



Collaboration for
Environmental
Evidence

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Stories of engagement

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COLLABORATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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PAGES: 3, 10-11, 14-end www.istockphotos.com
PAGE 10: pictures of animals, Provita, Venezuela

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To access the systematic reviews cited in this report, go to www.environmentalevidence.org and add the review reference, for example SR10002.html (also cited as CEE 10-002)

EDITORIAL

The CEE is a new kind of not-for-profit organisation in the global environmental sector, an international collaboration with a shared vision to *develop and promote an evidence-based approach to environmental management, so that we can better conserve the biodiversity and natural services provided by our planet, for the benefit of all people*. The CEE aims to help people make evidence-informed decisions about how best to protect the environment and conserve biodiversity, by providing good quality, reliable information (for example, on which interventions work and which don't), accessible to all who need it. One of the main ways in which we do this is by maintaining an electronic library of *systematic reviews* (see p. 22 for an explanation) of scientific evidence on important questions about policy and practice in environmental management.

This is our first Annual Report and demonstrates how 2010 has been an exceptional year of development for the organisation both in terms of activity and impact. The range of subjects addressed through systematic review has broadened substantially and has brought into the CEE an increasing range of 'collaborators', as systematic review authors, subject expert peer-reviewers, and stakeholders. This rapid growth in activity has been made possible by funders of environmental management who have recognised the importance of systematic reviews and have commissioned them to support their programmes.

As the number of people conducting systematic reviews has risen, so has the need for training in systematic review methodology and in 2010 CEE launched its Training Programme, which will continue to expand during 2011 with both a planned and commissioned programme of events.

Systematic review methodology does not stand still and needs to continue to develop to meet the challenges of dealing with an expanding range of subjects and outcome types and to encompass different research methods. This last year has seen active involvement in CEE 'Methods Groups' which spearhead these developments and we call for further engagement during 2011, particularly in relation to information searching and retrieval technologies and in systematic review of qualitative research in environmental management.

As the CEE expands, so has our collective impact, as the following pages of this Annual Report will demonstrate. The foundations laid and enhanced during 2010 need to be built upon if we are to keep up with the ever increasing demand for support for systematic review activity, maintaining the high quality standards which CEE has set. In 2011 we will begin implementation of our new five year strategic plan to ensure continued good governance and the future sustainability of the collaboration. We recognise that these plans are ambitious but we equally clearly recognise the pressing need to provide an evidence base for environmental management.

The CEE Trustees.

*What is a
systematic
review?
see p. 22*

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

During 2010 the CEE Library of systematic reviews has continued to grow, as well as our experience of the challenges and problems faced by Review Teams and authors. For all of us, collaborative exchanges provide great opportunities to learn and to increase the quality of the systematic reviews being submitted to the CEE Library. To support Review Teams and authors, we produced the **Guidelines for Systematic Review in Environmental Management** (see p. 19). We also developed **training workshops** (see p. 20) to better tailor our guidance to different contexts and audiences.

Systematic reviews in environmental management face specific challenges: primary sources of data are very diverse in terms of methodological design, biases and confounding variables. Datasets may also be few in number in relation to a given question. As a consequence, **meta-analysis and other analysis using traditional statistics** might be limited to a subset of data, leaving other data under-used although they relate to some aspects of management interventions. **New statistical tools are needed** which take into account the full range of causes of variability.

When quantitative synthesis is not appropriate due to the nature of, or limitations in, the data, **Narrative Synthesis** and **Systematic Evidence Mapping** have been used as an alternative way of presenting systematic review findings. As they are already used in other sectors, we have developed collaborations with systematic review experts from the health and social science fields to explore whether this approach might offer the objective assessment, transparency and replicability required for environmental management reviews.

Whether meta-analysis or narrative or a mapping synthesis approach is used, the variability of data and research designs in environmental research must be taken into account. The Collaboration strongly advocates the importance of the **critical appraisal stage in each review**, i.e. the evaluation of the quality of each source of data with regards to biases, robustness, confounding variables. This difficult task for the Review Teams, sometimes quite subjective, often requires discussion and consultation, and we aim to develop better guidelines, training and expert-support to guarantee the transparency and replicability of the process.

