

Africa Centre for Evidence

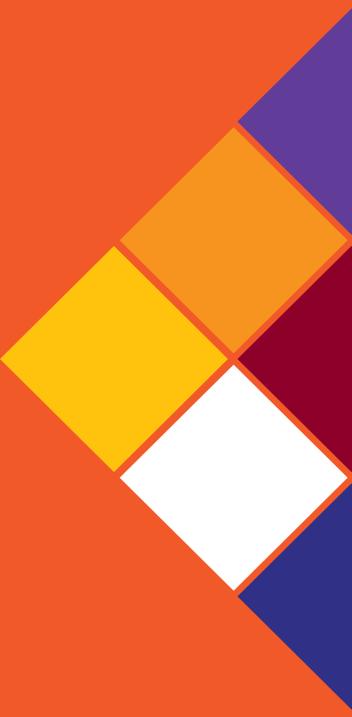
ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Africa
Centre for
Evidence



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG



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1. Message from our director

It is one year since we opened the door of our new Centre, the Africa Centre for Evidence, at the University of Johannesburg and it has been a truly remarkable journey.

What our team has achieved in this short time with respect to our research projects, support to governments, funding secured, and academic outputs is remarkable.

I am extremely proud of the talented team of people who have made this possible, and all those who have supported us along the way. None of the achievements laid out in this report would have been possible without them. I have no doubt that 2017 has seen the birth of a Centre that will remain on the map for many years to come. With thanks and congratulations to all concerned, our ACE team, our funders, and all our partners and supporters.



Prof Ruth Stewart
ACE Director

2. Introduction to the Africa Centre for Evidence

The Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE), based at the University of Johannesburg, was established in late 2016.

Our vision is to reduce poverty and inequality in our region by increasing the production and application of research evidence that is both useful and used. We have strong partnerships with governments, universities, and non-governmental agencies across the continent.

We work towards the following five strategic goals:

1. To produce useful research evidence to inform policy and practice across the region;
2. To support the production of high-quality systematic reviews, evidence maps, and other forms of evidence syntheses by others;
3. To support the use of research evidence amongst decision-makers;
4. To ensure that systematic review, mapping, and synthesis designs and methods are fully responsive to the contexts and needs of research producers and users in Africa; and
5. To build strategic local, national, regional, and international partnerships with the shared vision of ensuring research is of high quality, useful, and used.

Review full project descriptions on the ACE website:
www.africacentreforevidence.org

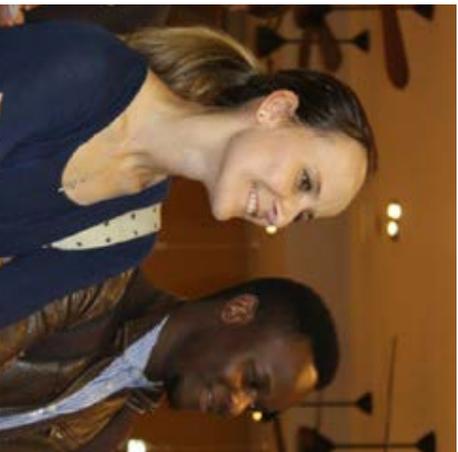
3. Getting started in 2017

Launching ACE

The first year as ACE was very successful. We celebrated our establishment with a launch at the University of Johannesburg's Bunting Road Campus.

During the marketplace of TED-style talks, team members introduced ACE's activities within the five strategic goals.

Despite a huge storm during the last few hours of the day towards the start time of the launch, the event drew attendees from not only the University of Johannesburg (both academics and non-academics), but also colleagues from University of the Witwatersrand, and the University of Pretoria. Also in attendance were some of our business partners and government colleagues from the South African Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the South African Department for Social Development (DSD). Africa Check, a non-profit organisation that promotes accuracy in public debate and the media in Africa, was also present at the launch.



Launching ACE attendees at our launch came from business, government, academia, and civil society organisations.

