

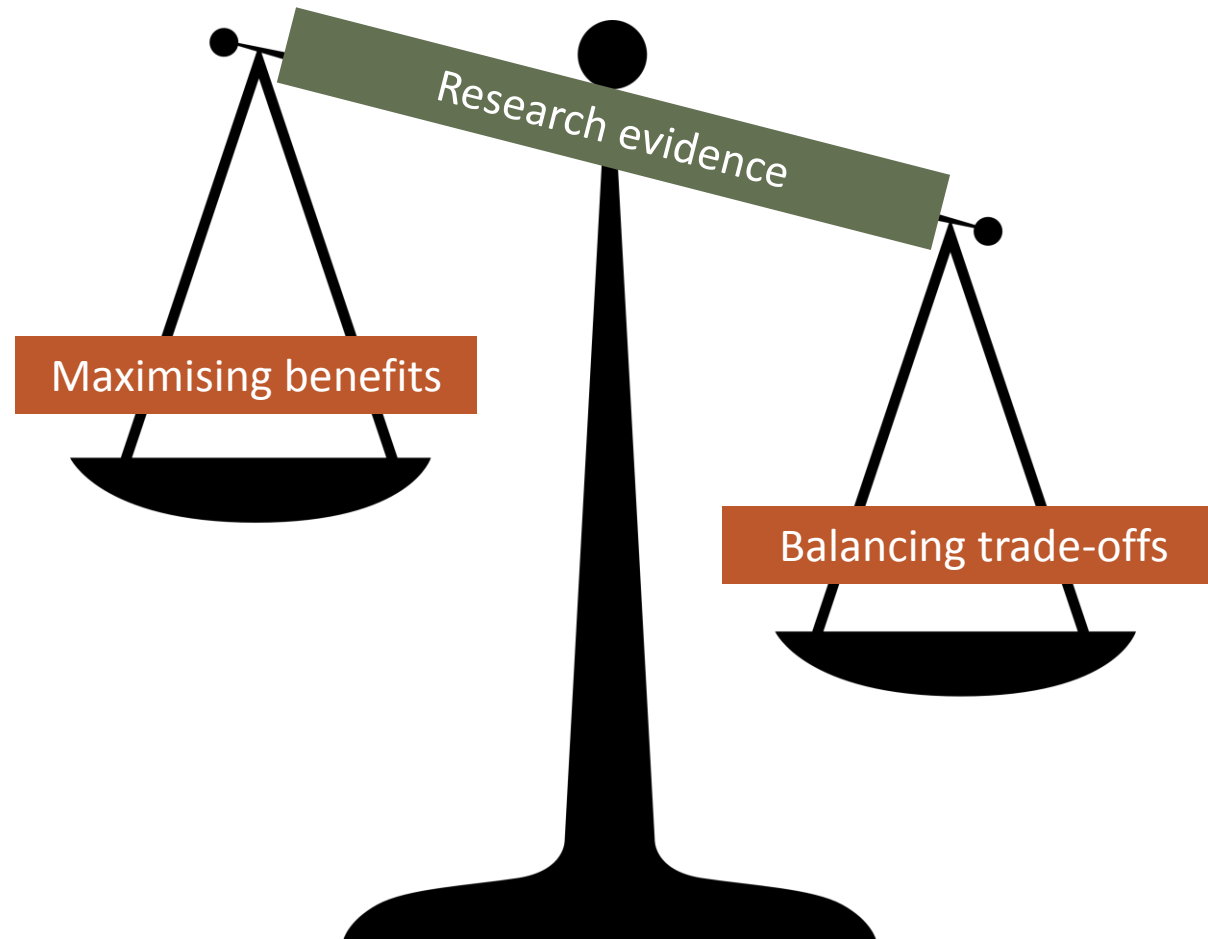
The role of different types of evidence synthesis in providing users in the science-policy interface with the information they need

NATALIE TANNOUS & CARINA VAN ROOYEN

COLLABORATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE, AFRICA CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE



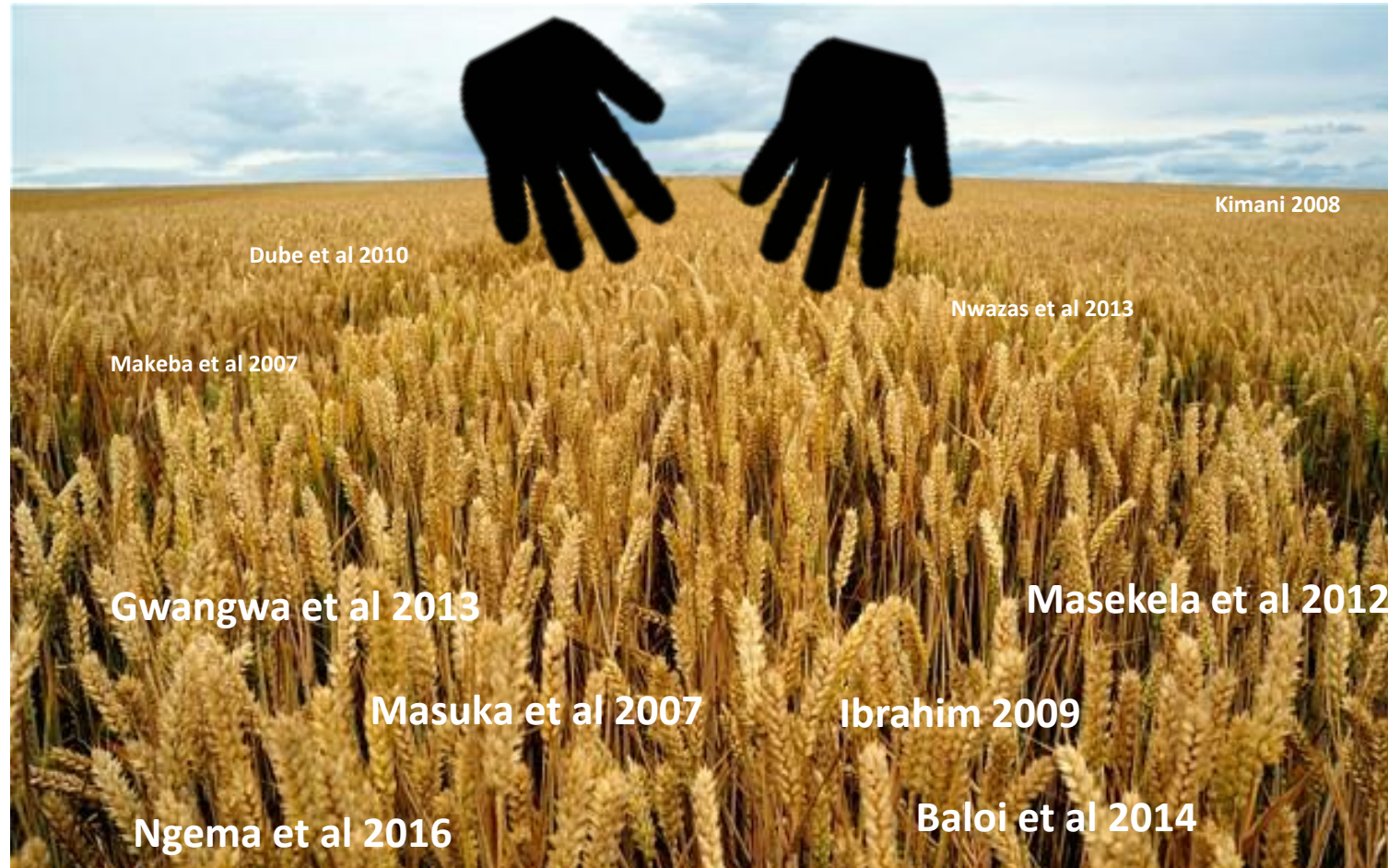
Decisions effect many



Evidence synthesis – one source



The world according to evidence synthesis



Different ways to synthesise evidence



Evidence synthesis: Literature reviews

- Discuss body of knowledge
- Make normative statements

BUT

- Not based on scientific search—scientist can cherry-pick studies
- No critical appraisal of included studies
- No weighting of studies
- No structured synthesis



- **Most literature reviews describe existing knowledge, they don't generate new knowledge; synthesis is about aggregating and configuring existing knowledge to create new knowledge.**

Evidence synthesis: Systematic reviews

- Appraise and synthesise body of knowledge
- Make normative statements

BUT

- Are a form of research in its own right and therefore take time and are resource-intensive
- Follow a well-established methodology that has been iterated and experimented with (quality control vs. rigidity)



Methodologically speaking



Evidence synthesis: Systematic reviews

- Examples from CEE



The screenshot shows the article page for 'What are the impacts of urban agriculture programs on food security in low and middle-income countries: a systematic review' in the journal Environmental Evidence. The page includes a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'ARTICLES', and 'SUBMISSION GUIDELINES'. The article title is prominently displayed, followed by the authors' names: Marcel Korth, Ruth Stewart, Laurenz Langer, Nolizwe Madinga, Natalie Rebelo Da Silva, Hazel Zaranyika, Carina van Rooyen, and Thea de Wet. Below the title, there is a 'Download PDF' button and an 'Export citations' dropdown menu. A 'Table of Contents' section lists various parts of the article: Abstract, Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Review conclusions, Endnotes, Declarations, and References. At the bottom, there are 'METRICS' showing 'Article accesses: 4231' and 'Citations: 1 more information'.

