

# THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

**Thursday 7th May 2015 7:15 for 7:45**

Amgen Ltd,  
Cambridge Science Park,  
Milton Road,  
Cambridge CB4 0WG

## **The cost of saving nature: how much and is it a price worth paying**

**Donal McCarthy**  
RSPB

**Abstract:** Globally, nature is in trouble. Species are declining at unprecedented rates and important sites for biodiversity are under threat. World leaders have committed to an ambitious strategy for saving nature by 2020. However, without strong political will and adequate financial resources, the targets of this ambitious strategy are unlikely to be achieved. In order to assess the size of the current funding gap, a collaborative project led by BirdLife International in 2012 estimated the costs of meeting key conservation targets for preventing extinctions and safeguarding important sites for nature, as well as the extent to which current funding is sufficient to cover these costs. Evidence suggests that the funding gap is significant, but that the additional funding required is trivial compared to the benefits that nature provides. Investing in nature now can still stop mass extinction.

**Speaker:** Donal McCarthy is an environmental economist at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which is the largest nature conservation charity in Europe. He works in the Conservation Policy department and his main role is to seek to influence UK environmental policy for the benefit of people and nature. He works on a variety of conservation-related topics including environmental regulation and ecosystem services. He was previously based in Cambridge where he was a member of the Science Team at the Global Headquarters of BirdLife International, the world's largest nature conservation partnership with partner organisations in over 100 countries. He holds an MSc. in Environmental Economics and Environmental Management from the University of York, and a B.A. in Economics from Trinity College Dublin.

**Directions:** Head north on Milton Road. Two traffic lights before the A14 turn left into the Science Park (clearly signposted). Turn left at the roundabout. The meeting takes place at Amgen in the restaurant in building 214 (the ground floor of the middle building on the attached map which is also at <http://imaging.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/statswiki/csdg/amgen>). Parking is available on site. There will be no admittance after 7-45pm. Arrivals after 7-45pm can gain admittance by contacting the secretary on 07761769436. **If anyone would like complementary transport to the talk venue from Central Cambridge please inform the secretary in advance of the meeting.**

### **Provisional Next Meetings:**

13<sup>th</sup> October – Chris Rogers (Statistical Laboratory).

16th November – Yoryos Lyratzopoulos (University College London & Cancer Research UK) on 'Old and new directions in research for the early diagnosis of cancer in symptomatic patients'.

8th February 2016 – Anthony Edwards (Gonville & Caius) on 'My Fisher: Memories of R.A.Fisher by his last student'.

10th March – Katie Saunders (Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research) on 'Measuring Ethnicity in the NHS'.

**Supper:** Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at **5-45pm**. Feel free to join them.

**Subscriptions:** of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2014-2015 session.

**Secretary:** Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 7EF; telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail [peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)

**Slides and .mp3 files of old talks:** <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/peter.watson/csdg.html>