



Bridging the gap between policy-making and environmental research

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The policy-maker's view of Europe

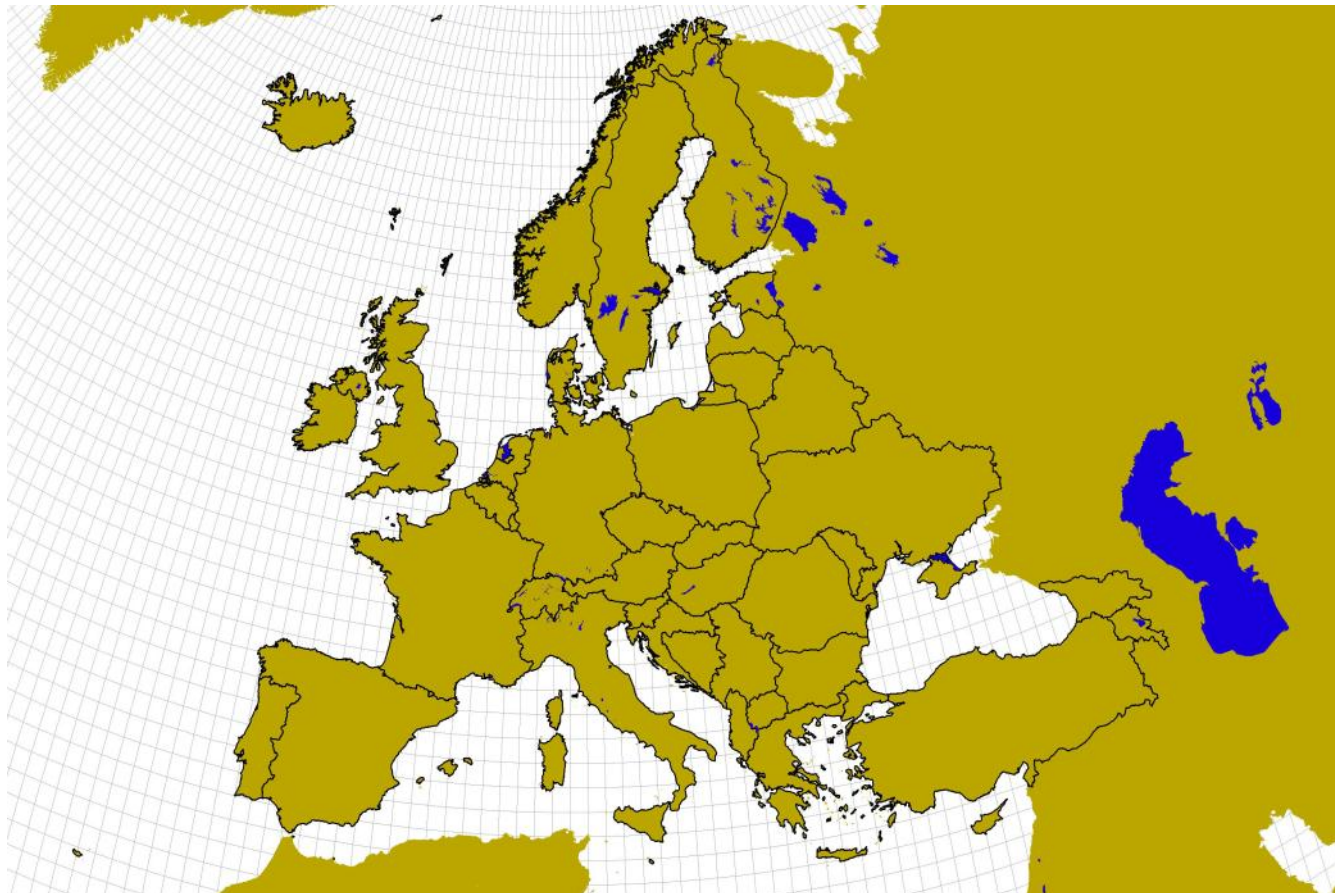


Image credit: JRC





