



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form

Title of event: *Euro-CSDMS Workshop*

Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a workshop on the future of environmental modelling. Because this workshop will involve interactive sessions where we gain input from participants, which will be used to generate a report or publication, this workshop is classed as a research study. Joining the workshop is voluntary and your decision. To help you decide you need to understand why the workshop is being held and what it would involve from you. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you, and answer any questions you may have. Please ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Please feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) are conducting research on the future of environmental modelling – the use of computer software to make predictions about the natural world. The purpose of the research is to (i) understand the current state of the environmental modelling field, in terms of supporting software, digital infrastructure and other considerations like ethics and the impact of artificial intelligence, (ii) understand what the research community feels the next generation of environmental models should look like, and (iii) understand what software, tools and other elements are needed to realise this vision. The overall question we wish to answer is “what should the next generation of environmental models look like?”. We hope that the outputs of this research will benefit the environmental modelling community by laying out a roadmap to achieve this vision, the implementation of which will facilitate advances in our ability to model the natural world accurately, holistically and efficiently.

Why have I been offered the opportunity to take part?

You have been offered the opportunity to take part because we want a broad selection of opinions from all actors involved in environmental modelling. The invitations to the workshop were open but disseminated particularly at communities involved in environmental modelling.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participating in the workshop is voluntary, and entirely your decision/choice. If you do not want to take part, that is okay.

We, the research team, will discuss the workshop with you and give you a copy of this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part; what will I have to do?

There are no mandatory obligations for workshop participants. We hope that participants will offer their opinion on and vision for the future of environmental modelling, when the opportunity in the workshop arises. Whilst we encourage attendance for the full workshop to ensure you get the most out of it, you are free to attend as few or as many of the workshop sessions as you wish.

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant



What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

We do not envisage any significant risk or disadvantages to taking part in the workshop. As an in-person workshop, there are potential health and safety risks to consider at the time of participation. This includes, but is not limited to, the potential for injury or contracting an illness (such as SARS-CoV-2) whilst attending the meeting. An optional boat cruise is being planned as an excursion, which brings its own risks in terms of health and safety.

All inputs from participants will be anonymous. After the workshop, there will be a further invitation to be a part of the report or publication that we plan to write. Whilst we do not believe our conclusions will be contentious, there is a minimal risk of reputational damage if you choose to take part in this.

The personal data that we collect in organising the workshop is as limited as possible and is stored on a secured drive with access given only to key members of staff. The data will be deleted as soon as the workshop is finished, and wrap-up activities completed, unless you give us explicit permission to retain such information for follow-up engagement. Despite this, there is still a small risk of a data breach meaning the release of personal details such as names, email addresses, dietary preferences and accessibility requirements.

What are the possible benefits?

We cannot promise the workshop will help you, but we hope the workshop will give you a broader view of environmental modelling and enable you to contribute to envisioning what the future of environmental modelling will look like. It may also bring useful networking opportunities with like-minded researchers.

At a societal level, environmental modelling is critical in helping us assess the natural world. This includes helping develop our understanding of the complex interactions governing it, and giving us the ability to make future projections, such as what the environment might look like under future climate change scenarios. A key developing aspect of this is considering the impacts of environmental change on society. We envisage the future of environmental modelling to provide better fidelity, enhanced visualisations and more robust decision making, and hope that the outcomes of this workshop will contribute strongly to this vision.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. The main point of contact is Sam Harrison, sharrison@ceh.ac.uk, 01524 595882, or questions can alternatively be directed through our Science Support staff at lapollutionsupport@ceh.ac.uk.

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the UKCEH Research Ethics Committee ukcehresearchethics@ceh.ac.uk.

Can I change my mind about taking part?

Yes. You can withdraw from the workshop and any subsequent engagement at any time. You just need to tell any member of the research team, or contact Sam Harrison, sharrison@ceh.ac.uk.