Key accomplishments

- Formal launch
- Published 19 papers and reports
- Obtained a five-star rating with Transparency for transparent reporting of our income
- Director delivered the opening keynote address at the Global Evidence Summit in Cape Town
- Director interviewed on both television and radio
- Conducted 11 systematic reviews, evidence maps and rapid evidence assessments
- Secured a three-year placement to ACE for the co-director of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence's Johannesburg Centre (CEE Joburg)
- Shared our work with seven government departments in South Africa and two in the UK
- Provided training for 77 people on various evidence topics
- Supported 11 of UI's postgraduate students in completing their studies through a writing retreat
- Contributed to hosting South Africa's Department for Environmental Affairs' annual Biodiversity and Evidence Indaba
- Secured R10 million of funding, which included support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for the Africa Evidence Network (AEN)
- Became an active member of the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI)

4. Our people

ACE colleagues

We are a multi-disciplinary team, and in all our work we collaborate with other institutions. This helps us to continuously learn and improve our work.

Our team consists of full-time and part-time colleagues. We've also created an in-house mentorship programme to enable all colleagues to develop further and reach their full potential.



Ruth Stewart
Director



Sizwe Ngcwabe
Senior manager of the Africa Evidence Network



Carina van Rooyen
Senior researcher



Christa Heyneke
Centre administrator



Desyre Lotter
Project manager



Precious Motha
Communication officer



Sunet Jordan
Training manager



Yvonne Erasmus
Specialist in evidence-informed decision-making



Laurenz Langer
Evidence synthesis specialist



Natalie Tannous
Researcher



Mary Opondo
Researcher



Zafeer Ravat
Researcher



Charity Chisoro
Researcher



Promise Nduku
Researcher

ACE Advisory Committee

ACE established its Advisory Committee in 2017, in order to:

- Provide advice and guidance as appropriate to ACE on its design and implementation of various funded and cost-charged projects that include capacity-building for the use of research evidence across the continent;
- Provide advice and guidance as appropriate to ACE on its support to the AEN and CEE Joburg;
- Share members' particular areas of experience and expertise to help identify possible pitfalls and opportunities in the delivery of the various funded and cost-charged programmes;
- Help the Centre to build networks and expertise by recommending contacts and resources when possible; and
- Becoming ambassadors for ACE and the AEN in members' own work contexts.

The Advisory Committee consists of three members outside of Africa, three members within wider Africa, three members within South Africa, and one University of Johannesburg representative. The members come from various sectors including universities, government, and civil society.

Members of the ACE Advisory Committee

Harsha Dayal	Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa
Shanil Haricharan	Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, University of Cape Town, South Africa
John Lavis	McMaster University, Canada
Beryl Leach	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), India
Rhona Mijumbi	College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda
Kammlia Naidoo	University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Sandy Oliver	The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), University College London, United Kingdom
Rose Oronje	African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Kenya
Josephine Watera	Parliament of Uganda, Uganda
Taryn Young	Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

5. Our funding in 2017

In 2017 Transparency awarded ACE a five-star rating, its top rating for think tanks, for financial transparency. What this rating means is that as ACE, we publish all our funding information on our website, making it possible for anyone to see where our funding comes from.¹

The screenshot shows the Transparency website interface. At the top, it displays a five-star rating for 'Africa Centre for Evidence (South Africa)'. Below the rating, there is a list of funders, including 'African Economic Research Consortium (Kenya)', 'Assessing International (UK)', 'Aesthetix - Centre for Social Research (Israel)', 'Bristol (England)', 'CIPECOS (Ghana)', and 'Cousins Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (Ghana)'. The website also features a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, THINK TANKS, METHODOLOGY, PUBLICATIONS, and PAGES. A quote from the website states: 'Out of over 1000 think tanks worldwide covered in our 2016 report, fewer than 60 received the maximum possible five-star rating, reflecting their exemplary transparency when it comes to publicly disclosing their sources of funding. Those think tanks use their websites to disclose in great detail who funds them, with what sums, and for what research projects. They set the gold standard for the field as a whole.'

Source: <http://www.transparency.org/5-star/>

¹ Read our blog posting on this at <http://www.transparency.org/blog/2017/7/3/why-accountability-and-transparency-matters-for-a-research-centre-at-a-publicly-funded-university-in-south-africa>.

Below is a list of all the funders of ACE activities in 2017. With the exception of structural hosting of our Centre by the University of Johannesburg, all of our funding to date has been external and is project specific.