The environmental scientist's view of Europe

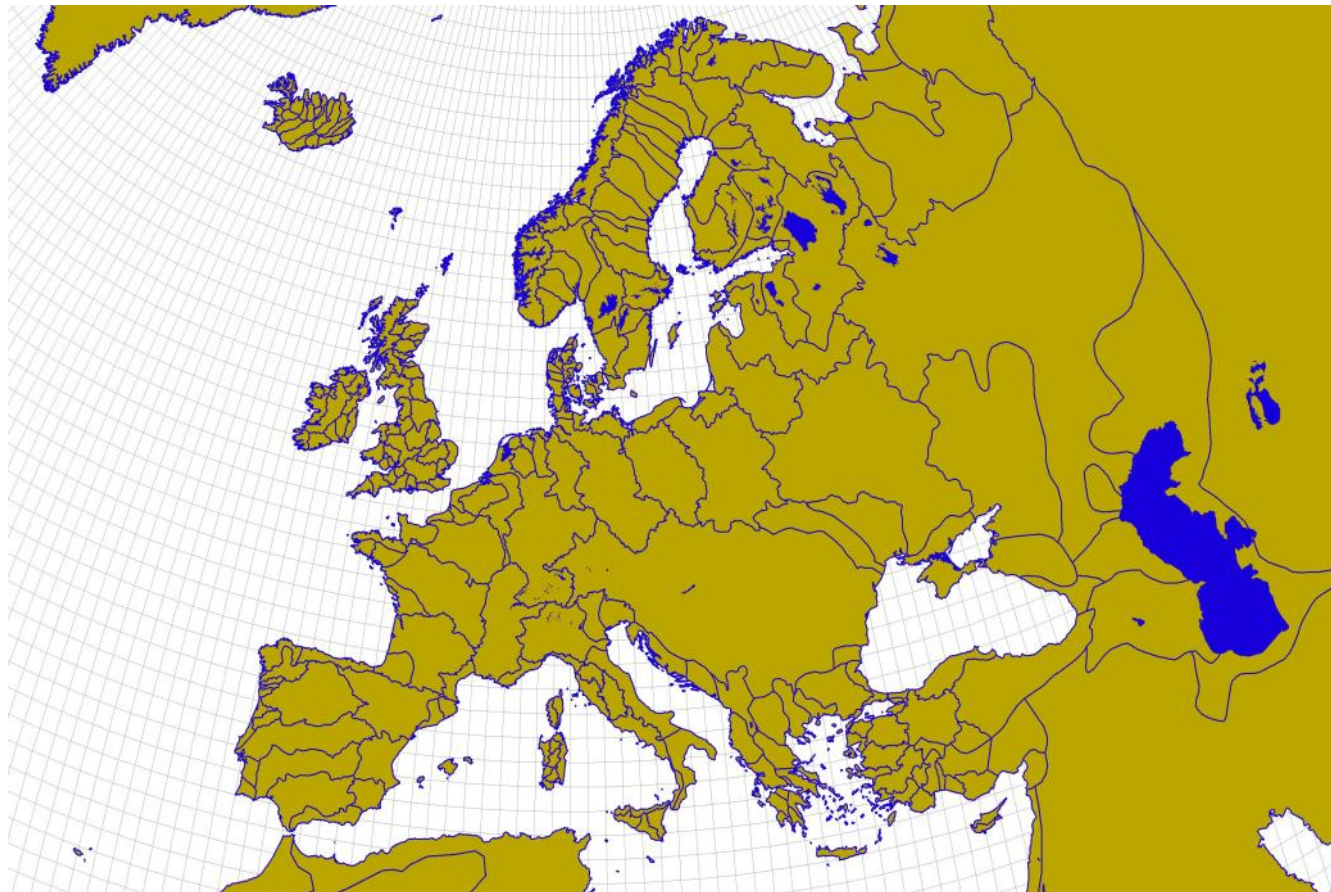


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Why should politicians listen to environmental scientists?





