

20th Management Group Meeting
4th September 10.30-15.30

Note of Meeting

Main Meeting Aims:

- 1. Confirm scope and membership**
- 2. Develop the UKEOF work plan**
- 3. Update on UKEOF activities**

Attendees:

David Allen	NRW	Kathryn Monk	NRW
Helen Beadman	UKEOF	Andy Nisbet	NE
Stefan Carlyle	EA	Terry Parr	CEH
Jon Chambers	BGS	Shaun Russell	WERH
Nathan Critchlow-Watton	SEPA (telecon)	Bruce Truscott	Met Office
Ben Ditchburn	FC	Liz Tucker	Defra
Bill Eason	NERC	Andrea Turner	UKEOF
Beth Greenaway	UKSA	Amber Vater	UKEOF
Sophie Isaacs	UKEOF	Rich Walmsley	EA
Cathy Johnson	DECC	Lawrence Way (telecon)	JNCC
Caryn le Roux	WG	Doug Wilson (Chair)	EA

Apologies:

Mary Barkham	LWEC	Joanna Drewitt	SG
Jodie Clarke	UKEOF	Elizabeth Seaman	UKSA
Hannah Collins	ESRC		

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, in particular Jon Chambers and Kathryn Monk who were attending for their first meeting. The Chair thanked NRW for hosting.

2. Minutes and actions from 9th Management Group Teleconference

2.1 The minutes and actions from the 9th Management Group Teleconference were checked and agreed.

2.2 Terry Parr confirmed that CEH Lancaster will host the 21st Management Group Meeting.

3. Management Group response to UKEOF review

3.1 The Chair introduced Paper B, detailing the Management Group's (MG) response to the UKEOF review, commissioned by Defra and NERC.

3.2 There was discussion around the focus of UKEOF provided in the review Recommendation 16....'Given the focus of UKEOF on terrestrial and freshwater issues....'. This was not felt to be an

accurate representation particularly in respect to work currently being done on climate observations.

3.3 Members agreed that more engagement from NERC centres would be beneficial, and it was noted that if engagement with CEH and BGS is successful and shows benefits, other centres are more likely to become engaged.

3.4. The MG response to the review was agreed, with changes to be made in the response to Recommendation 16 to reflect the wider focus of UKEOF.

ACTION 1 – Helen Beadman to change the wording around paragraph 16 in the Management Group response to the review to reflect UKEOF’s wider focus, by 31st October

ACTION 2 – Helen Beadman to draft letters for the UKEOF Chair to send to Defra (Liz Tucker) and NERC (Bill Eason) with the finalised MG response to the UKEOF review, by 31st October

4. Scope and membership of UKEOF

4.1 The Chair introduced Paper C, which considered issues concerning the scope and membership of UKEOF raised by the UKEOF review.

4.2 Discussion was held around how UKEOF should cover UK Funded Satellite Observations. Two issues in particular were identified, one around knowledge of what UK funded satellite observations relevant to the environmental are available, and the other around which satellite observations should be included in the catalogue. Satellite observations were noted as being critical for the Met Office. DECC also would like them to be included in the catalogue as they are important for climate work.

ACTION 3: Beth Greenaway to work with the Secretariat to define a small scoping project on the effective inclusion of Satellite Observations within UKEOF’s activities and catalogue, by 31st October

ACTION 4: Beth Greenaway to update the MG on relevant UK funded satellite observations that are available, for the February 2014 MGM

ACTION 5: Secretariat to include an agenda item in the February MGM for members to discuss how best to coherently include UK funded satellite observations in the catalogue, for the February 2014 MGM

4.3 Helen Beadman gave an update from ESRC on their view of UKEOF’s approach to Socio-Economic information. ESRC support the facilitation of the better use of economic and social information by UKEOF, but also consider that it would be beneficial to look beyond quantitative data sets and acknowledge the value of qualitative insights and indicators. It was agreed that the current approach to Socio-Economic observations is fit for purpose, but that it must be ensured that relevant communities and information are drawn into UKEOF’s activities.