Systematic reviews in environmental management are still new and need the commitment and engagement of many if they are to realise their potential to become the building blocks of the evidence base we need to better preserve and manage our environment. Whether you are a research funder, a research scientist, a manager, environmental consultant, policy-maker or a potential donor, **we need you to join us to help meet these challenges!**

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS in USE

Although it is not possible to fully monitor the impact of CEE systematic reviews, it is becoming clear that decision makers are increasingly recognising their utility - the following are just a few examples of how CEE reviews were used in 2010.

1. As a basis for informing discussion on policy

development: they can be presented at policy workshops. For example, one of the systematic reviews funded by Natural England (see page 11) was presented at a workshop convened to inform the development of the Department of Health 'Heatwave Plan for England 2009' (Bowler *et al.* 2010, SR41.html).

2. As a basis for evaluation of funded programmes : a review (CEE08-011, p. 14) was used as the basis for an advisory report produced by the UN Environment Programme's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel which is responsible for "...connecting the Global Environment Facility to the most up to date, authoritative, and globally representative science." (*The Evidence Base for Community Forest Management as a Mechanism for Supplying Global Environmental Benefits and Improving Local Welfare: A STAP advisory document, September 2010*, <http://www.unep.org/stap>).

3. As part of the evidence base underpinning programme development: another review (CEE08-003 p.11) which explores the evidence for the health benefits of contact with the natural environment, forms part of the formal 'Body of Evidence' underpinning Natural England's 'Enjoying the Natural Environment' programme. (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/developing-our-evidence-base-lookback2009-10_tcm6-21453.pdf).

4. To produce academic publications in scientific peer-reviewed journals: as journal editors are beginning to recognise the legitimacy of systematic reviews as pieces of good quality research, the number of publications arising from CEE systematic reviews is increasing.

STORIES OF ENGAGEMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE

DRAINED AND RE-WET PEATLAND, CARBON STORES AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

(Bussell et al. CEE 08-012)

Concern about the loss of peatland habitat, the global warming potential of emissions of greenhouse gases and a reduction in the total carbon (C) store, have led to attempts in recent years at re-wetting peatland. This review assesses the evidence base for the effectiveness of such restoration projects.

SR49.html

The Natural Environment Research Council (www.nerc.ac.uk)

is the UK Government organisation that funds research into the natural environment and promotes knowledge exchange between the scientific, business and policy communities.

Through its Knowledge Exchange programme, NERC has funded many of the CEE systematic reviews, most in partnership with other organisations in the UK environment sector, such as a systematic review completed this year in partnership with the UK Environment Agency, examining the effects of draining and re-wetting peatlands on greenhouse gas fluxes.

NERC is also the lead organisation for the UK Living with Environmental Change Programme (LWEC). In 2010 three systematic reviews were initiated looking at the impacts of changes in flood risk and wind patterns on the construction industry.

One area where the interface between science and policy is particularly weak is conservation genetics and the NERC have funded a Knowledge Exchange project, led by Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, that will undertake several systematic reviews to synthesise evidence on the genetic implications of inbreeding and population isolation for conservation management.

BUILDINGS

FLOOD RISKS, WIND STORMS, BUILDING DESIGN AND OPERATION (Toll et al. CEE 10-005; Jordan et al. CEE 10-006)

These two reviews (plus a further proposed review CEE 10-004) address the consequences of increased risk of flooding and storms on existing infrastructure, planning, and methods used by the construction professionals. They aim to help define standards for new-build projects to prevent possible flood damage.

[SR10004.html](#) , [SR10005.html](#),
[SR10006.html](#)

COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION INTERVENTIONS

(Waylen et al. CEE 09-019)

The outcomes of community-based conservation projects can be affected by the role of local institutions and the extent to which interventions engage with them. This review also tested the effects of community participation, conservation education, benefit provision and market integration.

[SR80.html](#)

BIRDS

PUBLIC ACCESS AND BREEDING BIRDS (Showler et al. CEE 05-010)

The focus of this systematic review is the impact of human disturbance on birds, depending on the species, location and type of disturbance. This review covers a huge range of literature and provides recommendations for improved research programmes.

[SR16.html](#)

PREDATOR CONTROL and BIRD POPULATIONS (Smith et al. CEE 08-001)

The effectiveness of predator control to enhance bird populations is addressed in this review, as well as the influence of factors such as prey species, predator species, environmental or geographical factors (e.g. habitat, island, latitude) or operational variables (e.g. method, size of control area, duration/timing, etc.).

