

UK- Environmental Observation Framework

4TH Management Group Teleconference

14.00-16.00, 8th March 2011

Dial: 0844 561 0006 Pass code: 9524 7231 #

DRAFT NOTE OF MEETING

Attendees:

Beth Greenaway	UK-EOF (Chair)
Ali Price	Met Office
Amber Vater	UK-EOF (notes)
Andrea Sharpe	UK-EOF
Cathy Johnson	DECC
Lawrence Way	JNCC (Data Initiative champion)
Michael Schultz	NERC (Decision Support Framework champion)
Peter Costigan	Defra (Statement of Need & Socio-economic champion)
Rich Walmsley	EA

Apologies:

Doug Wilson	Environment Agency & UK-EOF Chair
David Allen	CCW
Ed Mackey	SNH
James Skates	WAG
Keith Porter	Natural England
Liz Fox	Defra (Data Initiative champion)
Nathan Critchlow-Watton	SEPA
Owen Dowsett	ESRC
Pat Corker	NIEA
Phil Balls	SG
Richard Howe	FC
Ruth Bumphrey	UK Space Agency

1. Welcome and apologies were given by the chair.

Most of those unable to dial in have sent written updates regarding the scoring exercise. Doug had to attend the major flood exercise Operation Watermark at short notice.

2. Review of Actions from the 3rd Champions teleconference and 12th MGM

3rd Teleconference

Previous ACTION 2 – **Michael Schultz** to speak to Steve Wilson to clarify his view on of the outcomes of the LWEC PB meeting.

ACTION 1: Michael to speak to Steve before Doug's meeting on 28th March.

12th MGM

Previous ACTION 3 – **Co-funding agreements:** signed documents are still needed from the Met Office, NERC, NE and NIEA. From verbal updates there should be no problems with securing funding for 2011/12.

Previous ACTION 14 – **High level investment (cost) information:** all members were reminded to send high level cost information to revise that collected for 2008/9.

ACTION 2: Secretariat to resend link to the 2008/9 investment table on the UK-EOF website for reference, by 18th March 2011

See http://www.ukeof.org.uk/documents/Table_of_estimated_cost_2008_9.pdf

ACTION 3: Peter Costigan to instigate the Defra catalogue and investment information updates from Defra, ASAP

Previous ACTION 24 – **Current position on voluntary observations:** Members agreed that UK-EOF could have a role in bringing together those with an interest in citizen science with a view to sharing experience, lessons learnt and generating collaborations through finding real synergies. A workshop could be held in the summer. The idea will be discussed further at the 13th MGM.

ACTION 4: Secretariat to include a discussion item on a workshop to explore synergies of citizen science measurements at the 13th MGM

3. Assessment against Need

Scoring and Tool

Each member provided feed back on use of the Assessment tool and scoring and comments from those not on the call were read out.

There was general agreement that the tool was user friendly, had the right functionality and the guidelines were clear. There was a consensus that it took approximately 0.5 -1 day to assess 40-50 activities depending on how well you knew the activity. The reliance on the description and keywords in the catalogue was made obvious to the users.

There was acknowledgment that making the judgements of the scores was subjective and could be seen as a personal opinion. However the consensus reached was that names of individuals should not be used instead of organisations against the scores since individuals should be providing the view of their organisation.

Cathy Johnson asked how the LWEC challenges mapped on to the UK-EOF headline issues. A mapping exercise had been undertaken as part of the input into the LWEC challenge workshops ongoing this summer (**see Annex 1**).

Members discussed the scoring provided by GMES representatives (currently labelled 'European View'). It was agreed that this should be renamed to clarify it is the opinion of the GMES team, rather than a whole European view. They have only scored the 'use' category. They found the definitions of 0-3 closely matched their reasoning and what they wanted to do with all Member States. .

It was noted that NI and Forestry Commission will both struggle to do any scoring but would be interested in the results. FC has been provided with a spreadsheet so they can check their own scores as a minimum.

Given the resourcing issues in many organisations, it was agreed that the deadline for scoring should be extended until the **29th April 2011**. Members agreed that all organisations should score (as a minimum) all programmes/activities they fund or lead as well as any programmes/activities that they use or have an interest in.

Members were reminded that by changing the search terms, they could restrict/expand the number of results found e.g.

- select to search for programmes only to reduce the number of records to score (see tick boxes at bottom of search page)
- search for specific keywords rather than title phrases
- use a combination of key search terms e.g. NE, freshwater, England (organisation AND domain AND geographic location)

ACTION 5: Assessment against Need deadline to be extended so that organisations can check/ score as many as possible by 29th April 2011

ACTION 6: Secretariat to send out the list of LWECC challenge workshops and details of how the LWECC challenges map onto the UK-EOF headline Issues, by 18th March 2011

ACTION 7: Secretariat to change the name of the 'European View' to 'GMES', by 25th March 2011

Analysis and Reporting

Options for analysis and reporting were discussed. Members agreed that options should be considered at the 13th MGM rather than trying to anticipate the outcomes before the scoring had been completed.