Many political decisions in the EU depend on environmental research

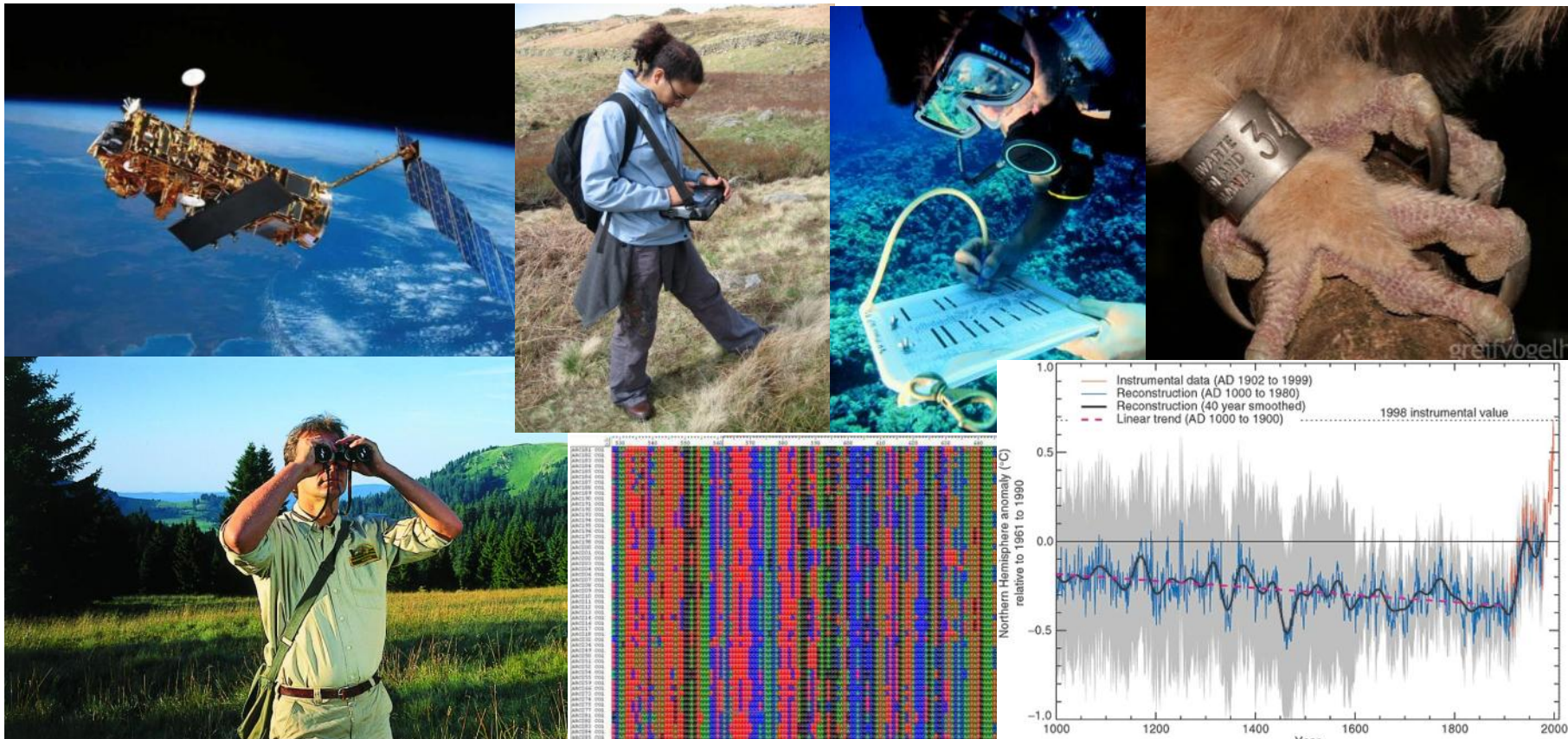




Environmental research boosts the understanding of how our planet's life support systems work



