37th T B Macaulay Lecture

Policy, Practice, Science and My Distant Relatives

William Sutherland, Conservation Science Group, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge





























EASY READING SERIES

THE LOSS OF THE S.S. TITANIC

Its Story and Its Lessons



BY LAWRENCE BEESLEY

Forgotten Books





Before sailing, second-class passengers were free to tour first class. Lawrence Beesley (above, in rear) was particularly impressed with the gymnasium, where he hopped onto one of the exercise bicycles. With passengers lining the rails, the Titanic slowly moves from her berth toward the River Test (below).











- Senator Smith, chair of the inquiry "Suppose you had glasses ... could you have seen this black object [the iceberg] at a greater distance?"
- Fleet : "We could have seen it a bit sooner."
- Smith "How much sooner?",
- Fleet "Well, enough to get out of the way."









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Top Stories



Crimea MPs vote to join Russia NEW

Niger extradites Gaddafi's son Shell boss: Scots should stay in UK Immune upgrade gives 'HIV shielding' Ruling due in legal fight over sperm

Features



How to shift a town of 20,000 down the road



Home from home The curious Britishness of four South Atlantic islands

On the move



Heart pills Are statins a risk worth taking?





6 March 2014 Last updated at 07:45

'Carbon bubble' threatens stock markets, say MPs



By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent, BBC News



Investments in coal and oil may be overvalued, according to MPs



Some geoengineering options



Schematic representation of various climate-engineering proposals (courtesy B. Matthews).

For general introduction and



Smith et al Royal Soc 2012 CBD (2012)

Results

Two main outcomes:

- A ranking of all 192 environmental changes according to their 'index of research priority' score
- For each of 7 shortlisted interventions (based on feasibility and efficacy), priority research questions for their top-ranked changes





The aurora australis over the German Antarctic research base, Neumay er-Station III.

Six priorities for Antarctic science

Mahlon C. Kennicutt II, Steven L. Chown and colleagues outline the most pressing questions in southern polar research, and call for greater collaboration and environmental protection in the region.

A ntarctica. The word conjures up images of mountains draped with icebergs and iconic species found nowhere else. The continent includes about onetenth of the planet's land surface, nearly 90% of Earth's ice and about 70% of its fresh water. Its encircling ocean supports Patagonian toothfish and krill fisheries, and is crucial for regulating climate and the uptake of carbon dioxide by sea water.

Antarctic scientists are unlocking the

secrets of Earth's climate, revealing lakes and mountains beneath the ice, exploring the deep sea and contemplating the origins of life and the Universe. Once seen as a desolate place frozen in time, Antarctica is now known to be experiencing relentless change. Local transformations such as the loss of ice, changes in ocean circulation and recovery of atmospheric ozone have global consequences — for climate, sea level, biodiversity and society. In April 2014 the Scientific Committee

In April 2014, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) convened 75 scientists and policy-makers from 22 countries to agree on the priorities for Antarctic research for the next two decades and beyond. This is the first time that the international Antarctic community has formulated a collective vision, through discussions, debate and voting. The SCAR Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Horizon Scan narrowed a list of hundreds of scientific questions to the 80 most pressing ones (see Supplementary Information; go.nature.com/iilhsa). A full report will be published in August.





Dicks et al 2014 TREE

Bird Conservation

Evidence for the effects of interventions

Bee Conservation

Evidence for the effects

Bat Conservation

Farmland Co

Evidence for the effects in northern Europe

Amphibian Conservation

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Evidence for the effects of interventions

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Rebecca K. Smith & William J. Sutherland

Day

Matthew F.





SYNOPSES OF CONSERVATION EVIDENCE

thinussen, Olivia C. Richardson & John D. Altringham

CONSERVATION EVIDENCE SERIES



	EU report
Interventions	17
Papers testing	36
Peer reviewed	29



	EU report
Interventions	17
Papers testing	36
Peer reviewed	29
Time	Months? Years?



	EU report
Interventions	17
Papers testing	36
Peer reviewed	29
Time	Months? Years?
Cost	10,000s+ Euro



	EU report	Synopsis
Interventions	17	24
Papers testing	36	40
Peer reviewed	29	35
Time	Months? Years?	Minutes
Cost	10,000s+ Euro	Free

Delphi







What is the Intelligence Game?

- Forecasting tournament funded by US Director of National Intelligence, through the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA)
- IARPA program aims:
- "to dramatically enhance the accuracy, precision, and timeliness of forecasts for a broad range of event types, through the development of advanced techniques that elicit, weight, and combine the judgments of many intelligence analysts."
- 5 teams predict hundreds of geopolitical, economic and military events, e.g. Will Australia formally transfer uranium to India by 1 June 2012?
- Questions released by IARPA
- Must outperform the baseline to stay in the competition

Thanks to Bonnie Wintle for these slides!

