

Talk or poster presentation?	Talk
Language of the presentation	English
Title of the presentation (limited to 150 characters including spaces)	The Canadian context for environmental evidence synthesis to support management and policy
Author's name	Steven Cooke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affiliation 	Institute of Environmental Sciences and Department of Biology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete contact information 	Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation and Environmental Management, Institute of Environmental Sciences, and Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology Laboratory, Department of Biology, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1S 5B6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-mail address 	Steven_Cooke@carleton.ca
Abstract (limited to 150 words)	<p>Canada has strong institutional capacity for science-based decision-making related to natural resource conservation and environmental management. Yet, the concept of using systematic reviews (conducted in accordance with established guidelines) to support evidence-based conservation and environmental management in Canada is in its infancy. Here we discuss the Canadian context for implementing more rigorous evidence-based approaches using systematic reviews. Of particular relevance to Canada is its vast size, broad diversity of ecosystems and heavy economic reliance on natural resources that vary widely in the type and scale of their environmental effects. These factors result in a wide variety of environmental monitoring needs over an extensive area that pose challenges to the scientific community charged with overseeing wise use of the environment. In addition, there are diverse and engaged user groups (e.g., hunters, trappers, fishers, bird watchers, foresters) and indigenous peoples that have constitutional rights to their natural resources. Traditional environmental knowledge is a complementary source of evidence in the Canadian environmental impact assessment process and therefore must be a part of evidence synthesis. Using recent experience we discuss how systematic reviews are being interfaced with existing science advice and decision-making frameworks.</p>
Required support for French/English translation (for talks)	No