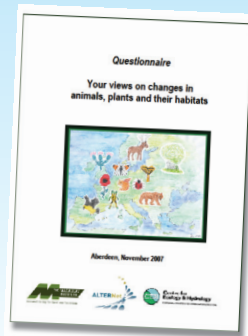


## Ideas of nature – some of our projects

### Perceptions of change

*Some findings:*

- strong concern about global changes (species loss)
- complex changes observed locally: e.g., species increase
- attitudes towards a species depend on its harmfulness, value, and whether it has previously been decreasing



Survey in 8 European sites including Aberdeen City & Shire

### Views on 'invasive' species

Some biologists see invasive species as a major threat to local nature. What do the public think?

Bruce Martin, Wikimedia Commons



Robert Barber/Paintnet

*Some findings:*

- Non-nativeness matters little – impacts of expanding species matter most to people
- However, the language used in the media invites a nationalist perspective

### Management of seabird islands

On some seabird islands in the Firth of Forth, a tall plant (tree mallow) is obstructing the breeding of puffins. Conservationists would like to spray plants to make space for puffins.

*Survey of the local public – some findings:*

- restoring a balance is important
- but risk to the local environment needs to be avoided at all cost!
- strongest arguments in the debate: naturalness and balance

*Result:* Manual weeding takes place



### Attitudes towards conservation in Nepal

*How do people think about conservation in other parts of the world, e.g., very poor countries?*

*Some findings:*

- widespread support for conservation of both useful and decorative plant species
- school education encourages feelings of empathy with nature, and greater support for conservation
- women more supportive than men
- wealth (linked to caste) is also important
- complements research into people's views from other parts of the world



### Views on nature in the Cairngorms

- How would people like to see the National Park managed?
- What is special about the Cairngorms, in their view?

*Some findings:*

- Multifunctionality (e.g., hunting, tourism, conservation) of the park widely accepted
- Views more conciliatory than commonly expected – starting point for joint solutions?
- Trust in fellow humans: important argument in the debate over access

*Results:* A basis for joint solutions

