

To view this newsletter in a browser, visit:  
<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A2=UK-EOF;28925474.1303p>

To ensure that this newsletter is delivered to your inbox, add  
[UK-EOF@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:UK-EOF@jiscmail.ac.uk) to your address book.

## UK Environmental Observation Framework

UK Environmental Observation Framework: Newsletter No. 13 March 2013:

### In this Newsletter:

[Sharing environmental monitoring data; Benefits, barriers and future standards](#) | [Catalogue upgrade update - Quality metadata counts](#) | [Co-ordinating climate observations within the UK](#) | [Citizen Science Review: Making a difference?](#) | [Update on UK-EOF Secretariat staffing](#) | [Community Announcements](#) | [Open Air Laboratories \(OPAL\) network - Community Environment Report](#) | [Record Pool – a new web-based amphibian and reptile recording database](#) | [Knowledge Exchange Officer – Open Data](#) | [IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy](#) | [Subscription Details](#)

### Sharing environmental monitoring data; Benefits, barriers and future standards

Thirty-three people representing 22 organisations from academia, public, private and the third sector attended the 'Sharing environmental monitoring data workshop' in Birmingham on Tuesday February 19th 2013, hosted by the UK-EOF and the UKLP.

Experts in data sharing and interoperability presented a variety of INSPIRE related topics to the audience who are at various stages of implementing the INSPIRE Environmental Monitoring Facilities (EF) theme.

Delegates concluded that there are many barriers to address along INSPIRE EF implementation route, but also many opportunities to be gained. Recommendations from the workshop will be fed back to the European Commission so encourage better communication and to help the environmental monitoring community prepare and comply with the new legislation.

### Catalogue upgrade update - Quality metadata counts

A strong message from the UK-EOF Management Group and others attending the UK-EOF review workshop in February was that quality metadata should be one of the main goals for the catalogue upgrade. Since Christmas, we have been contacting many of the UK-EOF catalogue providers to discuss the best way for individual organisations to update their metadata records. We are also working closely with the larger data providers who will be invited to a meeting in June, to discuss how internal databases can be harvested to minimise the effort required to keep the metadata up to date.

In the background, the development team at CEH Lancaster are working hard at the technical aspects of the project. Technical project manager Phil Trembath has been consulting with INSPIRE specification experts at HR Wallingford to ensure the catalogue is up to scratch and will meet 100% of the INSPIRE EF requirements.

If you have any questions about how your organisation will update its records held in the UK-EOF catalogue, please feel free to drop us an email ([office@ukeof.org.uk](mailto:office@ukeof.org.uk)) or call the secretariat on 01793 411999.

### Co-ordinating climate observations within the UK

UK-EOF has recently set up and co-ordinates a group of experts, gathered from partner organisations and chaired by DECC, to oversee co-ordination of UK Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) activities. The group will also support the Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) programme climate activities. The first action of this group was to commission a project to:

- provide a review of UK observations that relate to climate science and risk assessment;
- collate information on what the data are actually being used for;
- disseminate the relevant standards and assess whether the data are being collected in a way that meets international climate standards.

Team Projects Ltd has been awarded the contract, which will report in July.

### Citizen Science Review: Making a difference?

The outputs from the UK-EOF commissioned project 'Understanding Citizen Science and Environmental Monitoring' have been extremely well received, with the UK-EOF and the contractors Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the Natural History Museum notching up record web hits and downloads of the Guide (<http://www.ukeof.org.uk/documents/guide-to-citizen-science.pdf>) and Report (<http://www.ukeof.org.uk/documents/understanding-citizen-science.pdf>). The article on the Citizen Science Guide stayed in the top three stories on BBC News online Science and Environment pages for 48 hours, and has generated lots of interest, including invitations to address a range of audiences with an interest in citizen science.

