



PRESS RELEASE

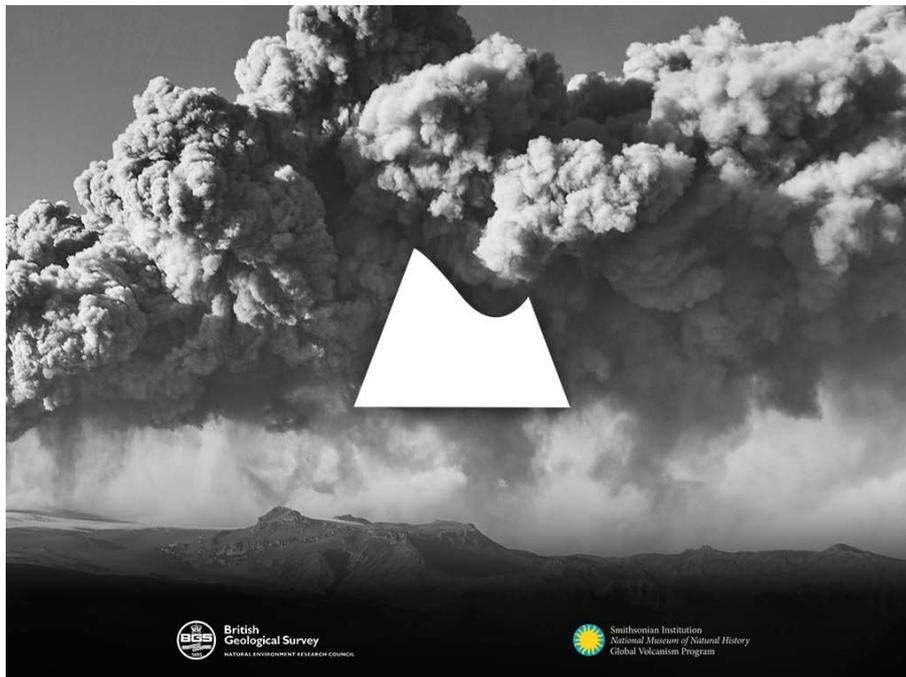
7th April 2014



myVolcano erupts into app stores TODAY!

myVolcano is a crowd-sourcing app that will enable you to keep an eye on the active volcanoes of the world and help volcano research. Take this app with you on your travels to learn about volcanoes and volcanic eruptions from the Global Volcanism Program of the Smithsonian Institution. With your help, scientists will learn more about the distribution of volcanic ash and gases produced during future volcanic eruptions that impact the UK ultimately helping to inform government, business and airlines on the characteristics of the next eruption.

myVolcano allows you to contribute to an active scientific community directly from your Smartphone with a step by step guide of how to collect and record images, and descriptions of volcanic hazards, and even how to collect physical ash samples. In the UK, ash samples can be sent back to scientists at BGS where they will be analysed to see what they contain and where they may have come from. Once scientists have analysed the samples, the results, that you have collected, will be downloaded to the *myVolcano* app and the *myVolcano* website. Further development of the app is anticipated to support crowd-sourcing and research in different countries around the world.



myVolcano also lets you discover the volcanoes of the world thanks to data provided to us from the Global Volcanism Program of the Smithsonian Institution. Panning across the world not only reveals where the worlds volcanoes are, but provides details on its most recent eruptions, elevation and classification. Using ESRI mapping technology you can view high resolution aerial and satellite images to get a whole new perspective on the volcanoes around the world.



Professor Mike Stephenson, Director of Science and Technology at the BGS, said "This is a very exciting development. If you're travelling you can use this app anywhere in the world and there is great potential to support scientists worldwide as they investigate the impacts of volcanic eruptions."

Ends

For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors

The following are available for interview:

- Dr Katy Mee, British Geological Survey
- Dr Julia Crummy, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.

The Natural Environment Research Council

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing world-class research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. It coordinates some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, food security, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on earth, and much more. NERC receives around £300 million a year from the government's science budget, which it uses to fund research and training in universities and its own research centres. www.nerc.ac.uk