CAPOD Funding Report

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>Applied Bayesian modelling for ecologists and epidemiologists</th>
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<td>Date of event</td>
<td>24 – 29th October 2016</td>
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1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words): The course, organised by PR Statistics, entailed 5.5 days of a combination of lecturing and practical tutorials on the use of Bayesian statistics in ecology and epidemiology. The course was taught by two outstanding statisticians who are well known in the fields of biostatistics and Bayesian inference. The students (n = 25) came from all over the world to attend; all were either ecologists or epidemiologists. We started on the first day programming the algorithms to build our understanding of the underlying processes of Bayesian statistics. Teaching developed throughout the week in terms of both conceptual and programming complexity.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

General benefits from attending this course are: a greater understanding of the concepts, terminology and application of Bayesian inference in ecology; an appreciation for when such techniques could be used in data analysis; networking opportunities.

Specifically, the course provided me with a toolkit for tackling what initially appears to be the overwhelming task of writing a statistical model in a Bayesian framework. I now feel that I am equipped to write simple models and can incorporate this knowledge into my research practice. I also met a few people who I think will become good academic contacts and potential collaborators.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

I intend to begin writing simple models in this framework. My aim is to use this method of statistical analysis in my research in the future. I am currently working on a project where this type of analysis would be appropriate.

I attended the course along with two colleagues from the Scottish Oceans Institute. To continue to help and encourage each other, we will be meeting weekly over lunch to work on our data analyses using the knowledge we gained at this course.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials.

PRstatistics runs several statistics-related courses: http://prstatistics.com/courses/
I would recommend them; the organisation was excellent and PRstatistics clearly got ‘the best’ people together to teach this course.

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

It was expensive but I really think this course was worth it. We are clearly advantaged in having this expertise ‘on our doorstep’ in Scotland. Tips: great to have some colleagues from my institute there as well to tackle problems together and because we will follow-up with the material together. Also, make friends with the teachers ;-) !

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event