

Systematic reviews have a dual role within nature conservation. They are utilised to assess the best available evidence on a particular management/policy issue but they also highlight knowledge gaps that exist, paving the way for needs-led research.

The review of the effectiveness of trapping to control the American Mink *Mustela vison* is a good example of the latter category, very little evidence exists on the control of *M. vison* therefore no measure of effectiveness can be attributed to the current control techniques. A review such as this will no doubt disappoint practitioners that are looking for a definitive answer to their particular problem. However, this type of outcome is still very valuable in informing practitioners and scientists on the next step they need to take in measuring effectiveness of the intervention.

The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) at The University of Oxford, together with the University of Newcastle are currently carrying out experiments into the effectiveness of trapping as an intervention to control *M. vison*. This work will hopefully provide a better quality data set and when study results are available it will be desirable to update the systematic review to incorporate this new evidence. Further details of this experiment can be found at the WildCRU website [www.wildcru.org](http://www.wildcru.org).

If you are interested in contributing to an updated review on this subject, or are aware of new data that may be incorporated, please contact us.