[SR38.html](#)

GENETICS

POPULATION ISOLATION, INBREEDING and SPECIES RESILIENCE

(CEE 10-014 and CEE 10-015)

These two proposed reviews aim to synthesise the evidence that different species with various population sizes may be more or less sensitive to decreased genetic exchanges. Subsequent inbreeding, may then cause a decrease in reproduction and survival (fitness).

[SR10015.html](#) and [SR10014.html](#)

PROVITA *Venezuela*

PROVITA (www.provita.org.ve) is a non governmental agency promoting initiatives and projects in favour of the protection of wildlife and habitats in Venezuela. During the past 20 years, Provita contributed to numerous scientific studies and management programmes actively promoting the involvement of the local communities.

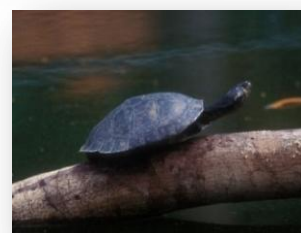
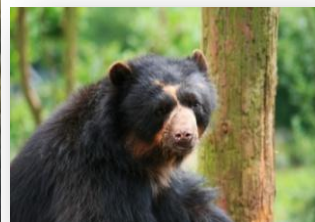
Provita commissioned more than 10 systematic reviews on different species in order to synthesise the dispersed literature and ascertain the state of their current knowledge. Many of these reviews reached their final stages during 2010.



TRANSLOCATION OF PROBLEMATIC JAGUARS (Isasi-Catalá et al.CEE 08-018)

This review evaluates the effectiveness of relocation programmes over the animal's entire range and addresses the significance of a jaguar's age and gender, the types of human activity involved in the conflict, the effect of the most frequently used techniques to capture and move problem jaguars, and the criteria to select areas for their relocation.

[SR55.html](#)



HEALTH & CLIMATE CHANGE

HEALTH AND 'GREENING' OF URBAN AREAS

(Bowler et al. CEE 08-004)

Climate change may increase the risk of exposure of humans to high temperatures, ground level-ozone and ultra-violet radiation. The review synthesises the available evidence that greening cities may mitigate this problem.

SR41.html

HEALTH AND CONTACT WITH GREEN SPACE

(Bowler et al. CEE 08-003)

This review addresses the question of whether positive effects of physical or restful activities on physical or mental health are enhanced when conducted in a natural environment.

SR40.html

Natural England (www.naturalengland.org.uk) believes that “better health and wellbeing are two of the major social and economic benefits we can secure through good management of the natural environment in both rural and urban settings” and have a programme of initiatives aimed at encouraging everyone to make the most of their green space.

Natural England have commissioned CEE reviews as part of their mission to promote and disseminate research into the health benefits of the natural environment and to ensure that local, national and international research agendas are aligned to help us understand the mechanisms behind the health benefits of green space and how these benefits can be fully realised.

The UK Department for International Development (www.dfid.gov.uk) aims to strengthen and facilitate its evidence-based decision making. To achieve this, it has identified a set of systematic review questions based on policy and practice priorities. Among them, four CEE reviews began in 2010, covering topics relating human wellbeing to the management of our natural resources, especially water, and the effects of climate change. DFID clearly demonstrates the will to “increase the value for money of policy by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works”

(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/news.asp?ArticleID=50588..>)

GLACIER MELT ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS

(Miller et al.CEE 10-008)

The authors are testing whether glaciers across the Himalayan region are shrinking or growing, and provide guidance for those responsible for regional water resource planning and natural hazard management.

[SR10008.html](#)

SCARCITY AND SHOCKS IN FRESHWATER RESOURCES AND CONFLICT OR COLLABORATION

(Johnson et al.CEE 10-010)

Climate change is likely to affect the volume and timing of river flows and groundwater recharge, and this could trigger conflict/collaboration. This review will provide a systematic evidence map of the literature in this particular field.

[SR10010.html](#)

CARBON SEQUESTRATION FROM REDD+

(Golicer et al.CEE 10-011)

Some of the activities for enhancing carbon stocks under REDD+ are controversial regarding risks to the wider environment as a result of narrowly focussing on carbon. This review aims to evaluate the effect of a range of management interventions that could form part of REDD+.