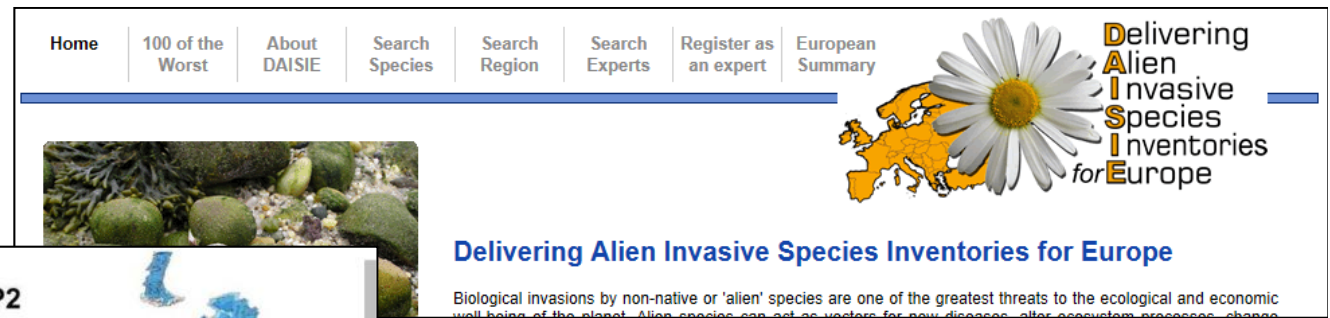
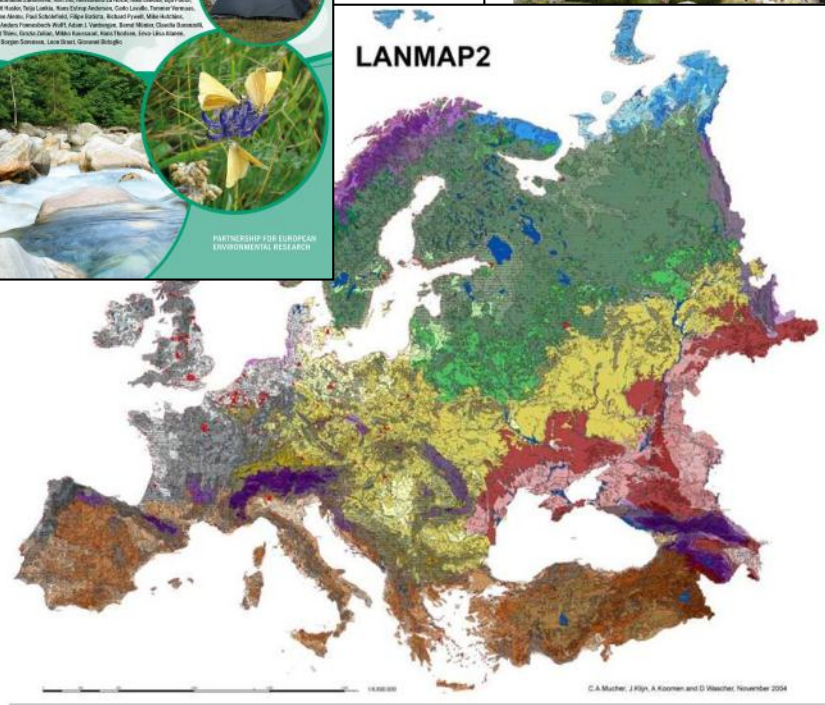
Environmental research provides the evidence to underpin policies





European
Commission

Environmental research provides helpful tools



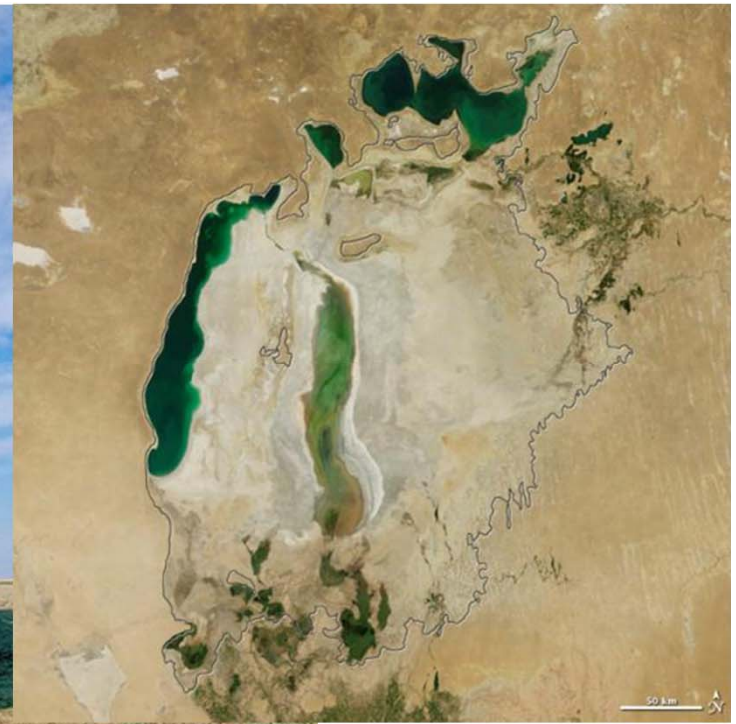
Environmental research helps politicians to avoid mistakes



Aral Sea, 2000



Picture credits: NASA, Elena Senao



Aral Sea, 2012



**How can environmental
researchers ensure that
policies are more
evidence-based?**





- 1) **Speak up**
- 2) **Stand up**
- 3) **Gang up**



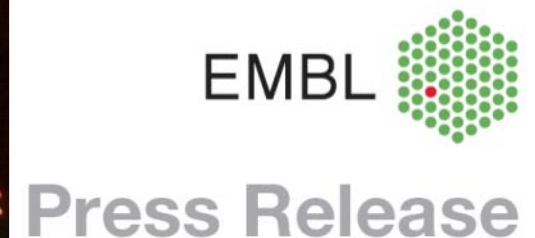


1) Speak up





Shout about what you do!



