

Governing the Anthropocene

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully, and feel free to ask questions if you would like more information or there is anything you do not understand. You are free to decline this invitation or withdraw at any time.

Accounting for the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems has emerged as a key policy-relevant societal challenge. This survey will help us better understand the perspectives of scientists, managers and conservation practitioners on how to address this challenge in practice.

What is the purpose of this study?

This research aims to understand how practitioners and researchers consider climate change and other drivers of ecosystem change when making decisions about biodiversity conservation.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you have expertise and knowledge about biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, climate change, and/or environmental management and policy; and your practices will be affected by climate change.

What will happen?

The questionnaire that follows asks you a series of questions about your work and what you might do under different scenarios. The survey should take you approximately 20 minutes.

What are the benefits?

Survey results will provide a better understanding on the role of experts in addressing environmental change, and the practices that they do and do not prefer. Insights from this survey will help identify some of the key challenges, research needs, and potential pathways to support adaptation. Results will be published and shared with conservation and ecosystem management communities, as well as broader audiences. These recommendations and publications may be useful for you, as someone working in environmental management.

What will happen to the results of the study?

Results will be included in peer-reviewed articles and a book called *Governing the Anthropocene*, due to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in early 2020. The survey data will be considered alongside ecological information and other social data from interviews, workshops, and focus groups to understand the role of scientists, practitioners, and decision makers in addressing challenges of 'the Anthropocene'. Ultimately, the research will inform the development of practical recommendations for addressing these challenges more effectively.

What are the costs and risks? Will my participation be kept confidential?

There is no cost for taking part, and there are minimal risks involved. All responses will be anonymised and stored securely on University of Liverpool servers. Your identifying information will never be published.

You are free to withdraw from the study at anytime during the survey, without explanation, prior to submitting your responses. Once you have submitted your responses, it will not be possible to withdraw because your data will be anonymous.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Please contact the principal investigator:

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Ethical approval

This study has received ethical approval from the University of Liverpool (Application #3256). If you have further questions that cannot be answered by the Principal Investigator, please contact ethics@liv.ac.uk.