We are trying to capture some of this enthusiasm, to guide us with our next steps in this area. If you read the Guide or Report, we would love to hear from you – how has the information been useful to you and your organisation? What have you done differently as a result? Did we miss anything? If you have any comments, please contact us by email: [office@ukeof.org.uk](mailto:office@ukeof.org.uk) or call Andrea at the secretariat on 01793 411799.

### Update on UK-EOF Secretariat staffing

The UK-EOF secretariat is once more at full capacity, constituting a team leader (Helen Beadman), three project managers (Sophie Isaacs; Andrea Turner; Amber Vater), and admin support (Mark Hopkins). Andrea, Amber and Mark work part-time with UK-EOF.

- New members

Mark Hopkins joined the UK-EOF team in January 2013 from the Natural Environment Research Council. Mark will provide admin support for all team members. Mark previously originated from BT, where he enjoyed responsibility for the logistics introduction of Broadband into the company.

Sophie Isaacs joined the UK-EOF team as Project Manager in February. She will lead on projects including finding monitoring efficiencies through coincidence mapping, and will provide secretariat support to the UK-EOF Management Group. Sophie joins UK-EOF from ORCA, a marine conservation charity.

- Goodbyes

Sonny Rathod left the secretariat in January to take up a promotion with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Ellen McKelvey left the secretariat in January to work in Records Management with the Natural Environment Research Council.

### Community Announcements

### Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) network - Community Environment Report

Over the past five years, more than half a million people from towns and cities up and down the country have been exploring their local green spaces as part of the OPAL project.

Many participants were carrying out a nature survey for the very first time and have provided important data about biodiversity, including information about some places never sampled before

by scientists. The interim findings of the project have been published in OPAL's Community Environment Report: [www.opalexplornature.org/CEreport](http://www.opalexplornature.org/CEreport)

### Record Pool – a new web-based amphibian and reptile recording database

Inspired by the recording activities of their National network of volunteer groups around the UK, Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK (ARG UK) have launched a national web based amphibian and reptile recording database. Supported by on-line and downloadable species Identification Guides, the database will provide an excellent resource for monitoring native populations for the purposes of conservation and ecology.

Add your records to the ARG UK Record Pool at: [www.arguk.org/recording](http://www.arguk.org/recording)

### Knowledge Exchange Officer – Open Data Closing Date: Saturday 6th April 2013

Applications are invited for the post of Knowledge Exchange Officer (Open Data) in the Research Council UK funded Horizon Digital Economy Research Institute at the University of Nottingham. The role may be conducted in the UK from outside Nottingham due to the level of anticipated travel and engagement with organisations in southern England. The successful candidate will be responsible for initiating, fostering and supporting knowledge exchange activities in the area of open data, relating to the current data.gov.uk programme and any future appropriate programmes. They will build links regionally, nationally and internationally with relevant policy makers, key centres and groups working on the open data agenda, local authorities and other bodies, businesses and academics who have an interest in this area. Through these interactions, the role-holder will build networks and collaborations with a view to growing the reputation of Horizon in this area, generating case studies for Horizon research, and opportunities for consultancy activities and research funding.

Further details and online application at:  
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/jobs/currentvacancies/ref/CE11327S>

### IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Council for Science (ICSU), would like to bring your attention to the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) stakeholder engagement strategy. IUCN and ICSU were invited by the first session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-1) to work in consultation with stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector, on the preparation of a draft stakeholder engagement strategy that will support the implementation of the IPBES work programme. Further background information on stakeholder engagement in IPBES is available in the attached note. The short survey is available online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MBTN7SG>

### Subscription Details

You are subscribed to UK Environmental Observations Framework: Newsletter No. 13 March 2013. To unsubscribe, visit:

<https://WWW.JISMAIL.AC.UK/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=uk-eof&A=1>

Polaris House  
North Star Avenue  
Swindon  
SN2 1EU

01793 411513  
[office@ukeof.org.uk](mailto:office@ukeof.org.uk)  
<http://www.ukeof.org.uk/>

UK-EOF – changing the way the UK perceives, values and uses environmental observations.

Subscription information will not be disclosed to third parties.