My microbes

Our gut bacteria's collection of genomes is unique, and remains stable over time

Heidelberg, 5 December 2012 – We all have *E.coli* bacteria in our gut but each of us carries a version that is genetically slightly different. The same can be said of most gut microbes:

or variants: mapping each DNA fragment of the metagenome to its right place, in the right bacterial genome, is extremely complex. To achieve this breakthrough and carry the analysis



Speak a language everybody understands!



Photo credits: Background Stadium Thomas Faivre-Duboz,
forest taken from H.-D. Viktor Boehm (globalcarbonproject),
Photo montage by Alan Belward, Joint Research Centre



Communicate uncertainty in a straight-forward manner!

"I am taking a
shot in the dark
here"

"I am almost certain,
but there are still a
few remaining doubts
to clear up"



Source: Peter M. Sandman, David Spiegelhalter



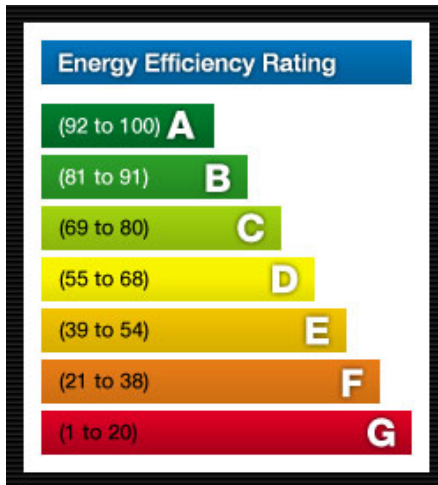
**Show empathy
for public
concerns!**





Offer options for action rather than claiming to have the ultimate solution

Option A



Option B



Option C





2) Stand up





**Scientists should demand that
politicians are open to listen
to the scientific evidence:
"Science makes you look good"**





Scientists need to raise their voice when science is being misused





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ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS

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Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature

John Cook^{1,2,3}, Dana Nuccitelli^{2,4}, Sarah A Green⁵, Mark Richardson⁶,
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Scientists must insist that politicians don't cherry-pick the science that suits their view of the world

Environ. Res. Lett. 8 (2013) 024024

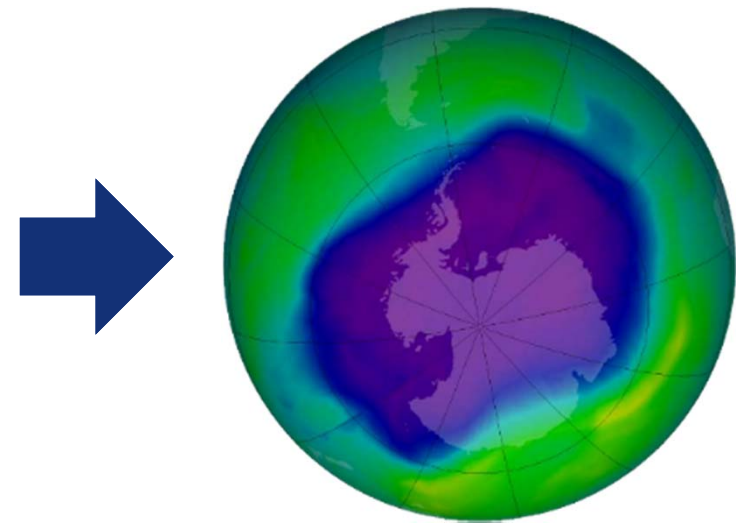
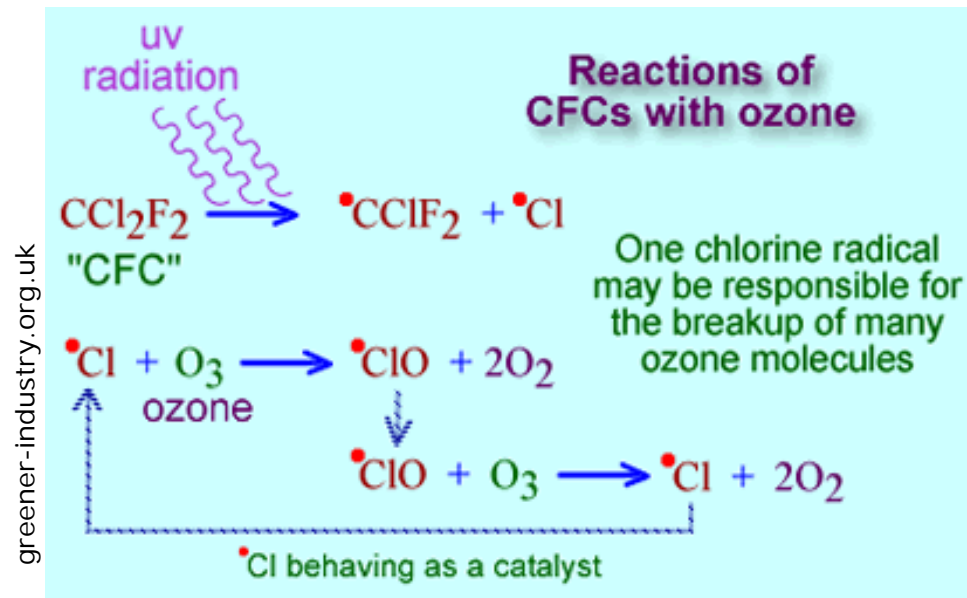
J Cook *et al*

