



SCIENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIETY

**Bridging the gap between scientists and practitioners
in environmental science**

International conference in Denmark (Aarhus)
5-6 October 2011

Are you working in public government implementing environmental policy? Or are you working in private consultancy with practical environmental projects? Here is a unique chance to exchange practical experience as well as discuss the future knowledge base for environmental management with colleagues and researchers.

Research scientists within the field of applied environmental research are providing the knowledge base for future solutions. Both scientists and practitioners need to be involved in establishing tools and solutions that meet the future policy needs.

At the International conference 'Science for the Environment – Environment for Society' we invite both research scientists and practitioners to work closely together in order to exchange knowledge, identify research gaps and discuss best practice and synergies in the implementation of environmental policy. Special focus will be on practical examples and five thematic workshops:

- Data collection and data strategy
- Evidence based nature management
- Nature management in a climate perspective
- The battle for land - managing for multiple outputs: conflicting frameworks, conflicting requirements?
- Tools for managers – new developments and future directions

Conference co-organisers

- National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Aarhus University
- Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER)
- Danish Society of Environmental Engineering, IDA Miljø
- The Danish Ministry of the Environment
- Official Airline partner: SAS

More information: <http://Environment2011.dmu.dk>



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AARHUS UNIVERSITY



Contributed sessions

Contributed sessions are scientific sessions within the four main conference topics. They hold a mix of invited key-note speakers as well as contributed papers. Abstracts will be published in the conference abstract book and selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Topics for contributed sessions are:

- Meeting European environmental legislation – the Directives under scrutiny
- 2010 behind us – is biodiversity in free fall?
- Low impact - low carbon economy
- Making decisions – management tools for the future

Special sessions

Special sessions are scientific sessions with a topic and talks suggested by the session organiser. Topics for special sessions are:

- Evidence based nature management
- Climate models: uncertainties, effects and adaptation
- Reconstructed wetlands
- The economics of water quality
- Links between biodiversity and soil ecosystem services
- The impacts of green energy policies on the transformational processes within the context of the contemporary rural landscape.

Workshops

Workshops will be interactive sessions. An introductory perspective and case studies from invited speakers will lead into a structured discussion of relevant issues, facilitated by the conference organisers.

Data collection and data strategy

Good information and reliable data sources are central to adequately monitor and interpret trends and effects in relation to environmental variables. But how can you define the data need and collect data strategically to support regulatory purposes? What are the potential synergies, and what are the challenges when collecting data for multiple purposes? Or – alternatively – combining datasets obtained in different projects? What is the uncertainty related to the methods used for collecting data?

All over EU, citizen observatory is playing an increasing role in public monitoring strategies, but how does this affect the quality and uncertainty of the data? What are the implications for the scientific and regulatory use of the data? What is an optimal strategy for monitoring?

In this workshop you will get a good insight on important do's and don't's if you are planning new data collection. It will also give good background knowledge for people working with management tools based on only a few measurements.

Evidence based nature management

For many years it has been clear that a gap exists between research and nature management. On one hand, findings of research studies are rarely translated into actual management practice. On the other hand, large restoration projects have been implemented without a proper monitoring program that could have been used to provide new insights into what works, how well and at what cost.

Danish habitats and species are protected and managed under national as well as EU-legislation. The actual implementation of the Directive and interaction with national legislation, however, is not straightforward and should be based on the best possible knowledge and know-how. This workshop aims at bridging the gap between research and practice and a number of relevant issues could be discussed such as: How do we define favorable conservation status and minimum viable population size? How do we ensure that restoration projects provide data for scientific



FOTO: LARS KRUSE/ AU-FOTO



FOTO LARS KRUSE / AJ-FOTO

research? How do we prioritize funding for nature conservation and resolve conflicts between the different Directives, national legislation and various stakeholder interests?

This workshop is for anybody interested in science-based nature conservation and the link between basic research, applied research and management. Discussions will be based on concrete nature restoration projects presented at the workshop.

Nature management in a climate perspective

Predicted climate change, land subsidence through drainage of organic soils and rehabilitation of an increased land-water connectivity will all cause increased flooding of riparian areas and floodplains. This raises a number of questions:

- Are vulnerable nature types in the floodplain endangered by the increased flooding of often nutrient rich stream water and how can these potentially negative impacts be mitigated?
- Would the increased flooding increase nutrient retention or is erosion likely to outweigh the positive effects of deposition?
- How should we address the risk of increased flooding to human safety and livelihood of local farming communities?

This workshop is for managers tackling complex wetland management problems where there are potential conflicts between water and nature management.

The battle for land - managing for multiple outputs: conflicting frameworks, conflicting requirements?

Land is a scarce resource. Land use and land management decisions must therefore be considered carefully if they are to deliver the best set of outcomes. River valleys, for example, produce a wide variety of different outputs from different types of land uses – wetlands, buffer zones for rainwater filtration, river restoration, nature reserves for endangered species, agricultural production, bio energy production etc. Some of these interests make conflicting demand on land management priorities. How should you decide which land management and land use to recommend for any particular location? You are faced with these challenging decisions in your everyday work.

This workshop will provide an insight into practical application of cost benefit analysis and the ecosystem services approach – two frameworks which can be used to inform policy and decision making regarding tradeoffs between alternative land uses. What potentials do these approaches offer currently and what challenges could arise from their broader application?

Tools for managers – new developments and future directions

This workshop will focus on how to bring the right information to decision-makers, introducing a number of new tools and discuss their applicability in future management scenarios. These tools will include risk mapping of nutrient loss from catchments, a decision support system (DSS) used in water management of the Nile basin and a DSS including climate change scenarios in water management. The tools will be demonstrated on specific cases to illustrate their capabilities and participants are encouraged to bring and introduce any tools or methods that might be relevant in the context of the workshop. In addition to the knowledge exchange on tools and methods, the outcome will also be an identification of end-user needs and an outline of possible future directions.

This workshop will give inspiration and hands-on experience on new tools for environmental managers and practitioners as well as an opportunity to influence the scientific development of future tools.

Payment and registration

Conference online registration and payment is open via the conference website. Early bird conference fee including conference dinner is 325 € (55 € discount). The deadline for early registration at a reduced fee is August 1st. Student full conference fee incl. dinner is 170 €.

Who should attend?

The conference is for everybody interested in interdisciplinary environmental science and science-based management. This includes scientists, Ph.D. students, administrators, managers, representatives of consultancy firms and non-governmental organizations as well as decision-makers working with all environmental aspects of the natural and social sciences and/or in practical environmental management. The conference language is English.

Contact information

For more information, please visit the conference website <http://Environment2011.dmu.dk> or e-mail the conference secretariat: Environment2011@dmu.dk



FOTO LARS KRUSE / AU-FOTO

Environment Conference Secretariat

National Environmental
Research Institute
Aarhus University
Frederiksborgvej 399
PO Box 358
DK-4000 Roskilde
Environment2011@dmu.dk



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

