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## **PUBLISHERS' LICENSING SERVICES ASSISTED THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL (NERC) WITH AN EVALUATION OF THE EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT OF SIX RESEARCH CENTRES.**

The [Natural Environment Research Council](#) (NERC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), has conducted an evaluation of the research excellence and impact of six Research Centres that it owns or funds which include [the British Antarctic Survey](#), [National Centre for Earth Observation](#) and [National Oceanography Centre](#).

To help the panel of experts to assess the impact of published materials, [Publishers' Licensing Services \(PLS\)](#) worked with publishers to facilitate this access to journal articles and other texts. The [Copyright Licensing Agency](#) (CLA) also provided an agreement for the evaluation permitting the copyright-compliant storage and reuse of relevant research outputs.

The objective of the evaluation was to provide independent outcome and benchmarking evidence on the work of the Research Centres. The evidence is used, among other purposes, to inform funding decisions and demonstrate the results of NERC investment.

Sarah Faulder, Chief Executive of PLS commented "We are delighted to be working for a second time with the NERC to help with this key task which is vital to the thorough assessment of environmental research undertaken. Our thanks are due as always to publishers, without whose grant of access none of this would be achievable."

Dr Iain Williams, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Natural Environment Research Council said: "We would like to thank Publishers' Licensing Services for their work in helping us evaluate research conducted by the research centres we own or support. It's vital that our independent panels have access to journal articles and other texts to complete our assessment and we are grateful for their professionalism."

### **Notes for editors**

The evaluation covered the period 2013-2019, and included six Research Centres that are either owned or supported by UKRI-NERC: British Antarctic Survey (BAS), National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO), National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), and UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) .

The evaluation is based on Research Excellence Framework (REF) methodology, and repeats a similar exercise conducted by NERC, assisted by PLS, in 2013. The research excellence component was evaluated by an independent Panel of experts, based on research outputs submitted by eligible Research Centre staff.



**The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)** is the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. Our work covers the full range of atmospheric, Earth, biological, terrestrial and aquatic science, from the deep oceans to the upper atmosphere and from the poles to the equator. We coordinate some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major environmental issues such as climate change, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on Earth, and much more. NERC is part of UK Research & Innovation, a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government. [www.ukri.org](http://www.ukri.org)



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