[SR10011.html](#)

CONTROL OR OPEN ACCESS TO RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

(Hellebrandt et al. CEE 10-009)

Unlimited access to a resource may lead to over-exploitation. Private ownership and common property, in contrast, are expected to favour a sustainable use of the resource in the long term. This review sets out to take a fresh look at, and to generate sound evidence on the relationship between property regime and resource use.

[SR10009.html](#)

The Global Environment Facility (www.thegef.org/gef/) is an independent organisation receiving funding from 182 national governments to provide grants to developing countries related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. The aim of these projects is to benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods. In 2010 a GEF-funded CEE review was completed on **'The Evidence Base for Community Forest Management as a Mechanism for Supplying Global Environmental Benefits and Improving Local Welfare'**. The GEF commits resources to many community forest management programmes globally and recognises the benefit of using systematic review methodology to synthesise and evaluate the evidence on the impacts of its projects.



COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT (Bowler et al.CEE08-011)

Many developing nations have devolved full or partial forest management authority to local communities, in order to decrease deforestation and degradation whilst enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of forests. This review draws attention to the lack of evidence for the effectiveness of such policies in terms of benefits for the environment and human welfare in the less developed countries.

SR48.html



The Food and Agriculture Organisation (www.fao.org) helps developing countries and countries in transition to modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. During 2010 an FAO sponsored team has been undertaking a groundbreaking CEE review synthesising evidence on the analytical accuracy of methods for the measurement of carbon stock changes in terrestrial carbon pools. Development of appropriate methodology for measurement of carbon stocks is vital for the implementation of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). There is currently no general agreement on the best methodology to employ and the FAO have recognised the value of systematic review methodology for the objective evaluation of alternative methodologies.



COMPARISON OF METHODS FOR THE MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF CARBON STOCKS AND CARBON STOCK CHANGES IN TERRESTRIAL CARBON POOLS

Goetz et al. (CEE 09-016)

Under the REDD+ instrument (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), potentially all forest resources in developing countries are subject to accountable mitigation actions. The Cancun Agreement also stipulates that robust and transparent national monitoring systems of the above mitigation activities shall be developed. As a consequence, for the implementation of REDD+, it is crucial to determine the spatio-temporal variation of carbon stocks. Obtaining field measurements and developing estimation models to do so is an expensive and time-consuming task.

This systematic review compares methods of measuring carbon stocks and carbon stock changes in all primarily vegetated land use and land cover types, e.g., forest, croplands, wetlands, pastures, agroforestry systems and all major terrestrial carbon pools (soil including peat, deadwood, litter, above and below-ground biomass).

[SR77.html](#)

And more from



Being able to provide reliable recommendations *to decision-makers and developing better understanding of what can influence effectiveness or efficiency of an intervention, are increasingly important processes for conservation scientists and managers. Consequently, many other agencies, universities or institutes are getting involved in the conduct of CEE reviews. Here are a few examples, linked to systematic reviews completed or started during 2010.*

NORTH AMERICA

Northern Arizona University is involved in 3 systematic reviews linked to the practices of burning and thinning in Ponderosa pine forests and the restoration of arid land springs.

(Kalies et al. CEE 09-005 [SR66.html](#);
Springer et al. CEE 10-002 [SR87.html](#);
Springer et al. CEE 10-012 [SR10012.html](#))

WEST INDIES

The **University of West Indies** in Jamaica has contributed to a review on the effect of disturbance on tropical dry forest regeneration

(McDonald et al. CEE 07-013 [SR37.html](#))



around the globe...

THE NETHERLANDS

The **Environmental Agency and Utrecht University** addressed the question of the impact of roads and infrastructures on mammal and bird populations (Benítez-López et al. CEE 09-007, [SR68.html](#))



DENMARK

The **University of Copenhagen** is currently working on evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas (Geldman et al. CEE 10-007, [SR10007.html](#)).

UNITED KINGDOM

The **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)** has funded a review on the impact of the landscape matrix on species movement in the UK (Eycott et al. CEE 08-006, [SR43.html](#))



INDONESIA

The **Center for International Forestry** is currently evaluating the knowledge about the impact of biofuels crops on biodiversity (Savilaasko et al. CEE 10-03, [SR10013.html](#))

AUSTRALIA

Land and Water Australia is an Australian Government organisation which commissioned a review of the evidence on the effect of connectivity on dispersal of native species (Doerr et al. CEE 08-007, [SR44.html](#)).

