Greetings!

The [Environmental Evaluators Network (EEN),](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net) with support from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the European Environment Agency (EEA), is proposing to explore the collaborative development of an Architecture of Environmental Evaluation (ArchEE) as a systemic approach to help meet demands for better evaluation, evidence-based management and improved transfer and use of evaluative knowledge in environmental management. We are seeking out 20-30 individuals to participate in a workshop aimed at taking the next steps in the conceptualization and design. We are contacting you because you have either expressed interest joining this effort or we believe that you and/or your organization understand the common challenges we face and the potential value of this initiative in helping to address them.

Governments, foundations, and non-profit organizations want more evidence about the impact of their investments and a better understanding of what works, how well and why so that resources can be allocated more effectively and efficiently. Sectors such as education, health care, criminal justice and development have access to growing clearinghouses of evidence for improved decision making. Evermore evaluative work is initiated every day in the environmental and related sectors - including biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and environmental protection – yet similar clearinghouses of evidence for improved decision making are nascent and limited. ArchEE, which includes a repository of relevant evaluations, will be an open access inventory of evaluative knowledge that is used to facilitate systematic improvement and systemic change in environmental management.

EEN participants have discussed the need for an inventory of environmental evaluation for many years. Recently, various individuals and groups have coordinated to test aspects of the initiative and begin the conceptualization process, taking the following steps:

* Hosting a [session at the EEN Pacific Forum](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net/2013/09/an-architecture-of-environmental-evaluation-for-a-better-understanding-of-evaluation-evidence-and-effectiveness/) in September 2013. [Session](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Notes-from-ArchEE-session-at-EENP.docx) notes identify challenges and opportunities.
* Composing an initial [draft proposal](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/ArchEE-draft-proposal-9-18-13_final-draft.docx) of the ArchEE concept.
* Coordinating with a knowledge management firm (Issuelab) with common interests (e.g. access and transfer of knowledge). This [synthesis report](http://www.issuelab.org/resource/synthesis_review_of_key_lessons_in_programs_relating_to_oceans_and_fisheries_a) and [interactive graphic](http://fisheriesviz.issuelab.org/) of key learning and success factors were generated from a large collection of reports similar to the proposed repository of environmental evaluations.
* Conducting [social network analysis](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/EENP-social-network-analysis.pptx) of US EEN Pacific Forum participants.
* Conducting a systematic and replicable search of environmental peer reviewed literature, inventorying approximately 2,000 papers related to environmental evaluation published between 2000 and 2010.
* Conducting a cursory search for sources of environmental evaluations, generating a list of about 50 websites that link to multiple evaluation reports.
* Conducting [reviews of four existing repositories of evidence](http://www.environmentalevaluators.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/evaluation-repositories-memo-9-19-13.docx) that could inform the development of ArchEE.

US EPA and EEA are helping EEN take the next steps in the design of the ArchEE initiative by gathering key individuals for a workshop June 17-18, 2015 in Washington, DC. Some issues that will be addressed during the workshop include:

* Purposes, outcomes and audiences
* Obstacles, opportunities and alternatives
* Development and maintenance,
* Champions and contributors
* Use, access and credibility
* Infrastructure, features and functionality
* Resources required and options
* Advisory processes and advisory groups
* Timeline, assignments, actions
* Strategy development and implementation

We look forward to discussing your interest in the workshop and the design and development of ArchEE. We would like to make sure it lines up with your work and your vision for more effective environmental management.