The Intelligence Game ×		
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Australian Centre of L Excellence for Risk Analysis	The Intelligence Game (beta) Engaging groups to forecast the future	
Question List About	How to Play Question Format Background Our Publications Help	
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The Intelligence Game ×		×
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Coordinated bombings and shootings in Iraq kill 103 Coordinated bombings and shootings in Iraq kill		



Results – Year 2 Delphi Groups

Average performance (cumulative gain over ULinOp)



IFPID Sorted by Resolve Date

Evidence for CAP reform

Compulsory greening payment element	Relevant intervention for which compiled evidence was assessed by experts	Number of studies	Certainty of knowledge (%)	Proportion of experts who said 'yes this benefits wildlife'
Retain permanent grassland	Revert arable land to permanent grassland	9	20	0
Crop diversification	Increase crop diversity	5	9	0
Ecological Focus Areas	Increase the proportion of semi-natural habitat in the farmed landscape	5	22	0.2
- Hedges	Manage hedgerows to benefit wildlife	20	50	0.7
- Buffer strips	Plant grass buffer strips/margins	74	69	0.9
	Create uncultivated margins around intensive arable or pasture fields	52	67	1
	Provide buffer strips alongside water courses	7	17	0.1
- Land left fallow	Provide (or retain) set-aside areas in farmland	58	68	0.9

Farmland Conservation

Evidence for the effects of interventions in northern Europe



Evidence for CAP reform

Intervention	Number of studies	Certainty of knowledge	Proportion of experts who said 'yes this benefits wildlife'
Create skylark plots	13	77	1
Restore or create species-rich semi-natural grassland*	53	74	1
Use mowing techniques to reduce bird/mammal mortality	6	71	1
Reduce fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide use generally ⁺	53	69	1
Plant nectar flower mixture/wildflower strips*	101	67	1
Use organic rather than mineral fertilizers ⁺	16	66	1
Plant wild bird seed or cover mixture*	52	63	1
Leave cultivated, uncropped margins or plots (includes 'lapwing plots')	20	63	1

What is the curre farming systems	ent assessment of the effectiveness of interventions for arable ?
Beneficial	Leave uncropped, cultivated margins or plots (includes
	'lapwing plots')
	Create skylark plots
Likely to be	Leave overwinter stubbles
beneficial	Create beetle banks
	 Undersow spring cereals, with clover for example
	Reduce tillage
Unknown	Increase crop diversity
effectiveness (limited	 Implement 'mosaic management', a Dutch agri-environment option
evidence)	 Take field corners out of management
	Plant nettle strips
	Plant crons in spring rather than autumn
	Create rotational grass or clover leys by undersowing spring cereals
	Convert arable land to normanent grassland
	Diant coreals in wide spaced rows
	Plant cerears in wide-spaced rows
	Plant rare or declining arable weeds
	 Plant more than one crop per field (intercropping)
Unlikely to be beneficial	
Likely to be	
ineffective or	
harmful	

No evidence	Leave unharvested cereal headlands within arable fields
(or assessment)	Add 1% barley into wheat crop for corn buntings
	Create corn bunting plots
	Use new crop types to benefit wildlife (such as perennial
	cereal crops)



What if no evidence?

e.g. Terrorism

- Gang culture
- Football violence
- Alternative livelihoods
- e.g. Geoengineering
- Break down into components

Conservation practice

Collate anecdotes



Conservation Evidence (2009) 6, 71-78	www.ConservationEvidence.com	
Conservation Evidence	(2010) 7, 123-129 www.ConservationEvidence.com	
	Conservation Evidence (2004) 1, 20-22	www.ConservationEvidence.com
	Conservation Evidence (2012) 9, 72-76	www.conservationevidence.com
	Deadwood fencing broadleaved trees from Cairngorms, Scotland	used to protect m deer browsing in the

Tom Bradfer-Lawrence* & Shaila Rao The National Trust for Scotland, Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5YJ

* Corresponding author: <u>tlawrence@nts.org.uk</u>

SUMMARY

At a site on Mar Lodge Estate, Scotland, a number of broadleaved trees were planted during the early 1990s. After fifteen years these trees were still barely higher than the tree tubes protecting them due to heavy browsing by deer. In 2004 a series of small exclosures were constructed around some of the trees using timber felled from a nearby conifer plantation. Fences were constructed with logs, which proved to be longer-lasting and sturdier than the woody debris used for protection elsewhere. The trees inside the exclosures are significantly higher than those which remain unfenced, and the ground vegetation has



Google images 'economy Scotland'



















Ecological Restoration Zoles

Nature Improvement Areas





Celabrate success









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the NSRE also means that they represent an approach that has



Reasons to be cheerful



Anna Sutherland (aged 10) school report for Science

'Anna is progressing well,

but must take a more evidence-based approach.'

This is a global collaboration. Delighted to chat to those interested in:

Identifying horizon scanning issues Working on a synopsis Converting review into practice Help develop 'What works' Finding means of funding!

With grateful thanks for funding to Arcadia, NERC, ESRC, Sychronicity Earth, Natural England