University of Johannesburg (UJ)
The University of Johannesburg provides our office space, as well as other structural support such as access to libraries and an academic community. They do not provide any financial support to the Centre. We received R42 000 in funding from UJ for the provision of a writing retreat for postgraduate students in the Faculty of Humanities in August 2017.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has funded ACE through grant of \$545 000 to support the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) from 1 September 2017 to 31 March 2019.

Department for International Development (DFID)
The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) funded ACE through a systematic review (Women in wage labour) project grant worth £70 000 from 1 November 2016 until 30 October 2017.

Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation Programme (ESPA)
The Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation Programme (ESPA) supported ACE through an evidence synthesis project grant worth £175 000 from 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017.

Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)
The South African national Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) funded ACE through an evidence synthesis consultancy agreement (Evidence maps and synthesis: Capable and Development State) worth R99 000 from January to March 2017.

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) funded ACE through a systematic review consultancy agreement worth \$23 955 from April 2017 to May 2018.



University of South Africa (UNISA)
We received R20 000 in funding from UNISA for the provision of training in evidence synthesis, including systematic reviews and evidence maps, in February 2017.

University of Cape Town
We received R12 500 in funding from the University of Cape Town for the provision of training in evidence-informed decision-making and research methods in February 2017.

Campbell Collaboration
We received R40 000 in funding from the Campbell Collaboration for the provision of training in systematic reviews in July 2017.

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
We received R20 000 in funding from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for the provision of training in systematic reviews in October 2017.

Oxford University
We collaborated with the Department of Education at Oxford University on an evidence synthesis project supported by a project grant worth £50 000 from 1 January 2015 to 30 November 2016; this grant was extended until April 2017.

6. Our work in 2017

Providing the secretariat to the Africa Evidence Network

ACE provides the secretariat to the Africa Evidence Network (AEN). The AEN is a community of 1300 people who have an interest in evidence, its production, and use in decision-making in Africa.

Members include researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers from universities, civil society, and government. The members are based in 41 African countries and 20 countries outside Africa. Highlights for the AEN in 2017 include our participation in the conferences of the African Evaluation Association, the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association, the South African Science Forum, and the Global Evidence Summit. We also completed and published a survey of evidence synthesis capacity across Africa. We facilitated a number of discussions and debates amongst our members on key issues around evidence production and use, including who sets agendas around capacity-building. We were pleased to secure funding for the Network going forwards and to welcome our new senior manager, Sizwe Ngwabe.

Hosting the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence's Johannesburg Centre (CEE Joburg)

ACE hosts the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence's only centre in Africa, CEE Joburg.

The main mandate of CEE Joburg is to contribute to the work of the global Collaboration by encouraging the need for systematic reviews to inform environmental policy and practice in Africa. As a team of experienced reviewers, we fulfilled this mandate in 2017 by offering support to environmental scientists, managers, and practitioners who sought to undertake or use systematic reviews.

Reviewing the evidence on how to support women's participation in wage labour

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) funded a year-long systematic review of the evidence on interventions that aim to support women's participation in labour markets in higher-growth/male-dominated sectors in low- and middle-income countries.

The project consisted of two parts: the development of an interactive evidence interface and the completion of a full systematic review. The evidence interface mapped any intervention that supports women in overcoming barriers to their labour market participation in higher-growth/male-dominated sectors against outcomes of women's participation in formal or informal employment, entrepreneurial success, or economic empowerment. The second part of the project consisted of a full systematic review which synthesised the effects of the different labour market interventions to assess what works in increasing women's wage labour participation. The review included a meta-analysis and a qualitative comparative analysis. The review team was supported by the EPPI-Centre, which is based in the Social Science Research Unit at the Department of Social Science, UCL Institute of Education in London.

Reviewing the evidence on how ecosystem services can be used to support multidimensional poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa

This project focussed on co-producing evidence syntheses products with decision-makers in the context of ecosystem services and how these can be used to support poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa.

