Performing natures: the science and practice of adaptive management

Participant Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

I am working on a doctoral dissertation (PhD) in Natural Resource Management at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. The overall PhD is provisionally titled 'Cognitive Shifts in Social-Ecological Systems' and was passed by an ethics panel at the Stockholm Resilience Centre on 11th November 2013.

This sub-project, 'Performing Natures,' will form a chapter of my PhD. In this project we explore the science and practice of adaptive management, with a particular focus on time. Adaptive management is established in theory as a way of navigating the temporal uncertainties of ecological and institutional cycles. However there remain few case studies of how adaptive management is practiced 'in the field.' In this project we aim to explore how adaptive management enables scientists and practitioners to respond to temporal uncertainty in practice. If you decide to participate in this interview you will be asked a range of questions about the science of adaptive management as well as detailed questions about your particular cases. Key topic areas will be:

- Goals – how are the goals of adaptive management established?
- Monitoring – how are ecological variables established and monitored?
- Experiments – how are experiments established in the field?
- Revision of actions – how are management actions changed?

It is your choice whether or not to take part in the research. If you do decide to participate, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you can withdraw at any time and you do not need to give a reason.

The interview will take a maximum of one hour. I will make audio recordings, but your name and details identifying you will be kept confidential. What you say to me may be used in my doctoral research and subsequent publications related to this. You will be provided transcripts of the interview and you will be given five working days to amend or withdraw any information contained therein.

You will not be referred to by name or in a way that will identify you without prior consent. However, while every effort will be made to ensure anonymity, due to the small sample size your identity may be discernible to those familiar with the case.

If you have any questions about the research or what is involved, please contact me, Simon West, at simon.west@su.se (046 703 6620). You can also contact my supervisor in Melbourne, Ruth Beilin, at rbeilin@unimelb.edu.au, or my supervisor in Stockholm, Lisen Schultz, at lisen.schultz@su.se.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.