UKEOF Review

Page 1: Invitation to participate in a review of the UK Environmental Observation Framework (UKEOF)

A review of the UKEOF is currently being carried out, the results will help inform decisions about the future of the UKEOF.

Please would you fill in the online survey by midday 7 December 2017 to contribute to the current review. The survey should only take 20 minutes of your time.   You can download a pdf of all the survey questions here.

If there are any other issues you would like to discuss, please contact office@ukeof.org.uk.

Please do feel free to pass this invitation on to any others who have been involved with UKEOF activities.

Page 2: Background information - What is the UKEOF and what does it do?

UKEOF is a partnership of [17 public sector organisations](#) with an interest in using and providing evidence from environmental observations.

Mission: to work collaboratively to maximise the value of the UK's environmental observations.

Aims: to achieve effective partnership working in environmental observations, and to maximise the benefits of observations to the UK including for science, policy and economic growth.

Current major activities include:

- **Management Group:** governance body consisting of UKEOF partner organisations, agrees UKEOF objectives and work programme, discusses and escalates UK strategic level monitoring and observation issues.
- **Citizen Science Working Group:** meets 4x per year, recent outputs include [reports](#), and a [tool](#) to help organisations considering using citizen science for monitoring, a sub-group is organising a workshop in January 2018 on overcoming barriers to the use of citizen science.
- **Data Advisory Group & UKEOF catalogue:** group meets 4x per year, key knowledge exchange topics: open data, new technological developments and implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, recent outputs include a Big Data Advice note. [The UKEOF catalogue](#) is the only list of UK monitoring and observation activities and meets INSPIRE requirements.
- **Natural Capital** workshop and working group: workshop held April 2017, [report here](#) identifies 10 prioritised actions to coordinate environmental monitoring for UK Natural Capital reporting, a working group is being established to address these actions.
- **Freshwater Monitoring Strategies** workshop: November 2017, for monitoring agencies across the UK to compare new strategic approaches and identify shared interests.
- **Monitoring & Modelling** workshop: February 2018, to bring together modelling & monitoring communities to explore the role of modelling in designing monitoring programmes.

Governance and Delivery Model: Partnership activities are agreed by the Management Group and included in the Workplan. Delivery of the Workplan is supported by a small secretariat team hosted by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), every activity has a

champion from a UKEOF partner organisation. The secretariat includes a communications lead and leads for Wales and Scotland.

Funding Model and Membership: Nine of the 17 partners make a financial contribution, the major funders are Defra and NERC. Each partner signs a Co-Funding Agreement annually.

2013 review finding: The last review of UKEOF in 2013 found that "*UK-EOF's main strength is in bringing the whole community together to enable networking and sharing of intelligence in a neutral space and hence to discourage unilateral decisions on observations*."

Page 3: Section A – About you

1. Name (Optional)

2. Organisation (Optional)

3. Job Title (Optional)

4. Email (Optional)

5. Role within UKEOF

☐ Member of UKEOF MG

☐ Member of UKEOF DAG

☐ Member of UKEOF CSWG

☐ Member of UKEOF M&MWG

☐ Member of UKEOF NCWG

☐ Attended events

☐ Other interaction

☐ Member of partner organisation

☐ No role

5.a. If your involvement with the UKEOF is not listed above, please list it below

6. **What environmental observation activities are a high priority for you and why?**

7. **Any other comments?**

Page 4: Section B – Current UKEOF Delivery: what is important to partners / users?

Management Group members identified the following benefits from UKEOF membership. We would like to know how important these suggested benefits are to you or your organisation. Please pick a score (1-5 or n/a) and add any comments.

8. UK-wide exchange of knowledge

	To what extent do you agree or disagree that these benefits are important to you or your organisation? Where 5 is "strongly agree" and 1 is "strongly disagree"	Comments or examples of strengths or weaknesses from UKEOF to date
a. Keeping informed on new developments	Please select ▾	
b. Sharing best practice	Please select ▾	
c. Building relationships so members can call on contacts outside UKEOF meetings	Please select ▾	

d. UK links - there is no other UK-wide forum	Please select ▾	
e. Link to research & new technologies	Please select ▾	

9. Producing joint outputs and activities

	To what extent do you agree or disagree that these benefits are important to you or your organisation? Where 5 is "strongly agree" and 1 is "strongly disagree"	Comments or examples of strengths or weaknesses from UKEOF to date
a. The outputs are valuable and used by partners e.g. reports, advice notes, reports esp. citizen science	Please select ▾	
b. Producing outputs together saves duplication and saves costs	Please select ▾	

c. The outputs produced are stronger than if created by one organisation as they have broader representation	Please select ▼	
d. UKEOF provides a valuable UK catalogue of activities, the only UK resource, it also meets INSPIRE requirements	Please select ▼	

10. Developing strategic agendas and partnership approaches

	To what extent do you agree or disagree that these benefits are important to you or your organisation? Where 5 is "strongly agree" and 1 is "strongly disagree"	**Comments or examples of strengths or weaknesses from UKEOF to date**

a. Ensuring that strategic developments or cuts to monitoring do not happen in isolation	Please select ▼	
b. Helping to develop each organisations own approaches	Please select ▼	
c. Working together to identify new opportunities for activities	Please select ▼	
d. Building new partnerships	Please select ▼	

11. **Are there any other important benefits that are not listed here?**

Page 5: Section C – Feedback on specific current UKEOF Activities

How important are current UKEOF activities for you or your organisation?

12. Activity

	How important is the activity to you or your organisation? Where 5 is "highly important" and 1 is "of low importance"	Comments or examples of strengths or weaknesses from UKEOF to date
Management Group	Please select ▾	
Citizen Science Working Group, reports, tool, workshop	Please select ▾	
Data Advisory Group & UKEOF catalogue	Please select ▾	
Natural Capital Workshop and Working Group	Please select ▾	

Freshwater Monitoring Strategies workshop	Please select ▾	
Modelling & Monitoring workshop	Please select ▾	

12.a. **Are there any other UKEOF activities that are important to you or your organisation?**

Page 6: Section D – Future UKEOF Functions

13. **Prority**

a. What are the priority functions you or your organisation would like to see from UKEOF in future?	
b. What are the specific needs for your organisation?	
c. Please name (and if possible provide a weblink to) any strategy document(s) that illustrate these needs	
d. Specifically, what would be needed for the partnership to secure funding from your organisation?	
e. Please share any other comments on future UKEOF functions.	

Page 7: Section E – Future UKEOF Model

What is the best UKEOF Model to deliver the functions described Section D?

14. UKEOF Model

	Option			What is your suggestion for changes for the future UKEOF model?
	Keep the existing approach	Change from the existing approach	Don't know	
a. Mission & Aims	○	○	○	
b. Activities & Outputs	○	○	○	
c. Governance & Delivery Model	○	○	○	
d. Funding Model & Membership	○	○	○	
e. Any other areas?	○	○	○	

Page 8: Section F – Any other comments?

15. **Are there any other comments you would like to make about the current UKEOF or its future?**

Thank you

Many thanks for your valuable contribution to the UKEOF Review