The **Department of Environment, Water and Heritage** supported a review on a comparative evaluation of biodiversity in plantations versus pasture lands (Felton et al. CEE 09-012, [SR73.html](#))



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A LIVING COLLABORATION

Guidelines

A new version of the Guidelines for Systematic Reviews in Environmental Management has been finalised and is freely available on our website. It aims to provide a general insight into the purposes and steps of a systematic review as well as planning guidance for Review Teams. The guidelines benefit greatly from all the feedback and exchanges within the Collaboration and with Review Team leaders. Policy-makers and funders are also using this document to get a better insight into the potential utility of by this methodology.

For more information: www.environmentalevidence.org/Authors.htm

Join the Collaboration

Many people have expressed interest in what the Collaboration is doing and would like to benefit from regular information and opportunities to contribute to CEE projects. Joining the Collaboration is now possible in the homepage of our website. This is entirely free, and communication tools will be developed in 2011 to tailor our exchanges to the interests of our “supporters”!

To join: www.environmentalevidence.org/Documents/Join_the_CEE.pdf

Or mail CEE.Join@environmentalevidence.org

Subject Editors and Review Groups

This new initiative is an exciting opportunity for individual subject experts to play a key role in building the evidence base for their subject area. To ensure appropriate high-quality systematic reviews are conducted across the range of subjects, we require a global network of editors, each of them leading in promoting the conduct of systematic reviews among their colleagues and relevant societies by establishing a Subject Review Group. More:

www.environmentalevidence.org/Documents/Call_for_Subject_Editors.pdf

TRAINING & MENTORING

To promote the involvement of stakeholders and experts in the planning and conduct of systematic reviews, two steps are of paramount importance: to demonstrate how useful and important a systematic review can be for decision-makers and managers and to make sure that the Review Teams (conducting the reviews) can benefit from training, mentoring and feedback throughout the conduct of their CEE review.

Many people are still not aware of the assets and components of a good systematic review or may need advice to achieve the best standards. Consequently, the Collaboration launched its

first training workshops in 2010.

Our one-day module “Introduction to Systematic Review” was presented in 2010 in multiple locations to a wide audience from a range of backgrounds, including academic, governmental, NGO and consultancy. More specific events were organised to support key programmes (for example see p. 12-13). This module has been presented mostly in the UK, but demand has already been identified for workshops in Germany, Italy and the USA, during 2011.

We are developing **specialised modules** to help Review Teams with key-components of systematic review methodology which require more in-depth training: searching strategies, critical appraisal, meta-analysis and statistics. For these modules we will involve specialists to provide the best quality workshops.

Finally, because each systematic review is unique and faces its own challenges, we also offer **mentoring** to Review Teams. When a systematic review is registered in the CEE Library, the Team benefits from feedback and peer-review of their protocol and draft review,. In addition to this, tailored mentoring can be arranged for each Review Team.

www.environmentalevidence.org/Training.html

METHODS GROUPS

The methods used to conduct systematic reviews are constantly evolving. Systematic reviews in environmental management and conservation are faced with numerous challenges due to the large variety of ecological conditions and variables and the dispersed nature of the research data.

Methods Groups are composed of people willing to work together to tackle the challenges posed by each step of a review, from searching for the data to synthesising the findings, thereby not only improving the quality and transparency of the reviews but also making best use of the available research. In 2010, the 'Statistical Methods Group' has been relaunched, chaired by Prof. Kulinskaya from the University of East Anglia (UK). Another Methods Group dedicated to **systematic mapping** will be launched early in 2011. Others have expressed interest in creating groups linked to search strategies, critical appraisal of primary research, and narrative synthesis.