The first step of the project was to produce an interactive evidence interface that mapped interventions for ecosystem services against different components of poverty. Mapping this research in this way allowed decision-makers to actively view the areas where there is either a lot or too little research. It also allowed decision-makers to see whether research considers poverty in a multi-dimensional way. The second part of this project was to co-produce with sub-Saharan African decision-makers four rapid evidence assessments on policy priority areas.

We conducted four syntheses to answer the following questions:

- Does governance type in protected areas matter for poverty?
- What are the impacts of marine resource management on multi-dimensional poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa?
- Which methods are used in ecosystem services and poverty alleviation research?
- Which decision tools are available for ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa?

Reviewing the evidence on the effects of payment for environmental services in low- and middle-income countries

This ongoing project is being conducted in collaboration with 3ie.

It entails the production of a systematic review of the evidence on the effects of payment for environmental services (PES) in low- and middle-income countries. The review is registered with the Campbell Collaboration and uses statistical meta-analysis to assess the effectiveness of PES. In addition, the ACE project team is leading on the qualitative evidence synthesis to unpack the different factors influencing the effects of PES.

Reviewing the evidence on the Capable and Development State

This project formed part of an ongoing partnership between South Africa's Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and ACE, with DPME leading the work.

We built on the Human Settlement Evidence Map that we co-produced with DPME in 2016, aiming to introduce the use of evidence synthesis methodology to develop concepts and models that decision-makers can apply. In South Africa, there is strong interest in the conceptual literature around the Developmental State and the Capable State. We applied different aspects of evidence synthesis methodology to construct a systematic and transparent overview and synthesis of the literature on the Developmental and Capable State. This overview developed 19 country case studies that outlined the policies and public interventions that countries have adopted as part of becoming Developmental States. These policies and interventions were supplemented with historical and secondary economic data. We then conducted a cross-country synthesis to understand the relevance of different policy configuration to the South African policy context.

Reviewing the evidence on the abuse of children with disabilities in east Africa

This project focussed on conducting an evidence map on research investigating the abuse of children with disabilities in east Africa.

The work was conducted in collaboration with Niall Winters and Anne Geniets from the Department of Education at Oxford University in the UK. We set out to understand patterns and gaps in the conducted research with a special emphasis on potential protective and risk factors of abuse. The evidence map visualised the relationships between the different types of disabilities and types of abuse, as well as the amount of research evidence focussing on each. The map also indicated the trustworthiness and relevance of the research.

Reviewing the evidence on technology and education

This work formed part of one of our staff member's (Laurenz Langer's) PhD research, co-supervised by ACE Director Ruth Stewart and Niall Winters from the Department of Education, Oxford University.

Parts of this research were conducted under a historical project led by Ruth Stewart at UJ (as part of the University of Johannesburg's programme to Build Capacity to Use Research Evidence (UJ-BCURE) grant) and involved South Africa's Department for Basic Education, the South African Department for Science and Technology, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Information Communication Technology for Rural Education Development (ICT4RED) project team. It entailed a mixed-methods systematic review on the impact of using mobile technologies to support education in low- and middle-income countries. Following the systematic review, it also included a qualitative case study on a mobile learning project in the rural Eastern Cape in South Africa. The ICT4RED project was further used as a case study for UJ-BCURE's programme of work around increasing the use of evidence in South African government. The project supported ACE's work in adapting evidence synthesis methodologies to be more relevant to assessing the outcomes of development interventions. It also overlapped with ACE's efforts to inform policy design in South Africa by producing and packaging relevant research evidence.

Providing training and capacity support

ACE assisted the following organisations with training and capacity support in 2017:

- **Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)**
We provided in-depth capacity support and mentoring on evidence synthesis methodologies for four DPME staff as part of the Developmental State Evidence Synthesis project. This followed a match-making approach for capacity-sharing.
- **University of South Africa (UNISA)**
We trained 14 people from the College of Accounting Sciences on the introduction of evidence-informed decision-making.
- **University of Cape Town (UCT)**
We trained 20 people from the Department for Justice and Constitutional Development on behalf of UCT on the introduction of EIDM.
- **Campbell Collaboration**
We trained 39 people from the International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) on systematic reviews in partnership with the Campbell Collaboration and colleagues from Makerere University, Uganda.
- **University of Johannesburg (UJ)**
ACE provided a writing retreat for postgraduate students from UJ's Faculty of Humanities who were struggling to complete their dissertations and PhD theses. Two of the facilitators at the writing retreat wrote a blog on the lessons learned².
- **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**
We trained colleagues from CSIR's Natural Resources and the Environment Unit on systematic reviews.

