

UK Environmental Observation Framework

To XXXX (by email only)

Narrowing the uncertainty around UK's investments in Environmental Observations

The UK Environmental Framework (UK-EOF) is committed to understanding and addressing the barriers to effective funding and use of environmental observations for the UK.

At present our best estimate is that the UK spends over £100 million and up to £500 million per year on observation activities and infrastructure. Much of the uncertainty is a result of different costing methods in different organisations. We would very much like you to help us to revise this estimate by providing updated information regarding your investments in environmental observation activities. This will enable us to move forward with actions and to make funding mechanisms in the UK more sustainable.

It is important to recognise the contribution of all stakeholder organisations including the public, private and voluntary sector. To this end the UK-EOF and UKMMAS, with input from your organisation, have developed a common reporting method with agreed principles on what resources we believe should be included as costs. We have tested these guidelines with the Environment Agency and JNCC and are now asking organisations to help us apply the guidelines and provide revised estimates of their investments in environmental observations.

We will use this information in order to:

- Develop a generalised understanding of the UK's investment in environmental observations and its financial value.
- Allow us to plan for sustainable observational infrastructure which meets current and future needs
- Develop an understanding of the status and security of funding for the UK's environmental observation activities.

As one of the 20 organisations with significant number of environmental observations activities, I would greatly appreciate it if you could work with the UK-EOF team to provide your cost information in a standard format by the end of November 2008. I have asked the team to update me on the overall spend by the end of 2008.

We will be contacting your staff shortly – via XXXX to provide more details on the actual information requested, how this relates to your project information held in our database and how we can minimise the resource pressure.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Bob Watson
Chief Scientific Advisor Defra
Champion UK-EOF

Cc Ed Mackey

