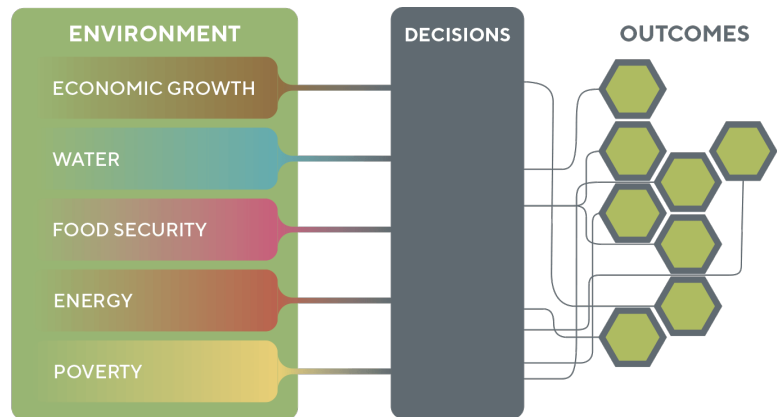


Environmental Decisions Alliance

2019 Annual Report

About

The Environmental Decisions Alliance purpose is to promote an analytic approach to decision-making that enhances the quality of decisions and their environmental and social outcomes. It brings together experts in conservation, mathematics, systems modelling, social science, political science, computer science and environmental policy to work towards robust and sustainable solutions at the interface of environmental, societal and economic endeavours. A nexus that includes issues such as biodiversity loss, water supply, energy production, food security and social justice. The Environmental Decisions Alliance fosters professional connections between academia, government, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations.



Aims

- Provide a portal for the wide dissemination of environmental decision-making research
- Facilitate the development of the next generation of environmental decision analysts
- Be a catalyst for a decision-focused approach to pressing global environmental challenges.

Membership

As of December 2019, the Environmental Decisions Alliance has 14 member institutions based in five countries (Australia, Canada, USA, Denmark, and the UK). Currently 44 people are affiliated with the Alliance across these institutions (Figure 1).

The current chair of the Alliance is Eve McDonald-Madden, from the The University of Queensland