4.4 The Chair requested views on the extent to which International Observing Systems should be included within UKEOF’s scope. It was agreed that all UK funded activities should be included. It is also necessary to include International Observing Systems that are critical to serve the

community's needs, for example a large proportion of data that the Met Office uses is internationally, rather than UK, funded. It was agreed that a clear set of criteria need to be established for which International Observing Systems should be included within the Catalogue. Discussion was held over whether there should be the ability in the catalogue to update on emerging requirements for International Observing Systems. It was agreed that this may be an area of horizon scanning appropriate for consideration by the Observations Committee. It was suggested that there could be a keyword included in the catalogue which would allow international programmes that are used, but are not funded by the UK, to be flagged.

ACTION 6: Secretariat to define clear criteria for the inclusion of International Observing Systems within the catalogue, by 7th November

ACTION 7 – Helen Beadman to discuss emerging requirements for International Observing Systems with Amanda Charles, by 7th November

Action 8: Amber Vater to investigate how international programmes that are used but not funded by the UK could be tagged in the new catalogue, by 7th November

4.5 The membership of the UKEOF MG was discussed, including whether to invite the Satellite Applications Catapult. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to maintain current UKSA input to MG and to keep the Catapult membership on the DAG.

ACTION 9: Beth Greenaway to create an opportunity to meet the Satellite Applications Catapult team, by 7th November

4.6 The issue of whether to include NGOs in the UKEOF membership was discussed. It was agreed that UKEOF should continue to include NGOs in its activities, where appropriate, but that there is still much to do across the public sector before inviting other bodies such as NGOs onto the MG. There was agreement that an event to engage with NGOs could be useful.

4.7 The Chair opened up the discussion for any other items on the scope and membership of UKEOF. Engagement with the marine community was discussed, and it was agreed that discussions should be had with the MSCC to see where there are parallel activities and opportunities for join up (see action 15). As highlighted in the review continued effort is needed to engage with the NERC centres. There was also discussion around the links with GEO, which have been strong in the past. It was agreed that these links should be re-established.

ACTION 10: Liz Tucker to contact Kathy Bass regarding links with GEO and to consider best ways to keep the MG updated with news, by 7th November.

5. UKEOF work plan

5.1 The Chair highlighted some key points to consider in the discussion of the work plan: not every activity needs every MG organisation to be involved; the importance of secretariat capacity and; willingness of MG members to champion new work areas.

5.2 Helen Beadman gave an overview of the current work plan, and those projects that are in development and on hold. LWEC's task Realising Nature's Value was discussed. It was noted that this work area is still in development, and UKEOF's role is still to be defined.

5.3 LWEC's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) task was discussed. This is also in early stages but it was noted that the marine community (MEDIN) are involved with the task, and NRW are particularly interested in becoming involved.

5.4 The projects that are on hold were discussed. The work around water observations needs to be reviewed by speaking to UKWRIP. The project –“Maximising the value of legislative observations” was raised and it was noted this project will likely morph into applying the outcomes of Defra's Strategic Alignment to other parts of the UK.

ACTION 11: Helen Beadman to discuss the potential for a water observations project with UKWRIP and report back to the MG, for the 7th November MGT

ACTION 12: Rich Walmsley to give an update on Strategic Alignment at the MGM in February 2014.

5.3 Liz Tucker gave an overview of the Citizen Science work plan proposal that was submitted by Defra and which would follow on from the current Citizen Science work. There was some concern that this work would duplicate work being carried out on the Natural England Biodiversity Strategy. It was agreed that a good option may be to produce a peer-reviewed publication on how well citizen science has delivered monitoring efforts. This is something that has already been discussed with the contractors of the UKEOF Citizen Science Guide and Report, and JNCC have been looking to see if they could fund this activity. If JNCC do not have the funding available a different funding route will need to be considered. The MG agreed that there is further work to do on Citizen Science and the proposal should be developed further.

