

The UK's First Flood Research Strategy

Why a multi- institutional strategy is needed

The economic and social costs of flooding are expected to continue to rise in the UK in light of the increasing risk posed by climate change.

Many institutions are currently engaged in flood research, with 500 relevant research projects active last year. However, a number of the largest consortia are close to ending or due to be reviewed, including the EA / Defra Joint R&D Programme, EPSRC led FRMRC2 and NERC FREE programmes.

The flood research community have taken account of political and economic pressures, and agree that there is an urgent need to align their strategies to target future UK investment in the research, observations, policy evidence and skills needed to mitigate the risks from flooding and coastal erosion. The project and resulting strategy will also allow the UK to contribute more effectively to and benefit from wider international programmes.

So what's happening to develop the strategy?

A Project led by John Rees, Theme Leader for Natural Hazards at the Natural Environment Research Council, and Andy Moores from the Environment Agency will bring together Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) Partners to:

- Review the current landscape for flooding research, observations, infrastructure and skills.
- Identify and prioritise gaps in our understanding in light of various drivers and pressures over the short, medium and long term.
- Develop principles to facilitate collaboration between researchers, funders and users to produce the flooding evidence base.
- Develop a review methodology which may be adopted to analyse research strategies for other environmental issues.
- Identify a means to evaluate the benefits arising from investment in flooding evidence and a mechanism for updating the strategy over time.

LWEC partners will be working with all relevant stakeholders to deliver the flood strategy.

The project will run until the end of March 2011.

How to get involved

The Project intends holding a workshop in September 2010.

It will also be seeking expert input to a consultation process.

If you wish to register your interest in attending an event and/or contributing in any way to this initiative or simply being kept informed of progress, please use this link:

<http://www.lwec.org.uk/uk-flood-research-strategy>