

Opening Remarks for Conference:  
*“Benefits Transfer and Valuation Databases:  
Are We Heading in the Right Direction?”*



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# Outline

- Introduction
- What is EVRI?
- What is the EVRI Club?
- Canadian Context / Activity

# Introduction

- Welcome on behalf of the EVRI Club.
- This conference helps to launch EVRI in US.
  - A collaboration between EVRI-Club and the US-EPA

# What is EVRI?

- Internet Infobase of valuation studies :  
<http://www.evri.ca>
- Currently contains 1,315 study summaries or records that can be easily searched. (Demo next session).

# Composition of EVRI Records

<b>Category of Asset</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>(Records)</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>(544)</b>
<b>Animals (birds, mammals or fish)</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>(424)</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>(357)</b>
<b>Human (health or capital)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>(220)</b>
<b>Air</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>( 95)</b>
<b>Plants (forest, crops)</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>(157)</b>
<b>Man-Made Environment/ Infrastructure</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>(120)</b>
<b>Micro-organisms</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>( 4)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(1921)*</b>

**\*More than one environmental asset may have been identified for each record**

# What is the “EVRI Club”?

- Club formed in 2002 to operate EVRI valuation database with UK, France and Canada.
- U.S. “re-joined” Club in 2003 – collaboration with Canada started in 1990’s
- Club open to all interested countries

# What is the “EVRI Club”?

## *Principles*

- To maintain and expand EVRI for the benefit of member countries
- To promote use of valuation
- Members contribute resources and expertise
- Policy direction set by members
- Accountability

# Canadian Context

- Valuation and BT since mid-1990's to support regulations, legislation and policies.
  - Numerous primary studies: wastewater benefits, valuing natural capital; species at risk
  - AQVM uses benefits transfer to support air quality regulations
  - EVRI project launched to save time & cost of doing original studies
- Government-wide work on valuation: Transport; Agriculture; Natural Resources



# Canadian Context (con't)

- **New Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability Framework (CESF)**
- Objective of CESF:
  - “To attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians, preserve our natural environment, and advance our long-term competitiveness”*
- environmental sustainability emerging as a new basis for competitiveness
  - Links environment and economy

# Canadian context (con't)

- Valuation key role as indicator -- and to integrate environment/economy for CESF policy development
- EVRI Club allows us compare how valuation and benefits transfer applied in other countries e.g., this conference.

- Look forward to the two-day conference
- Provides an excellent opportunity to exchange and learn
  - to improve benefits transfer & valuation database.