing the same.

ACTION 1: Secretariat to send information to Bill Eason regarding how NERC has benefited from UKEOF. Deadline: 3rd May

4. Feedback from 1st Observations Committee (Paper C)

4.1 Helen Beadman introduced the paper. The issue around Sea Surface Temperature observations has been temporarily resolved with short term funding from DECC, Defra and NERC. A meeting is being arranged to address the long term issues.

4.2 There was discussion around the setting up of an Officials Group to support the Observations Committee. It was acknowledged that the Observations Committee is still at an early stage and it will need to be established how this Group's activities will fit against the UKEOF Management Group.

4.3 The horizon scanning project, which aims to develop thematic roadmaps, was discussed. It was reported from the brief by Amanda Charles that Sir Mark Walport wants to take this project forwards but it needs further scoping, potentially via a workshop, which led to discussion regarding ownership of the roadmaps and being aware of areas of overlap. Terry Parr suggested that the roadmap planning exercise should take account of the European research activities planning mechanism.

4.4 It was suggested that it may be appropriate for the Chief Scientific Officer of the Forestry Commission to occasionally attend the Observations Committee, particularly regarding non-England issues. Liz Tucker suggested using the Strategic Network Evidence Group to inform Defra's input.

ACTION 2: Helen Beadman to feed back to Amanda Charles on comments regarding the Observations Committee. Deadline: 26th April

5. Citizen Science Working Group proposal (Paper D)

5.1 Andrea Turner introduced the paper for the Citizen Science Working Group proposal.

5.2 There was overall agreement to the proposal, to support the group for an initial 12-month period, with the work-plan needing further refinement to define specific outputs within this timeframe.

5.3 The key issues discussed for the working group (in order to keep it policy relevant) were: improving standards, best practice dissemination and how to use Citizen Science in monitoring.

5.4 Citizen Science leadership across Government was discussed. It was agreed that it should be identified if there is a need for leadership by the Working Group, but it would not provide a leadership role itself necessarily.

5.5 Membership of the Working Group was discussed and it was agreed that membership from other NERC centres should be considered. Helen Roy at CEH was

suggested in particular due to her links to the NGO community. Additional Defra membership may also be beneficial.

- 5.6** There was discussion about whether Citizen Science activities relating to NGOs were in the Catalogue. It was agreed that they are in the Catalogue but there is the potential for better signposting to this.

ACTION 3: Andrea Turner to look into potential membership from other NERC centres and Defra and to discuss Working Group plans with Liz Tucker offline. Deadline: 11th May

ACTION 4: Andrea Turner to consider the idea of a questionnaire around the download of the Citizen Science guide. Deadline: 11th May

ACTION 5: Andrea Turner to look into the lessons learnt through the UK Cosmos programme, and ispot to help inform about leadership. Deadline: 12th June

6. Coincidence Mapping update (Paper E)

- 6.1** Andy Nisbet (project champion) provided background to the mapping work and summarised the potential benefits to Members. Sophie Isaacs followed this with a summary of recent progress made by the Secretariat, including proposed plans to host a workshop involving organisations that are observing in the chosen Hampshire-Avon catchment.
- 6.2** Members agreed that a steering group should be formed to provide guidance to the project. Richard Walmsley suggested that this work will be of use in support of the Consolidated Evidence Theme of the Defra network Strategic Alignment project, and it would therefore be beneficial to represent these interests on the steering group. A brief discussion about the Strategic Alignment project gave Members a better understanding of the aims and overall process being undertaken.
- 6.3** David Allen described the monitoring review that CCW undertook to investigate regulatory monitoring in Wales and which may be a useful reference for the project. Joanna Drewitt also suggested an SG project which looked at combining site visits whilst considering justifying the collection of data and ensuring landowners understand what the data is used for. A proforma was produced to support this work which may be useful for the case study.
- 6.4** Ben Ditchburn informed Members that FC are working with NE to look at aligning measurements and are also keen to support this work through membership of the steering group. It was agreed that the local DTC contact should also be invited to join.
- 6.5** The Chair highlighted that although this case study has a terrestrial focus other aspects such as climate and marine need to be considered in the final reporting and recommendations should include application outside this initial focus. Consideration should also be given to how the recommendations can be used at a UK level.
- 6.6** It was agreed that the secretariat should:
- Update the project initiation document (including timescales for delivering project)
 - Confirm membership of the steering group and set-up a first meeting
 - Get steering group agreement as to the scope of the project e.g. inclusion of non-public bodies etc
 - Contact organisations in the catchment, informing them of the project and confirm the level of interest and support
 - Contact CEH about how best to use the Land Cover map.

ACTION 6: Joanna Drewitt to send details of the SG project on aligning landowner visits to the secretariat. Deadline: 11th May 2013

Action 7: David Allen to forward relevant information about similar mapping projects in Wales. Deadline: 11th May 2013

Action 8: Sophie Isaacs to circulate the mapping lessons learnt paper (June 2012) and updated PID to Members (including agreed actions listed above). Deadline: 12th June

Action 9: Sophie Isaacs to circulate coincidence maps to the Management Group. Deadline: 12th June

7. UKEOF Communications Proposal (Paper F)

- 7.1 Sophie Isaacs introduced the paper which gives details of plans for a UKEOF Communications refresh.
- 7.2 Members agreed that branding was important and work should be undertaken to produce a consistent communications package including a logo to help ensure UKEOF becomes more recognised within the community. Liz Tucker and Bill Eason agreed to champion this work and Members offered their input when required to help wordsmith to ensure all areas of the UKEOF programme are covered.
- 7.3 UKEOF's name is also considered a potential issue. Many individuals in the community interpret this as "earth observation framework" rather than "environmental observation framework", providing the wrong message. It was agreed to consider the outcomes of the review and to re-address this issue in the near future.