If you withdraw from the workshop, we will delete your personal details (such as name and email address) without undue delay, unless you give us explicit permission to retain these for future engagement activities. If you withdraw during the workshop and you have already provided input to interactive sessions, such as opinions on the future of environmental modelling, and that input has been

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant



aggregated and anonymised, into, for example, summary conclusions for reporting purposes, we may continue to use this input. We will ensure this is strictly anonymised.

What will happen to information collected about me?

We will need to use information about you for organising the workshop. All information collected about you will be kept securely. Only key members of the research team and UKCEH Research Ethics Committee, who check that the study is being carried out properly, will be allowed to look at information about you.

Information about you will include your:

- Name
- Email address
- Institution / place of work
- Dietary preferences
- Accessibility requirements

We will keep all information about you safe and secure on a private secured drive, only accessible by those granted access, which includes the workshop coordinator (Sam Harrison) and a limited number of workshop organisers. Access is only given to these data if it is essential for organising the workshop.

Names and institutions / places of work (but not other personal information) may be sent to people contributing to organizing the workshop outside of UKCEH. This includes the workshop facilitator (Dee Hennessy, Creative Exchange, UK) and staff in the University of Colorado Boulder, US, TU Delft, NL and the Netherlands eScienceCenter. In addition, a list of attendee email addresses will be shared with University of Colorado Boulder, TU Delft and the Netherlands eScienceCenter in order to set up required accounts for a tutorial session. They must follow our rules about keeping your information safe and deleting it once no longer needed. The data will be shared only via secure links and remain on UKCEH systems.

Any data collected during the workshop will be anonymised – we will not record names of people who make contributions, unless participants explicitly wish to be identified, and will ensure individuals cannot be identified by other elements of their inputs. These data will form the basis of a report and/or publication and will be archived on an open-source repository, such as Zenodo, such that they are available to other researchers worldwide.

Your personal details, meaning your name and other identifiable information, will be kept in a different safe place to the other study information and will be deleted as soon as the workshop is finished, and wrap-up activities completed, unless you give us explicit permission to retain such information for follow-up engagement.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the workshop at any time, without giving a reason. In this case, we will delete your personal details (such as name and email address) without undue delay, unless you give us explicit permission to retain these for future engagement activities. We may continue to use anonymised data already collected during the workshop in line with the information above.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant



- At: <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/contributors-ceh-science-public-interest>
- By sending an email to workshop coordinator Sam Harrison, sharrison@ceh.ac.uk

What will happen to the results of this study?

It is our intention to publish the results of the workshop in a paper where we discuss the future of environmental modelling. We may also publish separate items such as blog posts, newsletter articles and reports. Your personal information will not be included in any of these, and there will be no way in which you could be identified from these. We may give you an opportunity to be involved in authoring this publication, in which case you would appear in the author list of the publication.

Who is organising and funding this study?

The workshop has received funding from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UKCEH National Capability (NC-UK) and the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Data Science (CEEDS); UKCEH is the overall lead and we have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the Data Controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This workshop has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the UKCEH Human Research Ethics Committee.

Further information and contact details

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you are happy to participate in the workshop, please read and sign the consent form.

If you would like any further information, please contact Sam Harrison, who can answer any questions you may have about the study.

Contact details:

Sam Harrison
sharrison@ceh.ac.uk
01524 595882



Participant Consent

Title of event: Euro-CSDMS Workshop

PI/ UKCEH lead researcher: Sam Harrison

Statement	Please initial each box
I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet dated 14 October 2024 (v1) for the above-named research project. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have these answered satisfactorily.	
I understand that my consent to participate in this event is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw this consent at any time without giving any reason.	
I understand that relevant sections of my data collected before and during the event may be looked at by authorised individuals from UKCEH, where it is relevant to my taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to these records.	
I agree to me/the participant taking part in the above-named research project.	

Printed name of participant	Signature of participant	Date

Printed name of event coordinator obtaining consent	Signature of person obtaining consent	Date

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant