

The UK Environmental Observation Framework (UKEOF) works to improve coordination of the observational evidence needed to understand and manage the changing natural environment. It is a partnership of public sector organisations with an interest in using and providing evidence from environmental observations.

UKEOF was launched in 2008 to support better communication and sharing of information across the observations community. Representatives from a range of organisations including government, research councils, devolved administrations, agencies and the voluntary sector work together through UKEOF to achieve its aims. This collaborative approach helps inform strategic direction in environmental observations and supports the efficient delivery of operational services. UKEOF informs policy, management, science and innovation for environmental and economic benefit.

UKEOF has developed tools to support transparent and evidence-based decisions concerning environmental observations. UKEOF provides a neutral space for organisations to discuss efficiencies and collaborative working. Priority areas for environmental observations have been established where a UK-wide perspective adds value.

For further information, visit www.ukeof.org.uk or contact office@ukeof.org.uk

 @UKEnvObs



Working collaboratively to maximise the value of the UK's environmental observations



Tools

Knowledge gathering – where, why and at what cost

Catalogue: holding metadata (i.e. knowledge of who is doing what, where and why) of over 1100 activities, this provides the only UK overview of observation activities. In addition to the current search features, a mapping tool is being developed that will support coincidence type mapping activities.

Cost Guidance: helps funders assess the cost of observing activities.

Understanding if our observation programmes meet the UK need

Statement of Need: a review of all the environmental observation requirements for the UK and the evidence required to answer major environmental issues and scientific questions.

Assessment Tool: allows the catalogue activities to be assessed against need, or other criteria as required by the partners.

Enabling Partner Action

Data Advisory Group (DAG): this collaborative forum brings organisations together to discuss the various data sharing initiatives at the UK, EU and global level. It is at the heart of the major environmental data initiatives including the GEO Data Sharing Task Force, UK Location Programme, SEIS, GMES and INSPIRE.

Decision Support Framework: helps partners to make transparent decisions on the uses and funding of observations and has been developed to support the Government Chief Scientific Advisor's (GCSA) Observations Committee.

Priority Areas

Understanding Citizen Science

UKEOF commissioned work on the role of volunteers in environmental monitoring, resulting in a report and step-by-step Guide to Citizen Science. This work demonstrates the value of using data gathered by volunteers to inform policy, practice and research decisions, and offers informed advice on how to set up and run a successful citizen science project. A working group has been established to provide a forum where organisations can share good practice and discuss future plans for using volunteers to provide environmental observation data.

Sustainable Funding Mechanisms

Together with GO Science, UKEOF provides evidence and secretariat support to the GCSA's cross departmental Observations Committee. The aim of the Committee is to help ensure that the UK's crucial long term environmental observational information needs can be met for science, society and the economy.

Finding monitoring efficiencies through coincidence mapping

UKEOF is using scoping studies to find ways of improving effectiveness and efficiencies for UK observations, such as sharing observation sites and making data more widely available for reuse and easier to share.

Coordinating Climate Observations

UKEOF has set up a group to oversee coordination of the UK Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) activities. Work has been commissioned that will enable the UK to identify what our climate observations are being used for, and which of these observations meet international climate standards.

UKEOF Partners

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Economic and Social Research Council, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Met Office, Natural England, Natural Environment Research Council, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Government, UK Space Agency, Welsh Environment Research Hub, Welsh Government

UKEOF is a core activity of LWEC.



More details

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