Building evidence communities

In addition to providing the secretariat to the Africa Evidence Network and to hosting the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence's Johannesburg Centre, ACE had in 2017 various initiatives to build and sustain evidence communities locally and internationally. In 2017 these included:

- **Facilitating a South African government cross-departmental community of practice on evidence**
In early 2016 we helped to create this informal group of senior government officials with an interest in evidence. We continued to play a role in the group in 2017. Whilst the work was unfunded and the group was informal, it was an exciting opportunity to help to build this important evidence community. The group's meetings since came to an end in 2017 due to further more formal developments in government taking forwards the shared evidence agenda.
- **Membership of the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI)**
The Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) is an international collaboration to support the growth of capacity to undertake systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses in low- and middle-income countries. Along with a number of centres in Africa, ACE is a member of their global network and serves on their advisory group.
- **McMaster University internship programme**
Since 2016, ACE has had an internship placement agreement with the McMaster Health Forum from McMaster University in Canada, welcoming interns to UJ to support the work of ACE and of our partners, DPME. In 2017 we hosted our second intern at ACE.

"It was amazing to see the team at the Africa Centre for Evidence so fully engaged with the government department. They were able to cater their research and capacity building activities to suit the needs of the department. I will take these lessons forward, as the team at ACE showed me that by actively seeking out EIDM champions within the government and allowing them to drive research you are able to achieve a larger impact."

– Malcolm Hartman, McMaster University

² <http://www.africaevidencenetwork.org/ace-facilitating-a-pilot-of-humanities-post-graduate-retreat/>



The ACE team had three additional presentations at the Summit:

- Yvonne Erasmus's oral presentation: Understanding the evidence-informed decision-making landscape in Africa: actors, engagement and skills.
- Laurenz Langer's poster presentation: User engagement in evidence synthesis: a comparative analysis of African labour, housing, and conservation policies.
- Ruth Stewart and Natalie Tannous, in collaboration with Sif Johansson and Neal Haddaway of the Mistra Council for Evidence-based Environmental Management (EviEM), organised a threaded session: Climate change in focus: Incorporating evidence synthesis methodology into environmental decision-making.

Additional conference and event contributions for ACE in 2017 included:

- Exhibiting and presenting at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association's 6th Conference in Pretoria, South Africa. ACE also co-led one of the conference's five strands along with CLEAR-AA, bringing together a programme of presentations and discussions on the theme of Evidence use.

- Exhibiting and presenting at the African Evaluation Association conference in Kampala, Uganda.

- Exhibiting at the Science Forum in Pretoria, South Africa.

- Supporting the hosting of the annual Biodiversity and Evidence Indaba of the South African Department for Environmental Affairs in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Presenting at the International Centre for Evaluation and Development's (ICED) Evidence to Action Conference in Accra, Ghana.

- Presenting at the Eco system Services for Poverty Alleviation Annual Science Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland.

- Presenting at the conference on Crossing boundaries: Multi-disciplinary research to strengthen low- and middle-income country health systems in Oxford, United Kingdom.

- Presenting at the Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa in Grahamstown, South Africa.

- Co-leading a joint learning event at the University of Johannesburg with colleagues from Makerere University in Uganda in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Delivering a learning seminar for Oxford Policy Management in Oxford, United Kingdom, and

- Leading one of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development's Evidence Series in London, United Kingdom.



7. ACE outputs in 2017

Publications

Cooke J, Johansson S, Andersson K, Livoreil B, Post G, Richards R, Stewart R, Pullin AS (2017) Better evidence, better decisions, better environment: emergent themes from the first environmental evidence conference. *Environmental Evidence*, 6(15). DOI: 10.1186/s13750-017-0092-0

Erasmus Y, Lötter D, Tannous N, Stewart R (2017) 'Reflections on per diems in international development: Barriers to and enablers of the project cycle.' *Development Southern Africa* <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0376835X.2017.1384364>

Erasmus Y, Langer L (2017) Does governance type in protected areas matter for poverty? A Rapid Assessment of the Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa. Johannesburg: Africa Centre for Evidence.

