



Chartered
Institute of
Ecology and
Environmental
Management

Code of Professional Conduct



www.cieem.net

Code of Professional Conduct

1. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the professional body for applied practitioners of the science of ecology and its application through management of the natural environment. Its objects are to:
 - advance the understanding and the standards of practice of ecology and environmental management for the benefit of the natural environment and the public good; and
 - further the conservation, management and enhancement of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological processes and life support systems essential to a fully functional biosphere.
2. The profession has a key role to play in the understanding, conservation and management of the natural world and promoting responsible and sustainable usage of its resources; this is the guiding principle of CIEEM. Membership of CIEEM is a recognised benchmark of professionalism within the field of ecology and environmental management. CIEEM's Competency Framework sets the standards for admission and for member's claims of competence. CIEEM's professional development requirements set the standards for the maintenance and development of professional knowledge, skills and competencies for continued membership.
3. This Code outlines the behaviours expected of members for the benefit and stewardship of the natural environment. This Code has an important role in ensuring membership of CIEEM remains the respected and credible benchmark of professionalism and is based upon the fundamental principles of: competence, behaviour with integrity, ethical standards, lawfulness, professionalism and stewardship.
4. This Code applies to all members in all aspects of the delivery of their work (within and without Britain and the island of Ireland). Members shall comply with EC Directives, their national legislation and policy or where that is not possible, identify and justify any departures and assess the significance of that alternative course of action. If working overseas and local standards of professional practice are undefined or inadequate members shall likewise meet the spirit of the aforementioned legislation and policy.
5. Through this Code, CIEEM acts as a regulator to ensure the highest standards of conduct and practice in the ecological profession. Members are bound by this Code and associated documents. Acceptance of, and adherence to, this Code is a condition of membership and every member has a duty to comply with it. CIEEM members are committed to upholding and maintaining these standards and must ensure that no action of theirs could bring the profession into disrepute.
6. Members will make every effort to resolve constructively differences of professional opinion. They will use their best endeavours to assist in any enquiries CIEEM might make to investigate alleged breaches of this Code. They will neither seek to dissuade, penalise or discourage a person from bringing a complaint against any member and will not interfere with or otherwise compromise due process, including maintaining their membership until the matter is resolved. CIEEM will deem their membership to continue for this purpose.

Code of Professional Conduct

7. As a member of CIEEM I shall:

- i. uphold the reputation of the profession;
- ii. maintain and develop my professional knowledge and skills and work normally within my sphere of competence;
- iii. seek advice and assistance if I am involved in topics outwith my sphere of competence;
- iv. ensure I exercise sound professional judgement when I provide information and advice, applying objectivity, relevance, accuracy, fairness and impartiality in the provision of such information and advice, whilst complying with all laws and regulations;
- v. accept responsibility for my actions and decisions;
- vi. uphold professional integrity whilst maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct;
- vii. conduct business relationships with integrity, in accordance with the principles of free and fair competition;
- viii. make scientific data and information publicly available whenever possible, subject to the safeguard and confidentiality of commercially-sensitive and personal data;
- ix. promote equality of opportunity and support human rights in my professional activities;
- x. ensure those working for me are appropriately qualified, competent and where necessary are supervised and supported; and
- xi. undertake such continuing professional development as CIEEM shall require.

This Code of Professional Conduct comes into effect on 1 June 2013.

References:

CIEEM (2013). *Charter and Byelaws*. www.cieem.net/governance.

CIEEM (2011). *Professional Conduct Series: Continuing Professional Development*.
www.cieem.net/professional-conduct.

CIEEM (2012). *Competency Framework*. www.cieem.net/competency-framework.

© CIEEM JUNE 2013



Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

43 Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9EH, UK.

Tel: +44 1962 868626 **E-mail:** enquiries@cieem.net **Web:** www.cieem.net