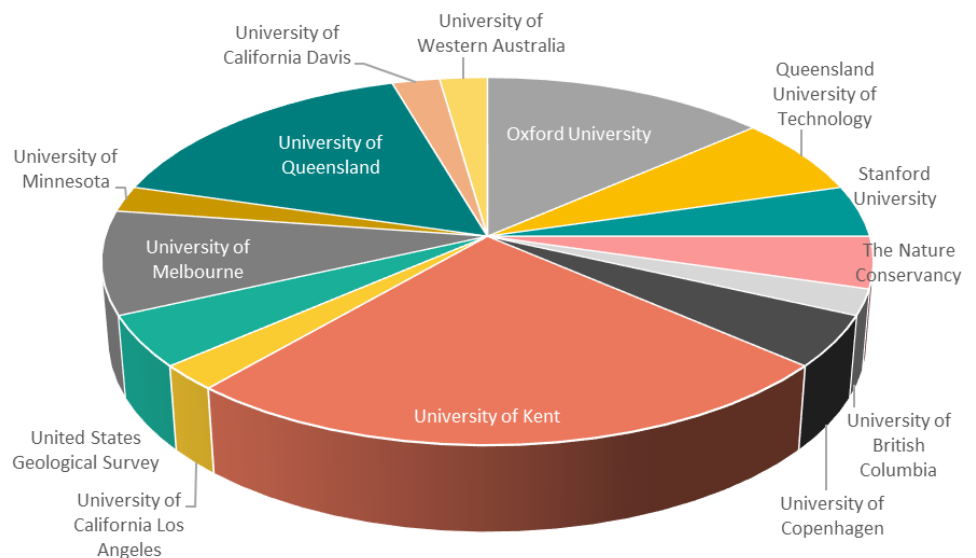


Figure 1: Proportion of affiliates across member institutions

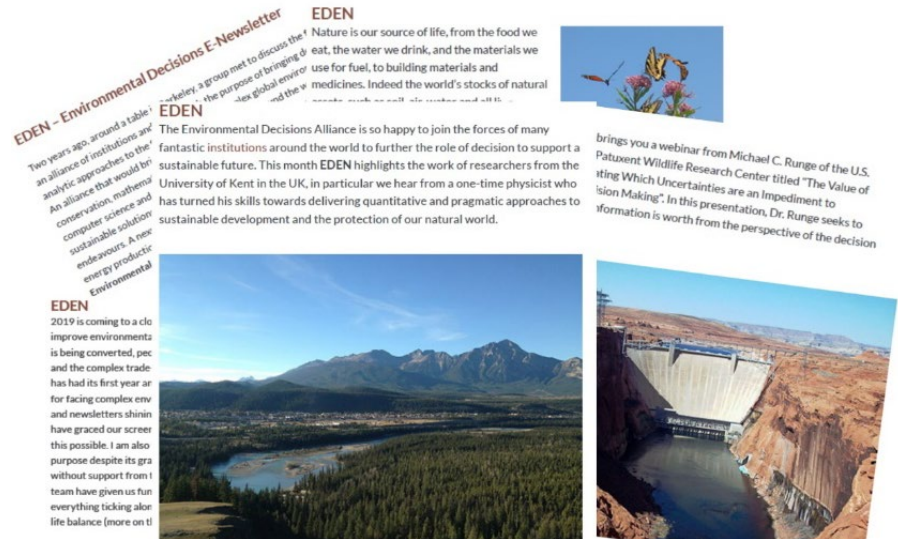
Main outputs

The Environmental Decisions Alliance was launched in March 2019. The focus during 2019 was in creating a platform for the dissemination of decision science for environmental issues by delivering concurrent newsletters and webinars.

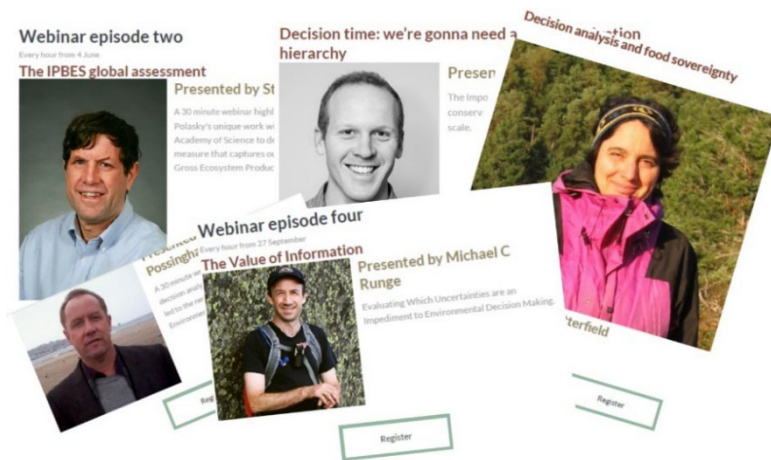
Newsletters

EDEN, the Environmental Decisions Alliance E-Newsletter, was produced and distributed on five occasions in the inaugural year.

EDENs subscribers more than doubled over the year from 101 in March to 215 at years end (Figure 2). The average open rate was 63%, with only one issue being below 50%. The newsletters' content generally focused on the work of the home institute of the Webinar presenter, and features Q and A with the presenter on their career progression and an interview to introduce early career researchers from that same institute.



Webinars



Five webinars were delivered by speakers from academia, government, and the non-governmental sector during 2019 (Table 1).

In all, the webinars had 158 unique attendees from at least 20 countries across all continents (Figure 3). Attendees were affiliated with at least 41 institutions spanning academia, government, and the non-government sector (Figure 4).

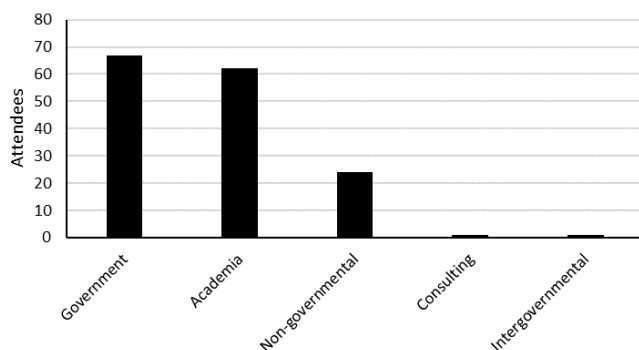


Figure 4. Number of attendees to webinars according to sector



Figure 3. Number of attendees per country to webinars

Looking Ahead

While 2019 was our initiation to an online presence and online engagement approach, 2020/2021 is a time to enhance our reach, build our engagement from current members, enhance the diversity of our member organizations and strive to build a platform to support the next generation of Environmental Decision Analysts. Below we have listed some plans for this year:

- Continue to produce EDEN and webinars. Aim to produce this on a quarterly basis. First two already planned.
- Develop strategies to aid skills development of ECRs across member institutions. Idea is to form a mentoring panel to support an initially small group of ECRs to develop a skills portfolio and facilitate connection to other members to enhance development of skills gaps.
- Begin planning for an online course offering from The Alliance on Environmental Decisions Analysis and its role in the sustainability crisis.
- Increase number of people engaged from each current member Institution and add new institutions in more diverse realms of decision analysis.
- Build an online platform to enhance engagement from current members and facilitate social media presence.
- Build a funding plan to foster the above aims and build toward a larger impact via forums on complex environmental issues in the future



Engaging with EDA

We would love to hear more from our members. If you have ideas on any of the above plans please get in touch via email, director@envirodecisions.org. In addition, I would like to build a support network to help us grow - if you want to get involved in this way please email me. We very much hope to build this community and push forward with such a positive endeavor.

Supplementary Data and Information

Table 1. Membership of the Environmental Decisions Alliance per institution.

Institution	Number of members
Oxford University	6
Queensland University of Technology	3
Stanford University	2
The Nature Conservancy	2
United States Geological Survey	2
University of British Columbia	1
University of California Davis	1
University of California Los Angeles	1
University of Copenhagen	2
University of Kent	11
University of Melbourne	4
University of Minnesota	1
University of Queensland	7
University of Western Australia	1
Total	44

Table 2. Number of subscribers to EDEN.

Key Performance Indicator	Newsletter # 1	Newsletter # 2	Newsletter # 3	Newsletter # 4	Newsletter # 5
Subscribers	101	168	175	186	215
Subscribers who opened	76	108	118	119	88
Subscribers who opened (%)	75.20%	64.30%	67.80%	64.70%	41.50%

Table 3. Early career researchers featured in the EDEN.

Early career researcher	Institution
Dr Justin Johnson	University of Minnesota
Sophus zu Ermgassen	University of Kent
Dr Katherine O'Donnell	U.S. Geological Service
Dr Kieran Fiendlater	University of British Columbia
Helina Jolly	University of British Columbia

Table 4. Attendees and twitter views to Webinars

Webinar	Registrations	Views
1. Decision analysis as the meaning of life	78	494
2. The IPBES global assessment	17	93
3. Decision time: we're gonna need a bigger mitigation hierarchy	15	88
4. The Value of Information	44	527
5. Supporting food sovereign decisions	4	69
Total	158	1271

Table 5. Environmental Decisions Alliance webinars delivered concurrently with newsletters.

Webinar	Speaker	Affiliation	Country	Date
1. Decision analysis as the meaning of life	Dr Hugh Possingham	The Nature Conservancy/The University of Queensland	USA and Australia	March 2019
2. The IPBES global assessment	Dr Steve Polasky	University of Minnesota	USA	June 2019
3. Decision time: we're gonna need a bigger mitigation hierarchy	Dr Joe Bull	University of Kent	UK	August 2019
4. The Value of Information	Dr Michael C. Runge	US Geological Survey	USA	September 2019
5. Supporting food sovereign decisions	Dr Terre Satterfield	University of British Columbia	Canada	December 2019

Table 6. Twitter statistics (@EnviroDecisions)

Statistics	Occurrences
Impressions	21,758
Total engagements (number of interactions with tweets)	409
Retweets	52

Table 7. Affiliation of attendees to the Environmental Decisions Alliance.

Institution	Country
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganaderia y Pesca	Argentina
Western Australia's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	Australia
Wenworth Group	Australia
University of Queensland	Australia
Eco Logical	Australia
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Australia
Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning	Australia
RMIT University	Australia
University of Melbourne	Australia
University of Western Australia	Australia
Queensland University of Technology	Australia
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	Austria
Universidade de Sao Paulo	Brazil
University of British Columbia	Canada
University of Victoria	Canada
University of Copenhagen	Denmark
Center in Ecology and Evolutionary Ecology	France
Wildlife Conservation Society	Indonesia
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Portugal
BirdLife South Africa	South Africa
Basque Centre for Climate Change	Spain
International Institute for Environment and Development	UK
Oxford University	UK
Newcastle University	UK
University of Kent	UK
The Nature Conservancy	UK
United Nations Environment Programme	UK
NC State University	USA

Institution	Country
University of Colorado Boulder	USA
Bird Conservancy	USA
US Department of Agriculture	USA
Hiram College	USA
Cornell University	USA
US Geological Service	USA
WWF	USA
Defenders of Wildlife	USA
Michigan State University	USA
Oregon State University	USA
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	USA
Audubon Society	USA
Monmouth University	USA