Erasmus Y, Tannous N, Langer L (2017) A systematic map of evidence on the links between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in Africa: A user guide. Africa Centre for Evidence. Available at: www.africacentreforevidence.org

Gough D, Stewart R, Tripney J (2017) Using research findings. In: Gough D, Oliver S, Thomas J (2017) *An Introduction to Systematic Reviews*. London: Sage Publications Ltd, pages 279-296. ISBN: 9781473929432

Haddaway NR, Kohl C, Rebelo da Silva N, Schiemann J, Spöck A, Stewart R, Sweet JB, Wilhelm R (2017) A framework for stakeholder engagement during systematic reviews and maps in environmental management *Environmental Evidence*, 6(11). DOI: 10.1186/s13750-017-0089-8

Langer L, Erasmus Y, Tannous N, Stewart R (2017) How stakeholder engagement has led us to reconsider definitions of rigour in systematic reviews. *Environmental Evidence*, 6(20) ISSN 2047-2382. DOI: 10.1186/s13750-017-0098-7

Langer L, Tripney J, Erasmus Y, Tannous N, Chisoro C, Opondo M, Zigana L, Obuku E, van Rooyen C, Stewart R (2017) Women in wage labour: A systematic review of the effectiveness and design features of interventions supporting women's participation in wage labour in higher growth and/or male-dominated sectors in LMICs: A systematic Review Protocol. London: Eppi Centre, Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/yvcb73pe>

Oya C, Schaefer F, Skalidou D, McCosker C, Langer L (2017) Effects of certification schemes for agricultural production on socio-economic outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 2017;3:ISSN 1891-1803. DOI:10.4073/csr2017.3 Available from: https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/media/42/attachments/Campbell_systematic_review-agricultural_certification_schemes.pdf

Stewart R, Erasmus Y, and the UJ-BCURE team. 2017. Working for solutions: a problem-based and relationship centred approach to building capacity to use research evidence in Africa. Johannesburg: Africa Centre for Evidence.

Stewart R, Chisoro C, Opondo M, Tannous N, van Rooyen C (2017) *Decision-tools for ecosystem services and poverty alleviation: A rapid evidence assessment*. Johannesburg: Africa Centre for Evidence.

Stewart R, Langer L, Dayaji H (2017) Titles, tensions and terminology within evidence-informed decision-making Research for AII. 1(2): 252-264 ISSN 2399-8121. <https://doi.org/10.18546/RFA.01.2.03>

Stewart R, Langer L, Wildemann R, Maluwa L, Erasmus Y, Jordaan S, Lötter D, Mitchell J, Mocha P (2017) Building capacity for evidence-informed decision-making: An example from South Africa. *Evidence & Policy*, ISSN 1744-2648 <https://doi.org/10.1332/174426417X14890741484716>

Stewart R, Wildemann R, Jordaan S, Erasmus Y, Langer L, Maluwa L, Tannous N, Mitchell J (2017) 'Practical reflections on combining workshop and mentorships to build capacity in demand and use of evidence in government organizations'. *Evidence & Policy*, ISSN 1744-2648. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/tppe/ep/pre-prints/content-epveidp01d17000006r3>

Stewart R, Nduku P, Langer L (2017) Capacity in Africa: The results of a survey on support for and production of evidence maps and evidence syntheses, including systematic reviews. Africa Centre for Evidence as secretariat to the Africa Evidence Network, University of Johannesburg: Johannesburg, South Africa. Available from: <http://tinyurl.com/y7edp4fy>

Tipney J, Hogrebe N, Schmidt E, Vigus C, Stewart R (2017) Employment supports for adults with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries: A Campbell Systematic Review. *Research on Social Work Practice*. Online: July 17 edition.

Van Rooyen C, Opondo M, Chisoro C, Tannous N, Stewart R (2017). *Methods used in ecosystem services and poverty alleviation research: A rapid evidence assessment*. Johannesburg: Africa Centre for Evidence.

