



Press invitation, 18 August 2016

Evidence-based environmental protection – international conference to gather 100 researchers in Stockholm

Welcome to the first annual international conference on evidence-based environmental protection – *Better Evidence, Better Decisions, Better Environment*. It will be held in Stockholm at the Swedish Museum of Natural History from 25th to 27th August 2016. The conference gathers more than 100 researchers and decision makers from 15 countries with the aim of strengthening the connections between science and environmental policy.

Better evidence

“Without a comprehensive overview of the most reliable scientific knowledge on environmental management and protection, we risk a trench war between interest groups,” says Professor Andrew Pullin, one of the keynote speakers at the conference and also the Chair of CEE. “The role of the CEE is to support environmental systematic reviews to give stakeholders and decision-makers a common evidence base for taking action.”

Better decisions

Systematic reviews have long been the gold standard in medical research. CEE has adapted and further developed the method for use with environment issues – and demand is growing rapidly among policy-makers and practitioners. Their engagement is vital to ensure that the results are used, and different perspectives on this topic are presented and discussed in the themed sessions at the conference. For example, Dr Alexandra Collins and Dr Deborah Coughlin from the Joint Water Evidence Group (JWEG), are working with the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to ensure that Defra evidence reviews are of the highest quality.

Better environment

Some highlights from the programme:

Farming methods and carbon storage: Agricultural land has great potential to store carbon. With the right choice of cultivation methods and cropping systems, it can be transformed from a source of greenhouse gases into a sink for carbon dioxide. The review team of international scientists lead by Professor Katarina Hedlund have made a systematic map of available knowledge, and are now continuing with specific systematic reviews on for example the effects of shallow or deep ploughing. The EviEM systematic map and review protocols will be available during the conference.

Evaluations of both natural and social sciences: Many environmental problems can only be solved by a combination of natural and social science; so-called mixed methods. For example, studies on urban green areas involve both investigations of how the areas are designed and of their impacts on human well-being. Further developing these mixed methods is a future challenge discussed by the keynote speaker Prof. Sandy Oliver.

Experience from Chile – getting environmental management right first time: Representatives from academia and policy-making in Chile will describe how they have collaborated on evaluations to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of policies on air and water pollution.

The conference is organized by the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE) in collaboration with the Mistra Council for Evidence-based Environmental Management (EviEM) at Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Swedish Museum of Natural History (NRM).

The full programme is available at

<http://www.environmentalevidence.org/meetings>

Follow on Twitter at #envevidence2016, [@EnvEvidence](#) and [@MistraEviEM](#)

Press accreditation

Press accreditation is available at the conference venue from the registration desk. No pre-registration is required. Please bring press identification.

For further information and requests for interviews

Karolin Andersson, karolin.andersson@sei-international.org, +46 (0)70 388 1490

Sif Johansson, sif.johansson@eviem.se, +46 (0)73 029 6507

To contact the directors for the CEE centers

Australia: The Centre for Evidence Informed Policy and Practice (CEIPP). Rob Richards, robr@evidentiary.com.au, +61 (0)428952720

Canada: Centre in Evidence-Based Conservation and Environmental Management at Carleton University (Ottawa, Ontario), Dr. Steven Cooke, steven_cooke@carleton.ca

France: The Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB). Barbara Liverol, secretariat@fondationbiodiversite.fr, +33 (0)1 80 05 89 54

South Africa: CEE Joburg, Univ. of Johannesburg, Prof. Ruth Stewart, ruths@uj.ac.za

Sweden: Mistra Council of Evidence-based Environmental Management (EviEM). Dr. Sif Johansson, sif.johansson@eviem.se, +46 (0)73 029 6507

UK: Center for Evidence-based Conservation, Bangor University, Prof. Andrew Pullin, a.s.pullin@bangor.ac.uk, +44 (0)1248 382444

CEE Board: Gerald Post, Chief Medical Officer/Co-Owner at The Veterinary Cancer Center, US gpost@vcchope.com, +1 203-838-6626

