

**WORKSHOP** April 23-27, 2012

***STOCHASTIC DEMOGRAPHY IN FLUCTUATING ENVIRONMENTS:***

***THEORY AND EMPIRICAL PATTERNS***

On the occasion of Professor Russell Lande's award of the Balzan Prize 2011 for Theoretical Biology or Bioinformatics, the Centre for Conservation Biology (CCB) will organize a workshop in *Stochastic demography in fluctuating environments: theory and empirical patterns* April 23-27, 2012. The workshop will be aimed at young scientists in the initial stages of their scientific career. The focus will be on models for describing the demography of populations in fluctuating environments, methods for estimation of parameters from data and presentations of empirical examples that illustrate the practical application of this quantitative approach for understanding dynamics of populations. Topics that will be covered are the concepts of demographic and environmental stochasticity, density-dependence in age-structured populations, techniques for estimating key parameters in age-structured models, spatial synchrony in population fluctuations, population viability analyses and community dynamics.

The workshop will be based on introductory lectures by Prof. Steinar Engen, Prof. Russell Lande, Prof. Bernt-Erik Sæther, Prof. Jarle Tufto and Researcher Vidar Grøtan. In addition, the participants will present their own research in short talks, which will be subject for open discussion. The participants will also be involved in short group exercises on selected topics under the supervision of researchers at CCB.

The venue will be the island of Lovund at Helgeland in northern Norway (<http://www.lovund.no/>). Several field studies (e.g. on house sparrows) run by CCB have been located in this pristine coastal environment.

*Applications.* The workshop is primarily aimed at young (<37 years old) researchers (e.g. graduate students and post docs) in the beginning of their research career, but applications

from more senior persons will also be considered. The stay will be free. If necessary, the organizers can also provide funding for travel costs.

The application should contain a CV, including all contact details. In addition, a summary (<200 words) of the current research interests, the three most relevant papers (if applicable), whether you need travel funds and the airport of departure for the travel to Helgeland should be included. The application should be emailed as pdf or Word files to Ingunn Yttersian ([Ingunn.Yttersian@bio.ntnu.no](mailto:Ingunn.Yttersian@bio.ntnu.no)) by February 15, 2012.