Van Rooyen C, Tannous N (2017). *What is the impact of marine resources management on multi-dimensional poverty in sub-Saharan Africa? A rapid evidence assessment report*. Johannesburg: Africa Centre for Evidence.

Writers N, Langer L, Geniets A (2017) Physical, psychological, sexual, and systemic abuse of children with disabilities in East Africa: Mapping the evidence PLOS ONE, 12(9): e0184541. EISSN 1932-6203 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0184541>

Conference presentations and posters

Chisoro C, Langer L, Erasmus Y, Tannous N, Opondo M, Stewart R (2017) 'What works to enhance female labour market participation in higher-growth and/or male-dominated economic sectors in LMICs: An evidence map.' Panel presentation at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMMEA) Conference, 23-27 October 2017, Sandton, South Africa.

Erasmus Y, Langer L (2017) 'Rapid Evidence Assessments (REAs) on the impact of: (1) governance in protected areas (2) marine resource management on multi-dimensional poverty in sub-Saharan Africa'. Panel presentation at the ESPA Science Conference, 29-30 November 2017, Edinburgh, UK.

Erasmus Y, Langer L, Ravat Z, Stewart R (2017) 'Understanding the evidence-informed decision-making landscape in Africa: Actors, engagement and skills.' Panel presentation at the Global Evidence Summit, 11-16 September 2017, Cape Town, South Africa.

Erasmus Y, Tannous N (2017) 'Evidence map on the links between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in Africa.' Presentation at the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Biodiversity and Evidence Indaba, 17-18 August 2017, Pretoria, South Africa.

Erasmus Y, Langer L, Tannous N (2017). 'What is the evidence on the links between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation in Africa? A demand-led evidence map?' Presentation at the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Biodiversity and Evidence Indaba, 17-18 August 2017, Pretoria, South Africa.

Langer L (2017) 'Using Systematic Reviews and Evidence Synthesis to Develop Policy and Action: an example from South Africa.' Panel presentation at the Evidence to Action Conference, 25-26 July 2017, Accra, Ghana.

Langer L (2017) 'Producing & Using Evidence Synthesis in South Africa.' Intra-African Learning Event on Evidence Synthesis, 22 May 2017, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg.

Langer L, Breckon J (2017) 'Using evidence: what works.' Learning seminar for Oxford Policy Management, 17 July 2017, Oxford UK.

Langer L, Nduku P (2017) 'Capacity-building to produce useful evidence: Who sets the agenda and what needs to change?' Roundtable discussion at the Global Evidence Summit, 11-16 September 2017, Cape Town, South Africa.

Langer L, Writers N, Geniets A (2017) 'Physical, psychological, sexual, and systemic abuse of children with disabilities in East Africa: Mapping the evidence'. Panel presentation at the Crossing Boundaries: Multidisciplinary Research to Strengthen LMIC Health Systems, 7 December 2017, Oxford, UK.

Langer L with the wider ACE team (2018) 'Summary findings: Women in wage labour: a systematic review.' DFD Evidence Series, 28 November 2017, London, UK.

Leach B, Stewart R (2017) 'Capacity building to produce useful evidence: Who sets the agenda?', Global Evidence Summit, 12 September 2017, Cape Town, South Africa.

Nduku P, Simo-Kengne B (2017) 'Population age structure and savings behaviour in South Africa: The relevance of the life-cycle hypothesis.' Presentation at the Biennial Conference of the Economic Society of South Africa, 30 August - 1 September 2017, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

Nduku P, Stewart R, Langer L (2017) 'Capacity in Africa: The results of a survey on support for and production of evidence maps and evidence syntheses, including systematic reviews.' Panel presentation at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMMEA) Conference, 23-27 October 2017, Sandton, South Africa.

Opondo M, Chisoro C, Stewart R (2017) 'An overview of current training tools and resources on evidence-informed decision-making.' Panel presentation at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMMEA) Conference, 23-27 October 2017, Sandton, South Africa.

Ravat Z, Langer L, Erasmus Y (2017) 'Understanding the evidence-informed decision-making landscape in Africa: actors, engagement and skills.' Panel presentation at the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMMEA) Conference, 23-27 October 2017, Sandton, South Africa.

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