ACTION 10: Members to send comments and suggestions about the communication plan to office@ukeof.org.uk. Deadline: 11th May

ACTION 11: Sophie Isaacs to work with Liz Tucker and Bill Eason to compile a communications package to be presented for sign-off at the next MG teleconference. Deadline: 12th June

ACTION 12: Members to discuss changing the UKEOF programme name at the 9th MG teleconference. Deadline: 19th June

8. DAG and Catalogue upgrade update (Paper G)

- 8.1 Stefan Carlyle gave an update about DAG meetings and the outcome of the UKEOF and UKLP joint INSPIRE EF themed workshop. This workshop was beneficial as there had been misconceptions about INSPIRE, and the workshop raised the profile of this legal obligation, whilst also highlighting opportunities, benefits and barriers.
- 8.2 Stefan Carlyle gave an update about the Catalogue upgrade. There will be 4 new fields and the system is currently being built. The next steps will be to work with major data providers to make sure that what is being proposed is consistent with their way of working. A workshop is being held in June about this.
- 8.3 An update on the workshop on monitoring technologies was given. This will be a joint UKEOF/SEPA workshop held in Scotland, with the DAG on the preceding day. The workshop will focus on recent advances in emerging technologies to improve environmental monitoring.
- 8.4 DAG Advice notes were mentioned, with the first note having been discussed at the last meeting. More advice notes are planned and once the review has come to a conclusion these will be published, in a similar style to the UKEOF About Us leaflet.
- 8.5 The DAG and Catalogue update will become a standing item at future Management Group Meetings

ACTION 13: Liz Tucker to suggest other Defra representatives for the data provider workshop. Deadline: 8th May

ACTION 14: Hannah Collins to provide information on the dot rural scheme to Amber Vater. Deadline: 8th May

ACTION 15: Joanna Drewitt to liaise with Nathan Critchlow-Watton and Amber Vater over location for the workshop in Scotland. Deadline: 29th April

9. Realising Nature's Value – LWEC Proposal (Paper H)

- 9.1** Mary Barkham introduced a proposal from LWEC for Realising Nature's Value, which is one of LWEC's current tasks. Two of the key areas of this task force are observations and access to data. It was highlighted that the proposal is still in early stages. The MG were asked whether in principal they supported the secretariat providing input to inform this task. UKEOF support of this task would also help with closer linkages to LWEC which were identified as an issue in the Review. CEH and Defra showed support for this proposal.
- 9.2** Joanna Drewitt suggested some collaborative working in relation to this project and the mapping assessment work for ecosystems and biodiversity.
- 9.3** Bill Eason raised the current relevant NERC competition which considers the use of NERC data in the development of applications, products and services. (Further information can be found here: <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/enviro-data.asp>)
- 9.4** Hannah Collins confirmed that the UKNEA is LWEC accredited, and it is anticipated that it, along with any other relevant work, will be brought together in this activity. Once the proposal has been approved by LWEC's Executive Management Committee it will be more widely disseminated.

10. UKEOF Progress and Update (Paper I)

Helen Beadman gave an update on other UKEOF work and progress and identified highlights including:

- The water project is currently on hold but there have been discussions with FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management), looking at a small amount of secretariat time to pull coastal observations from the Catalogue
- Additional members have joined the CCOG including a DFID and STFC representative.
- Maximising value from legislative observations – this is on hold until the Defra Strategic Alignment has taken place
- Non-project activities: Sophie Isaacs was introduced as a new staff member. The large sum of uncommitted funds in 2012/13 were explained as having been accumulated to spend on the Catalogue upgrade, and will largely be spent by the end of this year. The Chair noted that in the past there has always been a large amount carried from year to year, which is now significantly reduced.

ACTION 16: Andrea Turner to circulate the list of who the climate questionnaire is being sent to. Deadline: 26th April

ACTION 17: Members contacted by Jacqueline Parker about the climate work to respond as soon as possible, or forward to a more appropriate colleague. Deadline: Ongoing

ACTION 18: Sophie Isaacs to add list of members for various committees and groups to UKEOF website. Deadline: 12th June

11. Update and Progress from members

Nothing was raised under this item.

12. Next Meetings

12.1 The 9th Management Group teleconference is due on 19th June

12.2 The 20th Management Group Meeting will be held on 4th September in Wales (location subject to confirmation)

13. Any other business

The Chair extended thanks to Richard Howe, Michael Schultz and Gwyn Rees for their attendance at the UKEOF Management Group.

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4 Andrea Turner to consider idea of a questionnaire around the download of the Citizen Science guide.	Andrea Turner	11 th May
5 Andrea Turner to look into the lessons learnt through the UK Cosmos programme, and ispot to help inform about leadership.	Andrea Turner	12 th June
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8 Sophie Isaacs to circulate the mapping lessons learnt paper (June 2012) and updated PID to Members (including agreed actions listed above).	Sophie Isaacs	12 th June
9 Sophie Isaacs to circulate coincidence maps to the Management Group.	Sophie Isaacs	12 th June
10 Members to send comments and suggestions about the communication plan to office@ukeof.org.uk	Management Group	11 th May
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12 Members to discuss changing the UKEOF programme name at the 9 th MG teleconference.	Management Group	19 th June
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