ACTION 13: UKEOF to take the Citizen Science proposal to the Citizen Science working group for further input, and to work with the DAG on the relevant data issues, by 7th November

5.4 Jon Chambers gave an overview of the areas of work that BGS would be interested in working with UKEOF on. BGS are keen to engage, and several MG organisations expressed an interest.

ACTION 14 – All to consider where there is potential to engage with BGS, and those with an interest to contact the Secretariat who will arrange a meeting to see which work could be taken forwards, by 7th November (if bilateral arrangements are being made please could the Secretariat be made aware)

5.5 Potential for projects in the atmospheric and marine sciences were discussed as a way of encouraging greater engagement with the NERC centres NCAS and NOC respectively.

ACTION 15: Helen Beadman to contact the MSCC, by 7th November.

5.6 Other initiatives were discussed, such as awareness-raising of the Satellite Applications Catapult and how satellites can help soil monitoring. The CCOG work programme is currently under development and may include activities that will require additional secretariat resource, and so will need to be considered by the MG for inclusion in the work plan.

5.7 It was agreed that greater clarity is needed around priority areas of common interest between the partners, and it is some time since there has been the opportunity for partners to provide a comprehensive update and detail their current priorities.

ACTION 16: Secretariat to include a session at the next MGM on partners' priorities, for the February 2014 MGM

6. UKEOF sustainable funding model

6.1 Helen Beadman gave an overview of Paper E. Currently, the funding models fits UKEOF's activities. The MG members were asked whether they felt their organisations could continue at the current level of funding.

6.2 Some organisations felt they may be under greater financial pressure from 2015/2016 following the next comprehensive spending review. Should this be the case different funding models could be considered and one solution may be for organisations to fund the individual projects of relevance to them, away from the cofounding agreement. It was accepted that a piecemeal approach to funding also has its own problems.

6.3 It was agreed that greater clarity on funding levels is needed from MG members as soon as possible.

ACTION 17: Secretariat to include a session on finances at the November MGT, by 7th November.

7. DAG Update

7.1 Stefan Carlyle gave an update on the DAG's work, including some background such as the recent G8 summit and the Shakespeare Review.

7.2 The proposal in paper F was discussed, regarding the upgraded UKEOF catalogue becoming the agreed UK repository for **metadata about observing facilities** to comply with the Environmental Monitoring Facilities theme of INSPIRE. This would complement data.gov.uk, which would remain the repository for the **metadata about the data produced by the facility**.

Currently it is understood that data.gov.uk is only set up to hold metadata about data sets and is not able to hold metadata about the facilities themselves. Using the UKEOF catalogue would therefore provide an elegant solution, as a minimum until data.gov.uk has the capability to do so itself, or there is an agreement that UKEOF will be the long term solution for holding facilities metadata. For UKEOF the advantage to this model is that organisations will be more likely to

keep the UKEOF catalogue up to date if this is where they are required to publish this type of INSPIRE compliant metadata. It is accepted that not all organisations are viewing INSPIRE compliance as a major driving factor, but it will be another incentive for organisations to make sure their UKEOF catalogue records are accurate. There was general agreement from the MG that this proposal should be explored further with Defra.

ACTION 18: Amber Vater, through the Catalogue Upgrade project, to explore this proposal further with Defra, by 7th November.

ACTION 19: Amber Vater and Ben Ditchburn to follow up on FC monitoring/observation programmes in the catalogue, by 7th November

8. UKEOF Progress and Update

Helen Beadman gave an update on UKEOF work and activities.

9. Update and progress from members

9.1 Beth Greenaway noted that SAHFOS are looking to raise private funding to support their programme, and where possible will keep the MG updated on their progress.

9.2 Bruce Truscott updated that the Met Office has secured funding from the Department Of Transport to install a LiDAR network across the UK.