You can propose a Methods Group or ask to join an existing one by mailing us at info@environmentalevidence.org

STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015

Towards the end of 2010 the CEE produced its **first Strategic Plan**. This was necessary due to the rapid growth of the Collaboration and the need to plan for its future sustainability as a 'not-for-profit' organisation. As recognition of the need for an evidence base for environmental management has grown, so the demand for support for systematic review activity has increased, stretching the voluntary capacity to deliver. In order to continue to improve the quality of systematic reviews, to ensure relevance to a growing breadth of policy and practice and to expand the Library, it is essential that the CEE has a clear plan for **how it is to develop and how its activities are to be funded**. The plan sets out CEE strategic goals and objectives for their achievement and can be found at www.environmentalevidence.org/Resources.html. Establishing core funding will be essential to the success of this strategy and we encourage potential donors to contact us at info@environmentalevidence.org.

What is a systematic review

It is a 'review' because:

- it compiles existing findings from the peer-reviewed scientific literature and grey literature (reports, theses...), in order to produce a synthesis of the current knowledge on a specific issue.
- it allows identification of knowledge gaps or methodological problems, and thus informs future decisions in terms of research priorities or management practices.

It is 'systematic' because:

- it has a clearly pre-defined methodology for the review process
- this methodology conforms to published standards
(see www.environmentalevidence.org/Authors.htm, download the CEE guidelines)
- it includes systematic consultation and discussion with stakeholders and experts before and during the conduct of the review.
- each step must be transparent, replicable, and updatable
- each decision must be explained and justified
- the conclusions of the review are informed and moderated by a systematic critical appraisal of the reliability of the methods used in each study included in the review.

Are systematic reviews in environmental management different from other systematic reviews?

Systematic reviews form the basis of decision-making in the Health sector and are also used to inform Social Care and Education. Whether using research from clinical trials, social science or field studies, systematic reviews face challenges particular to the type of primary research methods being used, or the nature of the subject, intervention, outcomes or context. Systematic reviews in environmental management face specific challenges as the number of factors affecting an observation or measurement can be large and important, especially in field studies.

You can find other definitions of systematic reviews at:

- *The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, see the glossary at <http://www.cochrane.org/glossary>)

- *Sense about Science*:

<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/PDF/SenseAboutSystematicReviews.pdf>

More about the Collaboration

The Collaboration for Environmental Evidence was established in 2007 and is registered for charitable purposes within the UK. In line with legal requirements, the endeavors of CEE satisfy three 'charitable purposes':

- the advancement and improvement of environmental protection
- the advancement of science
- the advancement of education

and the two 'public benefit principles': the general public will benefit from more effective environment management and conservation action because those working in the environmental sector will be able to more easily access information to help them improve the effectiveness of their work. The CEE places no restrictions on who can benefit.

The CEE Constitution sets out how the CEE will operate within Charity Law. The CEE operates as a 'not-for-profit' organisation and has a Board of Trustees responsible for proper governance of the CEE, probity, adherence to regulations for 'not for profit' organisations and charity law. An Advisory Group, composed of representatives of CEE constituencies and stakeholders (e.g. voluntary or employed lay and professional practitioners, government policy makers, NGOs, industry, scientists, educators) oversees function, helping to ensure that the activities of the CEE are, as far as possible, unbiased and objective and that they remain relevant to these stakeholders. Maintenance of the CEE website, quality assurance of the electronic library of systematic reviews and general administration are functions currently provided by the Centre for Evidence-based Conservation, based at Bangor University, UK. As the funding base for CEE expands we plan to establish an Executive Office that would be responsible for the operational and financial management of the CEE, and the management of the Library of Environmental Evidence including the editorial process of review production.

The CEE is open to all who wish to contribute to the conduct of systematic reviews and who are committed to the principle of evidence-based practice. Establishing core funding will be essential to the success of this strategy and we encourage potential donors to contact us at info@environmentalevidence.org

THANK YOU!

The existence and growth of the CEE is due in no small part to a wide range of individuals and organisations who have actively supported its vision and aims, either through funding, giving it visibility in key arenas, through giving their time to key CEE activity, or through active involvement in systematic reviews. Particular thanks are due to:

- Natural England and especially Dave Stone, principle specialist in environment and health.
- Commissioners of systematic reviews :NERC KT, DFID, FAO, UNEP, EAW, Provita and many more...
- Authors and peer-reviewers of systematic reviews
- The members of the Advisory Group and the Board of Trustees
- Methods Group members
- Workshop participants and trainers
- All those who have worked with CEE to develop the CEE website and Library of systematic reviews, particularly past and present staff of the Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation (CEBC, www.cebc.bangor.ac.uk).



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