BioMed Central

Environmental Evidence

Collaboration for Environmental Evidence

HOME ABOUT ARTICLES SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW | OPEN ACCESS

What are the impacts of urban agriculture programs on food security in low and middle-income countries: a systematic review

Marcel Korth, Ruth Stewart, Laurenz Langer, Nolizwe Madinga, Natalie Rebelo Da Silva, Hazel Zaranyika, Carina van Rooyen and Thea de Wet

Environmental Evidence The official journal of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence 2014 3:21 | <https://doi.org/10.1186/2047-2382-3-21> | © Korth et al.; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. 2014
Received: 17 March 2014 | Accepted: 14 August 2014 | Published: 22 October 2014

Abstract

Background

Urban Agriculture is considered to contribute to improved food security among the income poor in urban contexts across developing countries. Much literature exists on the topic assuming a positive relationship. The aim of this review was to collect and analyse available evidence on the impact of urban agriculture in low and middle-income countries.

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Table of Contents

- Abstract
- Background
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- Results
- Discussion
- Review conclusions
- Endnotes
- Declarations
- References

METRICS

Article accesses: 4231

Citations: 1 [more information](#)

Synthesis: Rapid evidence assessments

- Appraise and synthesise body of knowledge when we need to know which way to take **quickly**
- Are a systematic review that follows all core steps but not to the same rigour

BUT

- Doesn't search as thoroughly
- Narrow inclusion criteria
- Rapid critical appraisal
- Synthesis only around one question



Synthesis: Rapid evidence assessments

- Examples from the **Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA)** project at the Africa Centre for Evidence
 - What is the impact of **marine resource management** on multidimensional poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa?
 - What is the impact of **governance types in protected areas** on multidimensional poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa?

Synthesis: Evidence maps

- Appraise and synthesise body of knowledge

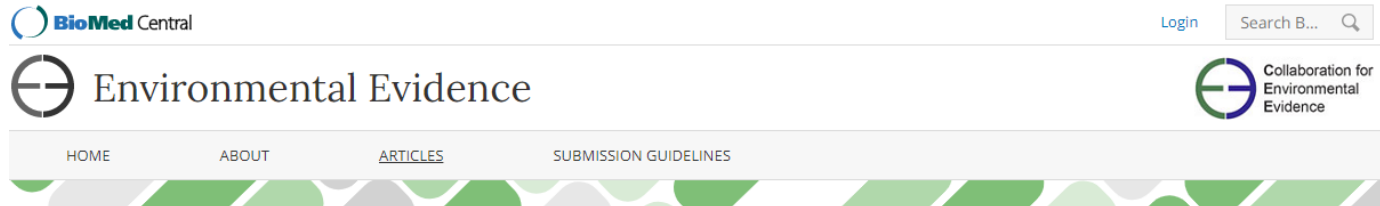
BUT

- Don't make normative statements
- Synthesis is more about patterns and structures in the research landscape
- Evidence maps have developed in an attempt to make systematic reviews more policy-relevant



Synthesis: Evidence maps

- Examples from CEE



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Environmental Evidence website. It includes the BioMed Central logo, a search bar with the text "Search B...", and the Environmental Evidence logo. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, ARTICLES, and SUBMISSION GUIDELINES.

SYSTEMATIC MAP | [OPEN ACCESS](#)

Does the gender composition of forest and fishery management groups affect resource governance and conservation outcomes? A systematic map

Craig Leisher  , Gheda Temsah, Francesca Booker, Michael Day, Leah Samberg, Debra Prosnitz, Bina Agarwal, Elizabeth Matthews, Dilys Roe, Diane Russell, Terry Sunderland and David Wilkie

Environmental Evidence The official journal of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence 2016 5:6 |

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13750-016-0057-8> | © Leisher et al. 2016

Received: 11 October 2015 | Accepted: 8 March 2016 | Published: 21 March 2016

Abstract

Background

Women often use natural resources differently than men yet frequently have minimal influence on how local resources are managed. An emerging hypothesis is that empowering more women in local resource decision-making may lead to better resource governance and conservation. Here we focus on the forestry and fisheries sectors to answer the question: What is the evidence that the gender composition of forest and fisheries management groups affects resource governance and conservation outcomes? We present a systematic map detailing the geographic and thematic extent of the evidence base and assessing the quality of the evidence,

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METRICS

Article accesses: 2558

Citations: 2 [more information](#)

Altmetric Attention Score: 48

How does all this support mainstreaming the science-policy interface?

- Co-producing can lead to mutual learning
- Working on real-world problems [jointly as part of interdisciplinary teams on complex problems]
- Building relationships to support science-policy interface
- What about the policy-science interface?
- Example:
 - CEE Joburg collaborating with decision-makers on a bid to pilot a responsive evidence service from 2018

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