# 21st Management Group Meeting
### Tuesday 11th February 2014   10.30-15.30
CEH, Lancaster Environment Centre, Library Avenue, Bailrigg, Lancaster, LA1 4AP

**Note of Meeting**

**Meeting aims:**

1. **Review MG Partners Priorities and funding intentions**
2. **Update on the Defra Strategic Alignment Project**
3. **Update on UKEOF activities**

**Attendees**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| David Allen | NRW | Terry Parr | NE |
| Tim Ashelford | Defra | Ali Price | Met Office |
| Helen Beadman | UKEOF | Shaun Russell | WERH |
| Ruth Boumphrey | UKSA | Phil Trembath | CEH |
| Jodie Clarke | UKEOF | Andrea Turner | UKEOF |
| Ben Ditchburn | FC (Chair) | Amber Vater | NERC/UKEOF |
| Beth Greenaway | UKSA (telecon) | Rich Walmsley | EA |
| David Howard | CEH | Lawrence Way | JNCC |
| Sophie Isaacs | UKEOF | | |

**Apologies**

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|---|---|---|---|
| Mary Barkham | LWEC | Caryn le Roux | WG |
| Stefan Carlyle | EA | Paul Longbottom | SNH |
| Hannah Collins | ESRC | Andy Nisbet | NE |
| Nathan Critchlow-Watton | SEPA | Mike Stephenson | BGS |
| Joanna Drewitt | SG | Bruce Truscott | Met Office |
| Bill Eason | NERC | Doug Wilson | EA |
| Cathy Johnson | DECC | | |

1. **Welcome and introductions**
   1.1 Ben Ditchburn, as the Chair on behalf of Doug Wilson, welcomed members to the meeting.
   1.2 Tim Ashelford was welcomed to his first UKEOF Management Group Meeting.
   1.3 Ali Price was welcomed to the meeting on behalf of Bruce Truscott.
   1.4 David Howard, a CEH Knowledge-Exchange Fellow for environmental monitoring, was also welcomed to the meeting.

2. **Minutes and Actions from 10th Management Group Teleconference**
   2.1. The minutes and actions from the 10th Management Group Teleconference were checked and agreed.

3. **Discussion on CEH 5 year plan for Monitoring and Observation**
   3.1. It was acknowledged that there was value in discussing how UKEOF can help inform the CEH strategy outlined in the early morning session before the Management Group Meeting.

**3.2.** There was discussion around the need for organisations to start aligning their wide-spread monitoring. Ben Ditchburn provided an example to help highlight this - the possibility of the National Forestry Inventory second cycle aligning with CEH land cover mapping.

**3.3.** It was suggested that organisations needed to start to think about how to derive more national information from local investigations. A barrier that was raised was in bringing data together in such a way that it can be quickly analysed.

**3.4.** There was discussion over whether the CEH monitoring strategy should be discussed further at a later date. Terry Parr noted that CEH was still at the planning stage, but there would be benefits it pursing bilaterally some of the points that had been raised. It was also agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with Terry Parr regarding a possible future slot at an MGM.

**ACTION 1: Sophie Isaacs to liaise with Terry Parr regarding a possible slot at a future MGM for the CEH monitoring strategy by 3rd September 2014.**

4. **Partners' Priorities**

   **4.1.** Members were invited to suggest new priority areas as a focus for UKEOF's work going forwards.

   **4.2.** The Citizen Science model (focussed or collective learning from which best practise can be drawn) was noted as being successful, and it was agreed that this model should be used for future work.

   **4.3.** Terry Parr gave details of a BIS capital proposal that CEH are working on with other NERC centres for a UK environmental sensor network, in both rural and urban areas. UKEOF members were invited to engage with the proposal. A BIS capital consultation will be released shortly that will include this proposal and it was suggested that UKEOF could co-ordinate a joint response from MG members.

   **4.4.** There was discussion around the deployment of micro-sensors and it was suggested that there was potential for collective learning in this area – what is out there, how have they been deployed and what issues have arisen. It was acknowledged that there is a gap in measuring the response to the state of the environment, for instance in terms of ecosystem services.

   **4.5.** UKEOF's communications were discussed as being necessary to demonstrate the importance of partnership working in environmental monitoring, and to highlight the potential negative impacts if cuts are made to the areas which underpin knowledge. It was agreed that UKEOF's communication strategy should not be a priority in itself, but should be applied to all of UKEOF's work activities. For example, there should be a press release around the launch of the upgraded Catalogue.

