

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](http://www.ukeof.org.uk) or contact [office@ukeof.org.uk](mailto:office@ukeof.org.uk)

 @UKEnvObs



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



## Our Work

### *Enabling partner action*

#### **Data Advisory Group (DAG)**

This collaborative network delivers the partnership's aims for data. It promotes data integration, sharing, and transparency across the environmental observation sector, develops thinking on new opportunities and coordinates the UK implementation of the INSPIRE Annex III Environmental Monitoring Facilities theme.

One of the mainstays of the programme is the development and operation of the UKEOF Environmental Observations Activity Catalogue. The DAG is working on a series of Advice Notes, setting out the basic principles for data and information collection, management and application in a series of key areas.

#### **Citizen Science Working Group**

Building on the success of the UKEOF commissioned work on the role of volunteers in environmental monitoring, which resulted in a report 'Understanding Citizen Science and Environmental Monitoring' and a step-by-step 'Guide to Citizen Science', the Citizen Science Working Group was established. This is a forum where member organisations can share good practice and discuss future needs and plans for working with volunteers to provide high quality, environmental observation data.

Two recently commissioned contracts cover understanding motivations in citizen science, and understanding the opportunities, costs and benefits of citizen science.



## Thematic Areas

### **Coordinating Climate Observations**

UKEOF is working to promote a better understanding of UK climate observations and ensure a coordinated approach to the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) activities in the UK. Work has been commissioned and a report published that enables the UK to identify what our climate observations are being used for, and which of these observations meet international climate standards.

### **Natural Capital**

UKEOF is working towards a shared understanding of natural capital accounting and a joined up approach to the natural capital assessments in the UK. The focus is on the observation and monitoring information held by the UKEOF consortium and how this can contribute to the development of natural capital metrics.

## Tools

### *Knowledge gathering – where, why and at what cost*

#### **Catalogue**

Provides access to information about environmental observations, offering a unique UK overview. It holds metadata (i.e. knowledge of who is doing what, where and why) of over 2000 records. An upgraded version was launched in 2014, which enables easier access, and includes a mapping search tool that allows users to see where observations are being carried out in a certain area, find out where facilities are located or look at the coverage of a specific programme.

## 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 Resource Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Government, UK Space Agency, Welsh Government.

## More details

[www.ukeof.org.uk](http://www.ukeof.org.uk)

[office@ukeof.org.uk](mailto:office@ukeof.org.uk)

 [@UKEnvObs](https://twitter.com/UKEnvObs)