CEH Environmental Information
Data Centre support to NERC-funded researchers

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EIDC
‘It is essential that data generated through NERC supported activities are properly managed to ensure their long-term availability.’

NERC Environmental Data Centres

– For NERC funded research data
– provide support and guidance in data management
– responsible for the long-term management of data
NERC Environmental Data Centres

- Atmospheric science
- Earth sciences
- Earth observation
- Marine science
- Polar science
- Science-based archaeology

Terrestrial & freshwater sciences and hydrology

Support & guidance  Long-term data curation
Expectations on researchers

• Funders: e.g. NERC Data Policy
• Legislation
  • E.g. UK Location Strategy – INSPIRE, FOI/EIR

EIDCs job is to make your life as easy as possible in meeting these.
NERC Data Policy

- covers environmental data acquired, assembled or created through research, survey and monitoring activities that are either fully or partially funded by NERC.

- environmental data of long-term value must be offered to NERC data centres.

- All environmental data held by the NERC data centres will be made freely available without any restrictions on use.

- 'right of first use' normally two years from the end of data collection.

- full data management plan: in conjunction with the relevant NERC data centre.

- all research publications arising from NERC funding must include a statement on how the supporting data and any other relevant research materials can be accessed.
Benefits to researchers

- Credit for output datasets
- Dealing with legal aspects Eg. UK / EU, FOI/EIR

EIDCs job is to make your life as easy as possible in attaining these.
Support

• Programme
  – Data Policy – NERC (& any others)
  – Keywords

• Project
  – Translate policy into practice
  – Support & guidance in planning data tasks
  – Cross-project comms / data search
  – Not providing data manager for project / dictating how data stored & used in project
EIDC and the project Data Manager will develop key documents....

- Data Management Plan: Plan of activities needed so that project aims met & data can be appropriately re-used
- Service Agreement: Details of what EIDC will do in future

- EIDC:
  - storage
  - discovery
  - view
  - access
  - citation
Linking citation to data record

“.....the data have been allocated a digital object identifier.”

Guaranteed persistence

Important info: abstract, authors, embargo, T&Cs etc

Links to detailed description, data access etc
Benefits of EIDC Services

As a NERC Data Centre, EIDC guarantees:

• Secure long-term storage and retrieval
• Future usability of data (always current format)
• Web-based discovery, view and access of data based on international standards and meeting legal and funders requirements (NERC, GEMINI2, INSPIRE, UK Location)
• Licence and embargo management
• Persistence of web-accessible, linked contextual information
• Citation reference (if required)
• Dealing with data requests including those falling under Environmental Information Regulations
Next Steps

EIDC will assign named contact & work with named project Data Manager

In first 3 months, more details on.....

- Data management procedures to be followed during the lifetime of the grant
- List of existing datasets to be used
- List of datasets being generated

Guidance from EIDC
Next Steps

Data Management

Beyond 3 months...

- Schedules for data activities to be followed during the lifetime of the grant
- Plans for documentation of key data activities
- Plans for deposit of datasets (of long-term value) being generated to EIDC – rough dates fine

Guidance from EIDC
Example Timeline

Develop & update DMP

- ID datasets of long-term value
- Document datasets of long-term value
- Data deposit with EIDC
- DOI issued
- Licensing
- Embargo

ODMP completed

Project start

Access

Project end
Example Timeline - deposit

Develop & update DMP

Data deposit with EIDC*

Publications....

ODMP completed

Embargo

Access

Project start

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Project end

(*DOI, licensing, supporting docs etc)
Questions?
Q: I don’t want my data accessible for a couple of years, can I give it to EIDC then?

A: EIDC can impose an embargo period only for *data they hold*. Better to hand to EIDC now & ensure all correct info is in place (no additional effort years down the line), get a DOI to include in any publication and let EIDC worry about embargo management.
Q: Should I wait till the end of the project to deposit data to EIDC?

A: It’s best to hand to EIDC as soon as complete. EIDC can ensure all correct info is in place e.g. Licensing so there is no additional effort years down the line, get a DOI to include in any publication, put in place any embargoes etc and ensure a master copy is safe and secure.
Q: What format should data be in?

A: generally for long-term management data are best in non-proprietary formats e.g. csv rather than MS Excel. However some are OK e.g. ESRI ArcGIS.

EIDC and the project Data Manager will agree what format each dataset needs to be in when handed over – this does not dictate what the project uses.
Q: do I have to hand over all data?

A: No, only data of long-term value – that which would be useful to start with in future (could be raw data or could be processed if raw data too large to keep).

All data that underpins a publication would be deemed of long-term value.
Q: how will i find data handed to EIDC?

A: 1) The DOI is guaranteed to dereference to information about the dataset incl how to access.

2) EIDC uses international standards and protocols to make metadata records widely accessible.

Searching the following will lead to the same reference record.....

• Google (and similar)
• NERC Data Discovery Service
• CEH Information Gateway
• EIDC Hub Holdings
• Data.gov.uk
• Any EU INSPIRE portal