   **4.6.** There was discussion around data harmonisation and the confidence levels that can be applied to combined data sets. The Data Advisory Group (DAG) was suggested as a potential mechanism to discuss this further. Whilst the DAG have been primarily concerned with the Environmental Monitoring Facilities aspect of INSPIRE, it was suggested that the wider context of INSPIRE – the interoperability of data sets, and data quality assurance could be an area to take to the DAG that would cut across both the DAG and Management Group. The group felt that case studies illustrating the benefit of data sharing would be helpful, with a case study based upon the Somerset levels suggested. It was noted that illustrating priming economic impact through the use of data would also be valuable.

**4.7.** Environmental DNA (eDNA) was discussed as a potential work topic. FERA is currently doing some work in this area and has proposed a workshop. It was agreed that Helen Beadman should contact FERA to see if there is a possibility of a joint workshop. MG members would want a workshop framed around the potential of eDNA techniques for monitoring activities.

**4.8.** There was discussion around the analytical use of data i.e. cross analysis of datasets in order to provide a more detailed picture of the environment. It was agreed to continue this discussion offline, with Helen Beadman visiting Lawrence Way to discuss further.

**4.9.** Use of remote sensing was also seen as a candidate for collective or focused learning. This was to be discussed further under the later agenda item from the UK Space Agency.

**4.10.** Members should let the Secretariat know if further ideas for priorities are thought of after the meeting.

**ACTION 2: Andrea Turner to take the issue of data harmonisation to the UKEOF DAG by June 2014**

**ACTION 3: Rich Walmsley to provide Helen Beadman with a contact at FERA regarding eDNA by 31st March 2014**

**ACTION 4: Helen Beadman to contact FERA regarding eDNA workshop and come back to MG with a proposal by 21st May 2014**

**ACTION 5: Helen Beadman to arrange to meet with Lawrence Way regarding cross analysis of datasets by 3rd September 2014**

**ACTION 6: All to contact the Secretariat if further ideas for priorities are thought of after the MGM by 21st May 2014**

5. **Defra Strategic Alignment Update**
   **5.1.** Rich Walmsley gave a presentation on the progress of the Defra's One Network Evidence (ONE) project, for ONE business evidence monitoring. The slides can be accessed on Central Desktop.
   **5.2.** There was discussion around the aspiration for a more joined-up network. Issues such as the visibility of programmes within the network and sharing of data were raised, along with the infrastructure changes that would be required to operate as a single network.
   **5.3.** The geographical scope of the project was discussed. The focus is very much on England, but it is important to remember that some organisations, such as JNCC work at a UK level.

6. **NERC Data Strategy**
   **6.1.** Amber Vater gave an update on the NERC Data Strategy.
   **6.2.** Robert Gurney (NERC) has presented his initial ideas regarding the data strategy, which is currently in a draft format. When this is formally available the UKEOF Management Group and DAG will be invited to an event where it will be presented and discussed.

7. **UK Space Agency Update**
   **7.1.** Beth Greenaway gave a presentation about the Space for Smarter Government Programme. The slides can be accessed on Central Desktop.

**7.2.** The Management Group were invited to provide comments on the suggested agenda for the Space for Smarter Government: Environmental Monitoring workshop on 21st March.

**7.3.** Management Group members were requested to nominate a member to present the Environmental Monitoring Challenges presentation at the workshop. In order to clarify what is required, it was agreed that Beth Greenaway should make a note of the requirements and the decision over who and what should be presented would be made offline.

**7.4.** Management Group members were encouraged to ensure that relevant staff within their organisations are informed of the workshop.

**7.5.** Beth updated the group that the Space Applications Catapult is working to produce a catalogue of environmental monitoring activities undertaken from space. There was some discussion over Met Office metadata from space and whether this should be reflected through the UKEOF or Space Catalogue. It was agreed that this discussion would be continued after the MGM.

**ACTION 7: Beth Greenaway to note a paragraph on what is needed for the Space for Smarter Government: Environmental Monitoring workshop and send to Helen Beadman by 28th February 2014**

**ACTION 8: MG members to ensure that relevant members of their organisations are informed about the workshop by 28th February 2014**

**ACTION 9: Beth Greenaway, Amber Vater and Ali Price to discuss where Met Office records should be held by 31st March 2014**

8. **Delivery Plan**

   **8.1.** Helen Beadman gave an update on the Delivery Plan. The comments that were made since the last Management Group Teleconference have been incorporated in the document. Further comments were invited if necessary, particularly with regards to the Member's Priorities in Annex 1. The deadline for comments is Wednesday 26th February, after which the document will be published on the UKEOF website.