9.3 There have been cross-departmental discussions for securing funding for the Jason Continuity of Service satellite.

9.4 Caryn le Roux noted that Wales will be looking at evidence needs for natural resource management planning. UKEOF and WG will arrange some meetings to discuss this. There was a positive ministerial response to the State of Nature report, and the UKEOF catalogue was used in response to this.

9.5 Ben Ditchburn reported that FC are publishing an account of carbon in Britain and biomass, and there has been a significant shift in the amount of carbon. The MG asked that Ben update UKEOF on the impacts of this once it has been published.

9.6 Liz Tucker updated that the National Adaptation Plan has been published. Responsibility within Defra for the Met Office Hadley Centre has moved to Liz Tucker's team.

10. Proposed dates/locations of next meetings

The next MGT will be held in the morning of 7th November, and the next MGM will be at CEH Lancaster in February 2014.

ACTION 20: Sophie Isaacs to resend the Doodle Poll to MG members to indicate their availability for the meetings in 2014, by 6th September.

11. Any other business

The Chair thanked members and Natural Resources Wales for hosting the meeting.

Table of Actions

Actions		Owner	Deadline
1	Helen Beadman to change the wording around paragraph 16 in the Management Group response to the review to reflect UKEOF's wider focus	Helen Beadman	31 st October
2	Helen Beadman to draft letters for the UKEOF chair to send to Defra (Liz Tucker) and NERC (Bill Eason) with the finalised MG response to the UKEOF review	Helen Beadman	Complete
3	Beth Greenaway to work with the Secretariat to define a small scoping project on the effective inclusion of Satellite Observations within UKEOF's activities and catalogue	Beth Greenaway	31 st October
4	Beth Greenaway to update the MG on relevant UK funded satellite observations that are available, for the February 2014 MGM	Beth Greenaway	February 2014 MGM
5	Secretariat to include an agenda item in the February MGM for members to discuss how best to coherently include UK funded satellite observations in the catalogue	Secretariat	February 2014 MGM
6	Secretariat to define clear criteria for the inclusion of International Observing Systems within the catalogue	Secretariat	7 th November
7	Helen Beadman to discuss emerging requirements for International Observing Systems with Amanda Charles	Helen Beadman	7 th November
8	Amber Vater to investigate how international programmes that are used but not funded by the UK could be tagged in the new catalogue	Amber Vater	7 th November
9	Beth Greenaway to create an opportunity to meet the Satellite Applications Catapult team	Beth Greenaway	7 th November
10	Liz Tucker to contact Kathy Bass regarding links with GEO and to consider best ways to keep the MG updated with news	Liz Tucker	7 th November
11	Helen Beadman to discuss the potential for a water observations project with UKWRIP and report back to the MG	Helen Beadman	7 th November
12	Rich Walmsley to give an update on Strategic Alignment at the MGM in February 2014.	Rich Walmsley	February 2014 MGM
13	UKEOF to take the Citizen Science proposal to the Citizen Science working group for further input, and to work with the DAG on the relevant data issues	Secretariat	7 th November
14	All to consider where there is potential to engage with BGS, and those with an interest to contact the Secretariat who will arrange a meeting to see which work could be taken forwards (if bilateral arrangements are being made please could the Secretariat be made aware)	All	7 th November
15	Helen Beadman to contact the MSCC	Helen Beadman	7 th November
16	Secretariat to include a session at the next MGM on	Secretariat	February 2014

	partners' priorities		MGM
17	Secretariat to include a session on finances at the November MGT	Secretariat	7 th November
18	Amber Vater, through the Catalogue Upgrade project, to explore this proposal (Paper F) further with Defra	Amber Vater	7 th November
19	Amber Vater and Ben Ditchburn to follow up on FC monitoring/observation programmes in the catalogue	Amber Vater / Ben Ditchburn	7 th November
20	Sophie Isaacs to resend the Doodle Poll to MG members to indicate their availability for the meetings in 2014	Sophie Isaacs	Complete