

Notes of Land Evidence Forum meeting (via MS Teams) 7th September 2022, 10 – 11:30am

Chair: Jonathan Derham

Attendees: Nova Sharkey (CSO), Tomás Murray (CSO on secondment to EPA), Frank Barrett (DAFM), Catherine Dunbar (DAFM), Niall Ryan (DAFM), Thomas Harty (DAFM), Oliver Molloy (DAFM), Colin Heaslip (DAFM), Marc Kierans (DECC), Niamh Gibbons (DECC), Claire Byrne (EPA), Fiona O'Rourke (EPA), Gavin Smith (EPA), Mairead Fitzsimons (GSI), Ian Doyle (Heritage Council), Lorcan Scott (Heritage Council), Gemma Weir (NPWS), AnneMarie O'Connor (OPR), Lilian O'Sullivan (Teagasc), Stuart Green (Teagasc)

Apologies: Hugh Carey (DHLGH), Paul Kane (OSI)

Agenda

1. Tour de Table – land related developments and activities of interest (20 mins) (All)
2. Land use evidence review, Phase 1 completion and review (15 mins) (EPA)
3. Plans for publication & communication of the Evidence Review documentation' (10 mins) (DECC/DAFM)
4. Initial discussion on future priorities and focus for this group* (30 mins) (All)
4. AOB (10 mins)
- CIEEM invitation
5. Dates and agenda items for the next meeting (All)

No	Mtg Date	Action (see list at https://epa2.glasscubes.com/share/s/3e5j2gmi3g7a3ccrodm50u0v1)	Who	Status
31	Sept	Circulate link to Biodiversity Action Plan. https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/1566c-public-consultation-on-irelands-4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan/#documents	EPA	Closed
32	Sept	Read draft Synthesis Report and provided comments / feedback by 28 th September – link will be issued by EPA after 16 th Sept.	All	Open
33	Sept	If possible, arrange a meeting between DAFM, DECC, EPA and EH.	EPA	Open
34	Sept	DAFM & DECC to consider needs around infographic material for the launch of Phase 1. EPA to facilitate if time permits.	DAFM & DECC	Open
35	Sept	Arrange meeting in Feb 2023 via doodle pool	EPA	Open

1. Tour de Table

MK sectoral ceilings agreed in July with exception of LULUC sector (forestry etc). Postponed because of developing science influencing the eventual target. LU Phase 2 purpose will include setting sectoral targets. Setting the sectoral ceilings and LU Phase 2 will work in parallel.

JD noted NPWS had issued the draft National Biodiversity Action Plan with links to the work of the Land Use Evidence Forum and recommended reviewing, link circulated in action table.

2. Land use evidence review

FOR provided an update on the Land Use Evidence Review and the progress of the Synthesis Report. The Evidence Review products are on track for delivery in September. These will be summarised in the Synthesis Report with the EAGLE classification being used as a structure for the discussion of landuse types in Ireland. EAGLE is an established European Standard for land cover and land use classification, in the absence of a national landuse classification that is more adapted to Irelands

needs the EAGLE models is the next best alternative. The 1st draft of the Synthesis Report will be completed by 16th September and available for comments by forum members through to the 28th September 2022. There will be a parallel proof reading activity followed by design work in early October before Phase 1 release.

FOR outlined that reviewing the Synthesis Report will only be possible via Glasscubes to allow for the most efficient reviewing process. EPA can support forum members in reviewing using Glasscubes.

GS suggested that comments be updated as quickly as possible once an individual's review starts as the document is locked out to others and please check the document back in.

MK asked if EH could meet with DECC and DAFM again, would like to see feedback and go through final version. EPA will try to facilitate a meeting.

3. Plans for publication & communication of the Evidence Review documentation'

All the products and the Synthesis Report will be branded as Government of Ireland outputs. The Launch of Phase 1 outputs will be managed by DECC and DAFM communication teams with dates to be confirmed. All products will go on government of Ireland website and the launch of Phase 1 will introduce Phase 2. DECC and DAFM may request summary infographics material closer to the launch.

DAFM and DECC appreciate work of this land evidence forum.

Phase 2 discussions are ongoing. Will have to have a technical advisory group. Once we know the extent of Phase 2, we will assess if we have all the required expertise on this advisory group (e.g. legal expertise etc). Publication of Phase 1 will dictate reaction and needs of Phase 2.

4. Initial discussion on future priorities and focus for this group

The Landuse Evidence Forum emerged from the previous Landcover Working Group, both have created excellent engagement and co-operation on delivering important land information for Ireland. It is recognised as a key cross agency forum for climate and environmental concerns. In a discussion of where next it was agreed that the expertise of the Forum would be important not only in Phase2 but also in facilitating other activities under the likes of the National Biodiversity Action Plan or future iterations of a National Landcover Map as specific examples. It was agreed that future activities should be task orientated to create the most efficient use of the forum members time and expertise.

Traditionally there has been a rotating chair of the Forum based on what organisation is co-ordinating what task. The decision on who will chair will be based on Phase 2 requirements and responsibilities which will become clearer later in the year after Phase 1.

5. AOB

None

6. Dates and agenda items for the next meeting

No meeting planned before publication, instead there will be review material for input on Glasscubes and updates via email. If needed the EPA may convene more focused review sessions to clarify comments and finalise feedback.

The next meeting will be early in the new year – February 2023. FOR will send a doodle poll.