

UK- Environmental Observation Framework

5th Management Group Teleconference

14.30-16.30, 18th July 2011

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Doug Wilson	EA & UK-EOF Chair
Beth Greenaway	UK-EOF
Andy Nisbet	NE
Bruce Truscott	Met Office
Cathy Johnson	DECC
David Allen	CCW
Andy Nisbet	NE
Liz Fox	Defra
Owen Dowsett	ERSC
Peter Costigan	Defra
Richard Howe	FC
Richard Walmsley	EA
Amber Vater	UK-EOF (notes)
Andrea Sharpe	UK-EOF

Apologies

Andrew Watkinson/Mary Barkham	LWEC
Caryn Le Roux /James Skates	WG
Ian Davidson	EEA / GMES / SEIS
Keith Porter	NE
Lawrence Way	JNCC
Michael Schultz	NERC
Nathan Critchlow-Watton	SEPA
Phil Balls /Rebekah Widdowfield	SG
Pat Corker	DOENI
Ruth Bournemouth	UK Space Agency

1. Welcome and major updates (Chair)

- 1.1. Doug welcomed Members to the 5th MG teleconference and apologies were given.

2. Plans and Priorities July-December 2011 (Paper B)

- 2.1. Members discussed the direction of UK-EOF given organisational needs and the secretariat resource. The issues raised in Paper B summarise what Members want from the UK-EOF. The need to ensure each organisation's priorities and deliverables are considered when deciding the direction and when choosing the thematic scoping studies.
- 2.2. It was clarified that since the ERFF/LWEC merger, the LWEC Partners Board had decided that the UK-EOF Management Group should be empowered to direct the UK-EOF, have an overview of monitoring in the UK and to make recommendations about the direction of the UK-EOF. However the lack of visibility at the LWEC board is becoming an issue. Members are strongly encouraged to keep their senior colleagues up to date with UK-EOF activities and priorities.
- 2.3. There was discussion that the 'threats' highlighted in Paper B could also be considered opportunities but the impacts that other initiatives e.g. EIF, could have

2.4. Beth explained that NERC were under going an internal workforce review and this meant UK-EOF were unable to recruit until this had been completed. It was highlighted that 3 of the secretariat contracts ended in March 2012 and the 4th (secondment) needs to be replaced with a secondment position. The Management Group need to consider the appropriateness and responsibilities of NERC hosting the secretariat. Doug agreed to talk to Mary Barkham, NERC and Defra about these issues.

ACTION 1: Doug to speak to NERC and Defra regarding UK-EOF contractual issues, 31st August 2011.

Scoping Studies

2.5. Members discussed the Generic process for thematic studies (Annex B1). There was agreement that the generic plan was acceptable but the process for selection of themes required more thought. Not all themes would fit the same plan and it was likely that some would continue running for longer periods of time and others would need closure to ensure participants remained engaged. The paper should also highlight the need for the plan to be flexible.

ACTION 2: Secretariat to amend generic plan according to discussion

2.6. Members discussed the ways to select themes. The assessment scoring system would provide one part of the information and organisational priorities (as outlined at the last MGM in Bristol) should also be considered as cross cutting themes.

2.7. Many Members were unsure as to why Uplands was appropriate. It was considered too broad in scope with unclear boundaries.

2.8. Members were asked to provide 'theme' ideas and further comments to the secretariat by 19th August. Climate variable and meteorology were also suggested as potential.

ACTION 3: Members to forward further comments on scoping study themes to the secretariat, 5th August 2011.

ACTION 4: Secretariat to use the citizen science theme as the trial

2.9. Mapping monitoring sites (Annex B2) was viewed as an important step towards creating collaborative opportunities. Knowing who monitors where is a vital piece of information if there is to be join up in terms of collation of data collection or sharing or resources etc. It was noted that INSPIRE regulations will required site locations to be available by 2013.

2.10. Andy Nisbet gave a short presentation about the NE mapping project. It was possible to see how site mapping at 1km scale could significantly improve knowledge and quickly identify where there are areas of site coincidence. NE would be re-processing data later this summer and if timescales allowed, this would be a convenient time to include additional datasets (UK-EOF wide) and investigation. Members agreed that the secretariat should liaise with NE and discuss including additional datasets in their next round of mapping.

2.11. Members suggested various site data which could potentially be added. FC expressed an interest and already have sites mapped to 1km resolution. Further investigation into adding additional metadata to site points would be very useful. NE currently holds title and location information. The UK-EOF catalogue currently holds project metadata which could be used to link to site data to the parameters collected there. Members were encouraged to ensure these parameters were checked and included where absent.

2.12. Members agreed that finding areas where there are more than say 5 or 6 sites with a 1km square would be a useful starting point for further investigation. Overall the mapping would provide useful evidence for thematic studies. Members agreed to investigate providing their site data to NE.

