

Development of a web-based directory of spatial models and other decision support systems (DSS)

What's the project?

The project will produce a searchable web-based directory of existing spatial models and other decision support systems for policy and resource management by regional councils. The directory will provide standardised key information for each spatial model/DSS and will also include examples, where available, of how they have been used and applied by regional councils or other agencies. The directory will be designed to allow for the required flexibility to regularly review, update and add new models/DSS.

What's the aim of the project?

The aim of the directory is to facilitate increased up-take and use of current knowledge and ensure available research outputs are applied for environmental and resource management across Regional Councils.

Expected future benefits of a Web Directory are:

- easy access to up-to-date spatial models, other DSS and supporting information for councils.
- maintenance and enhancement council's capacity and capability for integrated, long term planning and decision-making.

How is it being developed and what will be included?

There are three key steps involved in the process of developing the web-based directory.

- 1) Identify the models and DSS's to be included in the directory and collate examples and case studies where they are available and seek feedback
- 2) Design the database and the website to house the information taking into account end user needs
- 3) Test the system and iron out any issues. Develop a process to ensure the ongoing maintenance and the continued updating of the directory.

The aim is to include at least the top 30 models/DSS's now and then continue to add further models over time.

The timeframe for development is 18 months and it is hoped to have the directory live by the end of September 2012

Who's involved?

The Project Team consists of the following members:

- Tony Fenton – Alchemists Ltd (Project Co-ordinator)
- Dr Marjan van der Belt and Dr Hendrik Stouten– Massey University/ Ecological Economics Research New Zealand (Research Provider)
- Steve Markham – Tasman District Council (Project Champion)

- Dr Beat Huser – Waikato Regional Council (Project Champion)
- Mark Huser – Specialist web design and development expertise

The team will be liaising regularly with the Regional Council/Unitary Authority Policy Manager Special Interest Group as part of the project. Input and feedback will also be requested from other Special Interest Groups within councils as well as some council staff from various regions.

An End User Group is also being established to provide input and feedback during the development and testing of the Web Directory. The aim is to enlist a wide range of practitioners as members to the group who can bring their end user needs and experiences to the project. The group would also be participants in the testing of a prototype directory.

Who can I contact to ask further information?

The project is being coordinated by Tony Fenton of Alchemists Ltd. You can contact Tony for further information or to ask questions on:

Phone on 07 3489191 or 021911953 or by email tony@alchemists.co.nz