

## **Introduction to the Flood & Drought Research Infrastructure Scoping Study webinar –**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

We were asked many questions during the Q&A section of the webinar about the scope and detailed considerations of the FDRI scoping study.

Here we present a record of the themes raised and the responses made by the project team to specific questions:

### **What is the scope of FDRI? – (the bullet points are responses to specific questions)**

- The geographical scope of FDRI is UK.
- The details of the scope of FDRI will reflect community priorities.
- FDRI will initially focus on flooding in river catchments from surface and groundwater sources.
- Natural flood management is likely to be a key consideration in FDRI and the integration of natural and traditional flood defence measures may be included.
- FDRI acknowledges the importance of ecology and hydrochemistry in decision-making. They may be included where they provide insights into flood and drought generation processes. It may be possible to include flood and drought impacts in more comprehensive investment options or in future developments of the infrastructure.
- Other important flood and drought considerations may also be included in FDRI as it develops in future years through collaborative initiatives (e.g. human health, community exposure and vulnerability, hydrochemistry).
- Although the need for better rainfall observations is accepted, it is not in the FDRI Scope. However, where they are required to address specific science questions, a limited number of additional rain gauges may be considered in our fixed catchments.

### **What technologies will the FDRI consider?**

FDRI will adopt a mix of new and proven technologies. Indeed, FDRI will provide an important test bed for new technologies, enabling their evaluations alongside other measurements. Consideration will be given to combining data from new and proven technologies.

### **Will FDRI integrate existing networks?**

It will be a priority for FDRI to complement and not replace or replicate existing monitoring networks.

### **Will FDRI balance small-scale processes and large-scale response?**

A robust understanding of catchments at various scales will be key to FDRI.

### **How will FDRI communicate its information?**

Currently the FDRI Scoping Study has a [web page](#), and we use the social media platforms of UKCEH & NERC to communicate project news #FDR. There will also be another webinar and frequent mailshots advertising events, questionnaires, surveys, papers and reports relevant to the stakeholder community.

### **What data will be made available from FDRI? - (the bullet points are responses to specific questions)**

- The data from FDRI will be freely available to all.
- FDRI data will meet the needs of the research community and will not be designed for operational use (e.g. emergency response). However, it will enable research that will underpin innovation in operations.
- FDRI data will include observations and not model output as this will be managed elsewhere.

- It will be important that we carefully consider how we present and interpret observations (e.g. what is a drought?). We will consider how this relates to decision making.

**FDRI funding consideration- (the bullet points are responses to specific questions)**

- Some funding is likely to be included in the proposal for Small and Medium Enterprises.
- FDRI will not fill funding gaps in existing monitoring initiatives. All FDRI investment will be justified on the basis that it meets an evidence based research priority.
- As we aim to foster innovation (e.g. by creating an innovation hub or teaming up with an existing innovation hub) in the long term it is possible that there could be product development (hard- and software) that could be commercialized beyond the UK.

**How will FDRI use remote sensed data?**

FDRI will use remote sensed data to better understand floods and droughts at larger scales.