ACTION 5: Secretariat to investigate the potential for NE to map additional sites (from MG organisations) in their next round of mapping, 25th July 2011

ACTION 6: Members to supply site information to NE for mapping , 26th August.

ACTION 7: Members to ensure that the metadata in the catalogue contains parameters measured where appropriate. 26th August

2.13. Longer term options to link mapping applications to the UK-EOF catalogue metadata records were discussed. Further investigation would be justified after the initial trial had been completed. Liz agreed to send links to 'Data stack' work which was trialled by Defra.

ACTION 8: Liz to send information on the Defra 'Data stack' work to the secretariat, 16th August 2011

Citizen Science

2.14. The planned citizen science workshop (Annex B3) was discussed. Members were asked to provide comments on the draft agenda to the secretariat by Wednesday 20th July.

ACTION 9: Members to provide comments to the secretariat on the Citizen Science workshop agenda and check the attendees list, 20th July 2011

3. Refreshing the UK-EOF (Paper A)

3.1. Members were asked to provide their views on the draft letter which is proposed to be sent from Bob Watson to each of the LWEC Partners Board Chief Executives. The aim is to raise the profile of the UK-EOF and ensure there is the correct engagement in the theme work. However members decided this approach would make more work for the secretariat and MG representatives and that Management Group Members themselves should act to ensure that their organisation was engaged at the appropriate level. Further, the selection of the right themes would ensure buy-in.

ACTION 10: Doug and Beth to discuss an alternative ways of connecting with senior colleagues across Member organisations and with Bob Watson

4. Review of Actions

- 4.1. Beth referred Members to the list of actions from the 4th MG teleconference and 13th MG meeting.
- 4.2. The linking the activities and programmes within the catalogue still requires expert input. Rich Walmsley suggested an example is sent out to Members to explain how the system works. Members would then check the existing linkages and suggest the appropriate links between those activities and programme which were not yet linked.

ACTION 11: Amber to send diagram and examples of catalogue linkages to Members for reference, 22nd July 2011

ACTION 12: Members to provide expert input (especially Marine , NERC CEH and Water) to check and finalise linkages made in the catalogue, 16 August 2011

- 4.3. Members were asked to ensure all programmes have been scored by their organisation after the linking had been completed. Some Members suggested this would require too much time and resource to complete and others were supportive of the process to provide a clearer view of the UK national picture and usage of observations. [Post meeting note: **A compromise will be to send out the list of scores received so far for the programmes in the catalogue. Members will have a 2-3 week opportunity to change or add their scores (on the online system) if they disagree with the results or want to reflect their opinion. In mid September an final download will be created and this will be used to identify**
 - Areas of opportunity for collaboration
 - Areas where there is more work to investigate details (i.e. potential themes)
 - Where there are legislative programmes which are not relevant to the key questions
 - Where there are vulnerable observation programmes i.e. many users but no clear lead.

5. Next Management Group Meetings

- 5.1. The 14th MGM is agreed as 14th October 2011, at Polaris House in Swindon.
- 5.2. The secretariat would send a doodle poll for the 5th MG teleconference likely to be held on 30th Nov or 12 or 13th December 2011.

ACTION 13: Secretariat to pool for dates end Nov or December

6. AOB

- 6.1. The Planet under Pressure call for abstracts and posters has a deadline of 6TH September. UK-EOF should participate only if this would not create a big demand on secretariat resource.
- 6.2. The website should be checked regularly for updates and news items – The White Paper and GCOS have recently been added as news items for example.

ACTION: Secretariat to consider if a poster or abstract could be submitted to the Planet under Pressure conference, 19th August 2011

Meeting closed at 16.40 - NB Item 4 on the agenda was not discussed.

No.	Action	By when
1	Doug to speak to NERC and Defra regarding UK-EOF contractual issues	31 st August 2011
2	Secretariat to amend generic plan according to discussion	31 st August 2011
3	Members to forward further comments on scoping study themes to the secretariat	5 th August 2011
4	Secretariat to use the citizen science theme as the trial	Ongoing
5	Secretariat to investigate the potential for NE to map additional sites (from MG organisations) in their next round of mapping	25 th July 2011
6	Members to supply site information to NE for mapping	26 th August
7	Members to ensure that the metadata in the catalogue contains parameters measured where appropriate	26 th August
8	Liz to send information on the Defra 'Data stack' work to the secretariat	16 th August 2011
9	Members to provide comments to the secretariat on the Citizen Science workshop agenda and check the attendees list	20 th July 2011
10	Doug and Beth to discuss an alternative ways of connecting with senior colleagues across Member organisations and with Bob Watson	As required
11	Amber to send diagram and examples of catalogue linkages to Members for reference	22 nd July 2011
12	Members to provide expert input (especially Marine, NERC CEH and Water) to check and finalise linkages made in the catalogue	16 th August 2011
13	Secretariat to pool for dates end Nov or December	31 st August 2011