**ACTION 10: David Allen to update Helen Beadman regarding the Natural Resources Wales entry in the Member's Priorities in the Delivery Plan by 26th February 2014**

**ACTION 11: Terry Parr to provide a CEH entry for Member's Priorities in the Delivery Plan by 26th February 2014**

**ACTION 12: Helen Beadman to remove "Wales" from the Environment Agency entry in the Member's Priorities by 26th February 2014**

9. **Activities Update: Catalogue Update**

   **9.1.** Rich Walmsley presented on the progress of the Catalogue upgrade (slides can be seen on Central Desktop) encouraging MG members to add their geo-location information to the upgraded catalogue so that the full benefits can be realised.

   **9.2.** Phil Trembath gave a demonstration of how the upgraded Catalogue will function, including the new mapping function.

**9.3.** There was discussion around whether the upgraded Catalogue will be INSPIRE compliant. It was confirmed that as there is information within the new Catalogue that is beyond the scope of INSPIRE it is considered to be INSPIRE compatible, however it does produce outputs that are INSPIRE  compliant.

**9.4.** It was agreed that organisations should add their updated information, including geo-location information to the Catalogue by April 2014.

**9.5.** Members were reminded to let the Secretariat know of any events where the upgraded Catalogue can be demonstrated.

**ACTION 13: All to make sure entries for their organisations in the Catalogue are up to date and have the associated geospatial information by 30th April 2014**

**ACTION 14: All to let the Secretariat know of any events where the upgraded Catalogue can be demonstrated by 30th April 2014**

10. **Activities Update: General Update**

**10.1.** Andrea Turner gave an update on the Data Advisory Group. The Citizen Science advice note has been signed off. The next meeting is being held in Wales, in June.

**10.2.** Helen Beadman gave an update on UKEOF's communications, in particular, the new UKEOF website was launched in November.

**10.3.** Jodie Clarke gave an update on the Citizen Science working group, which is planning a workshop in May on best practice for non-natives and citizen science.

**10.4.** Sophie Isaacs gave an update on progress with the Coincidence Mapping project and drew attention to the interim project report.

**10.5.** Andrea Turner gave an update on progress with the Coordinating Climate Observations Group (CCOG) and  Project report, which has now been published and will be presented at the next MG meeting

**10.6.** Helen Beadman gave an update on the LWEC tasks. The Ecosystems task last met in January and progress is being made. The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) task is currently on hold.

**10.7.** Helen Beadman confirmed that all the co-funding agreements for the year 2013-14 have been signed and paid for. There was a request for members to verbally confirm their funding intentions for 2014/15 if they have not already done so. It was confirmed that Natural England would again be contributing £5000 and JNCC has budgeted the same amount again (£3000).

**10.8.** There was discussion over the UKEOF work programme and how long activities would continue for. The Citizen Science Working Group is due to be reviewed after 1 year, and it was agreed that Andrea Turner would bring details of the CCOG work-plan to the next Management Group teleconference.

**10.9.** Ben Ditchburn, on behalf of UKEOF, thanked Jodie Clarke for her work with UKEOF and wished her well in her new position in NERC.

**ACTION 15: Andrea Turner to bring details of the climate work-plan to the next Management Group Meeting by 21st May 2014.**

## 11. Proposed dates/locations of next meetings

**11.1.** The 11th MGT was confirmed for 21st May 10.30-12.30

**11.2.** The 22nd MGM was confirmed for 3rd September in London

**11.3.** The 12th MGT was confirmed for 2nd December 10.30-12.30

## 12. Any Other Business

**12.1.** Ben Ditchburn noted the paper for the GEO project update.

**12.2.** Ben Ditchburn thanked the Secretariat for their work, and Terry Parr and CEH for hosting the MGM and for the morning presentation.

**12.3.** Helen Beadman thanked Ben Ditchburn for chairing.

## Table of Actions

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| 2 | Andrea Turner to take the issue of data harmonisation to the UKEOF DAG. | Andrea Turner | June 2014 |
| 3 | Rich Walmsley to provide Helen Beadman with a contact at FERA regarding eDNA | Rich Walmsley | 31st March 2014 |
| 4 | Helen Beadman to contact FERA regarding eDNA workshop and come back to MG with a proposal. | Helen Beadman | 21st May 2014 |
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| 6 | All to contact the Secretariat if further ideas for priorities are thought of after the MGM | All Members | 21st May 2014 |
| 7 | Beth Greenaway to note a paragraph on what is needed for the Space for Smarter Government: Environmental Monitoring workshop and send to Helen Beadman. | Beth Greenaway | 28th February 2014 |
| 8 | MG members to ensure that relevant members of their organisations are informed about the Space workshop. | All Members | 28th February 2014 |
| 9 | Beth Greenaway, Amber Vater and Ali Price to discuss where Met Office records should be held. | Beth Greenaway, Amber Vater, Ali Price | 31st March 2014 |
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