Table 3. Abstract ratings for each level of endorsement, shown as percentage and total number of papers.

Position	% of all abstracts	% among abstracts with AGW position (%)	% of all authors	% among authors with AGW position (%)
Endorse AGW	32.6% (3896)	97.1	34.8% (10 188)	98.4
No AGW position	66.4% (7930)	—	64.6% (18 930)	—
Reject AGW	0.7% (78)	1.9	0.4% (124)	1.2
Uncertain on AGW	0.3% (40)	1.0	0.2% (44)	0.4



Let's talk more about scientific consensus – it's a powerful tool!





3) Gang up

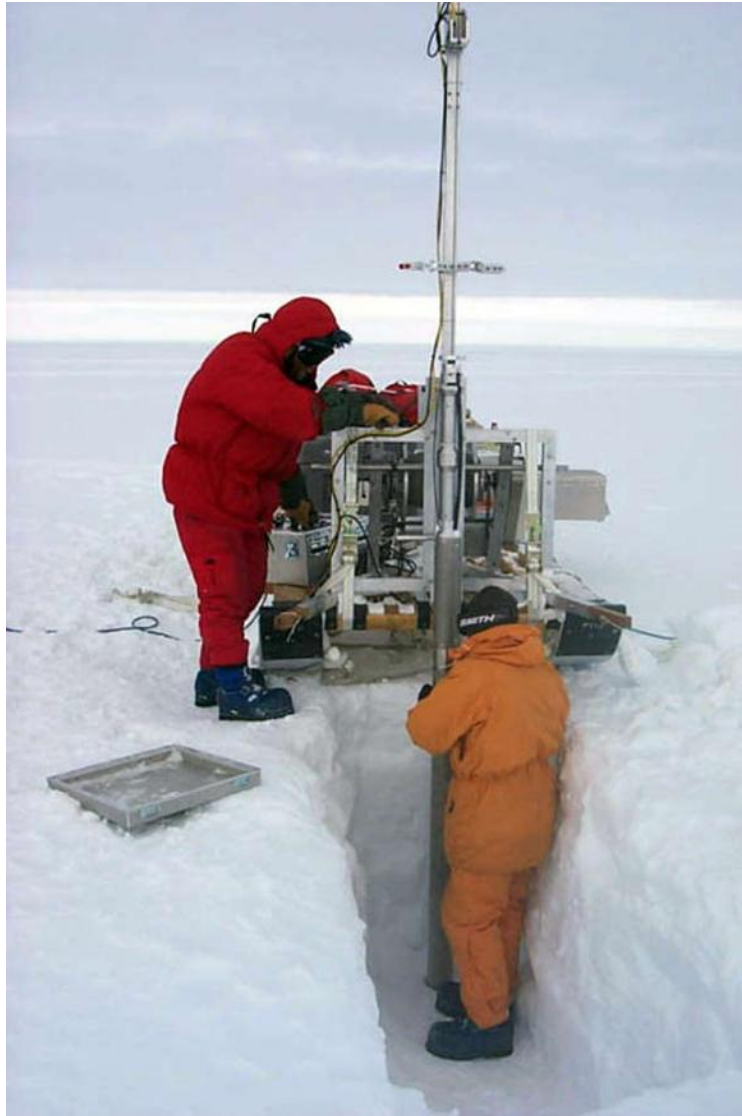




Together we can send a strong message



<http://www.ediblegeography.com/glacial-terroir>



**It takes a lot of
efforts to generate
scientific evidence.**

**We should make
the best use of it.**



Thank you for your attention!



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