

Ecological Causal Assessment (Environmental Assessment and Management)

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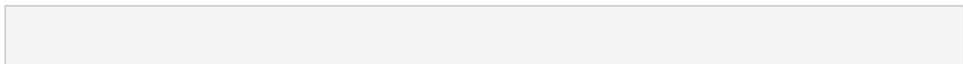
Edited by experts at the leading edge of the development of causal assessment methods for more than two decades, **Ecological Causal Assessment** gives insight and expert guidance on how to identify cause-effect relationships in environmental systems. The book discusses the importance of asking the fundamental question "Why did this effect happen?" before moving on to "How can we fix it?"

The book provides a deeper understanding of different philosophical and analytical approaches, and of cognitive tendencies that can lead to errors. It describes formal processes for causal assessment that are particularly helpful when the situation is complex or contentious. It also describes how to approach the analysis of available data and to optimize collection efforts. The text then details a transparent process that helps others replicate results and can be used to convince skeptics that the true cause has been identified. Several detailed case studies show how to apply the process to streams, watersheds, and a terrestrial wildlife population.

Causal assessment is a challenging, but endlessly fascinating endeavor. Success requires the persistence to figure things out and solid strategies for using the information that you have and getting more of the right kind of information that you need. This book gives you just that: the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to successfully unravel tough environmental problems and build the knowledge base for effective management solutions.

Read interview about this book with author Sue Norton here:

<http://www.freshwater-science.org/Publications/Newsletter-In-The-Drift/ITD--Fall-2015.cfm#itdqna>



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Editorial Review

Review

"... it is more than a reference book, it is also a handbook of how to establish causality. The range and depth of topics covered is astonishing and indicates that the authors have probably spent their careers putting this topic together. This book is now the bible for establishing causality."

?Science of the Total Environment, 2015

"Although originally developed primarily to support agencies charged with implementing the Clean Water Act's mandate to identify and restore aquatic ecosystems impaired by pollutant discharges, the concepts and methods described in this book have much wider applicability. As evidenced by the kit fox case study, they are applicable to terrestrial as well as aquatic systems, and to impaired or threatened populations as well as to communities and ecosystems. This is an important book and I recommend it to anyone interested in the problem of diagnosing causes of ecological impairment."

?Larry Barnthouse, LWB Environmental Sciences, in *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*

"As a well-seasoned ecological risk assessor and ecotoxicologist concerned with ecosystem diagnosis and eco-epidemiology, it is my experience that it is generally not easy and straight forward to firstly detect and describe the exact ecological impact at a particular location, and secondly to attribute this impact to the underlying causation. This is mainly due to natural variability and the enormous diversity in potential stress factors that may all act in concert. In this respect, ecological causal assessment clearly resembles forensic science. This book, compiled and edited by my valued US EPA friends, covers both theory and practical application of causal assessment in cases of observed ecosystem deterioration or alteration. Although it is virtually impossible to compile universally applicable cookbook-style recipes, the multiple lines of thought and evidence that have to be followed are clearly sketched. The book is concisely written and provides the reader with lots of illustrative examples and real-life case study descriptions."

?Dr. Dick de Zwart, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven, The Netherlands

"The Editors have drawn together colleagues from the U.S. and Canada to collaborate on a seminal work that provides guidance on causal assessment using available information from chemical, physical, and biological traits and indicators. No other book has reached to this level of using ecological evidence in a systematic process to sort out environmental problems. ... a thorough treatise on causal assessment and should be a resource for higher academic studies in this subject matter."

?Michael T. Barbour, Adjunct Scientist, Mote Marine Laboratory, Retired Director, Center for Ecological Sciences, Tetra Tech

"This well-written and well-organized book will allow the next generation of water stewards to identify the causes of water quality degradation and lead to necessary action to restore rivers to a healthy state. ... will train the next generation of water stewards to identify the causes of water quality degradation and what actions are needed to restore rivers to a healthy state. Although framed around fresh waters, Ecological Causal Assessment has lessons that apply to any ecosystem."

?David Allan, University of Michigan, co-author of "Stream Ecology, Structure and Function of Running

waters"

"... will be useful for students looking to enter this important field as well as to seasoned practitioners. I view this book as setting a foundation upon which the field can continue to develop and highly recommend cover to cover reading to any individual who aspires to be a causal analyst of environmental impairments and possible future outcomes."

?Charlie Menzie, Exponent

"At last! Norton, Cormier, and Suter provide a clear, sensible and comprehensive description of causal assessment, replete with real-world examples and a strong suite of authentic supporting case studies by highly qualified investigators. Well-organized and easy to read, this is an important how-to book in the area of environmental management. ... It should be required reading by every corporate, municipal, state or federal employee who has any environmental management responsibilities."

?Arthur J. Stewart, Ph.D., Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

"From the first sentence, 'It was a mystery', this book provides an engaging but thorough treatment of the otherwise dry discipline of ecological causal assessment. Drs. Norton, Cormier and Suter have been at the leading edge of the development and application of ecological causal assessment methods for almost two decades, and their experience, learnings, and solutions are neatly presented in this book. The clear writing, use of defined terms, well-structured chapters, and pertinent illustrative case studies all serve to greatly simplify explanation and understanding of the field for both new and experienced users. This book will become required reading for anybody attempting to identify cause-effect relationships in environmental systems, and beyond to any system where we cannot perform neat experiments, but still need to ask the fundamental question: Why did this happen?"

?Angus Webb, The University of Melbourne

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy King:

The guide untitled Ecological Causal Assessment (Environmental Assessment and Management) is the guide that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to anyone. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of exploration when write the book, and so the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Ecological Causal Assessment (Environmental Assessment and Management) from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Evelyn Looney:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find book that need more time to be go through. Ecological Causal Assessment (Environmental Assessment and Management) can be your answer since it can be read by you who have those short free time problems.

Marisa Carney:

Reading a book to get new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to read a book. When you read a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Ecological Causal Assessment (Environmental Assessment and Management) provide you with a new experience in reading a book.

Brian Griffith:

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