The ideas in Paper C were considered. The overall aims were about right and these should provide the focus of the analysis.

1. To understand how much of the existing portfolio of observation activities are critical to answering the major environmental and social questions.
2. Which activities are most used by organisations.

However, Members agreed that a report should not be the focus of this activity. It is more about a having a discussion about the scoring and what that means. Further this should be seen as a trial of the process with provisional results rather than trying to generate an exact answer by June.

The group wanted to use the May MGM meeting to consider what that scores show and to reach a consensus over 'how close' the scores are to expectations or reality. If close then there will still need to be a process for engaging a much wider community in the debate. It would be useful to be presented with exceptions i.e. where the scores were different across the organisations such that these can be discussed and explained. It was discussed that we may not be aiming for a consensus 'score' if there are genuine reasons for the differences. However we need to remove errors and misjudgements with no reasons.

The issues around careful presentation of the results and the Freedom of Information issues should be born in mind in any summaries etc.

ACTION 8: Secretariat to ensure 13th MGM agenda includes sufficient time to discuss the scoring and results of the Assessment against Need

ACTION 9: Secretariat to download results and highlight the 'exceptions' i.e. where scoring differs dramatically

4. 13th Management Group Meeting

Having spoken to many Members and Beth, Doug Wilson intended on changing the structure of the MG meetings to create more opportunities for collaboration between organisations. Members agreed that UK-EOF should be used to discuss the issues organisations want to bring to the table. It was agreed that each Member should bring their top 5 issues/challenges/risks/opportunities to the next meeting to allow UK-EOF to see if there are common themes and issues and begin to find ways to address them.

The format of next meeting was discussed.

Agenda items agreed during the meeting;

- Organisations use of voluntary observations – lessons learnt
- Analysis and discussion of the Assessment against Need
- Discussion of organisations top 5 issues/challenges/opportunities
- Review of Management Group Champions
- EIF – update and implications for UK EOF

ACTION 10: Members to bring their top 5 challenges/issues/risk/opportunities to the 13th MGM to stimulate the debate over the UK-EOF priorities and activities for the next year

5. Programme Updates and Issues arising

Environmental Information Framework update – Members were informed of recent progress made with the EIF. A full update was requested at the 13th MGM to ensure Members were fully aware of the impacts of the new framework on the UK-EOF.

ACTION 11: Secretariat to add agenda item to discuss the EIF, bringing in the Defra lead as required

ACTION 12: Secretariat to send MG Members EIF papers for comment and invite Members to the 9th DAG meeting (30th March 2011) by 18th March 2011

Socio-economic work update – Andrea provided an update of work to date. Peter is to expect to check the list of potential activities/databases etc to include in the UK-EOF catalogue. A meeting had been set up with RELU to discuss potential case studies for interdisciplinary working and best practice.

ACTION 13: Andrea to send Peter Costigan the list of potential socio-economic activities/datasets to include in the UK-EOF catalogue when ready

Catalogue update – Members were updated on progress made with the catalogue and LWEC research database merger. Members expressed concerns about the future implication of the merger in reference to reputation issues and the potential that recent clean-up work carried out by JNCC and others may be diminished.

ACTION 14: Beth, Amber and Lawrence Way to discuss issues with the catalogue merger in a teleconference call, by 29th March 2011

Measuring change in the countryside – Peter gave a review of the LWEC workshop and agreed to circulate the workshop report when finalised.

ACTION 15: Peter Costigan to circulate Measuring Change in the Countryside report when available

GCOS requirements process – Cathy explained the process that had been agreed to assess the GCOS requirements from a UK perspective. A spreadsheet was currently being formatted to support the analysis and key consultees being identified.

Members were reminded that the LWEC challenge workshops were planned and those interested should contact LWEC if they had not already been approached (see Annex 2 for dates of meetings).

EGIDA (An FP7 project to Coordinating Earth and Environmental cross disciplinary projects to promote GEOSS) – Beth informed Members that UK-EOF was being used as a case study by the EGIDA project (<http://www.egida-project.eu/>) at their meeting on 18th April in Rome. Stuart Marsh (BGS) sits on the steering group.

6. AOB Dates of next meetings

30th March, 9th DAG, room 401, Ergon House, London, 10.30 – 15.00.

19th May, 13th Management Group Meeting 10.00 – 16.00, Bristol.

18h July, 5th Champions teleconference, 14.00-16.00.

End Sept/beg. Oct. 14th MGM TBA

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7	Secretariat to change the name of the 'European View' to 'GMES', by 25 th March 2011	25 th March 2011
8	Secretariat to ensure 13 th MGM agenda includes sufficient time to discuss the scoring and results of the Assessment against Need	13 th MGM
9	Secretariat to download results and highlight the 'exceptions' i.e. where scoring differs dramatically	13 th MGM
10	Members to bring their top 5 challenges/ issues/ risk/ opportunities to the 13 th MGM to stimulate the debate over the UK-EOF priorities and activities for the next year	13 th MGM

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