



INSTITUTE of ECOLOGY and ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Autumn Conference

Protected Areas: Past, Present and Prospects
Center Parcs, Elveden Forest, Brandon, Suffolk
10-12 November 2009

With climate change issues taking centre stage, many ecologists are turning away from traditional site-based protection of our most valuable habitats in favour of landscape scale restoration networks and projects. On the other hand some of our traditional protected landscapes are accused of being too focused on natural beauty and cultural heritage rather than biodiversity. This conference aims to consider some of the big questions being faced by those involved in managing our protected areas, from reserve managers to landscape managers, and take a wider look at the role and value of protected areas in a rapidly changing world.

For this conference IEEM has brought together key speakers to consider these very important issues and they will try to answer the following questions...

- What has 60 years of protected areas achieved for nature conservation?
- Is there a role for protected areas over the next 60 years? Are there viable alternatives?
- What are the nature conservation policy priorities and objectives for the next 60 years?
- Is the designation of areas of land or sea the most efficient and effective way to protect biodiversity?
- Is such a range of protected area designations necessary?
- Is there a future for protected sites? If there is, are they in the right places and of sufficient size?
- What are the (potential and actual) effects of climate change on protected areas?
- Ecosystem services - how are/can protected areas provide the services required?
- What is the range of values of protected areas? Is it possible to put a '£' value on them?
- What are the intrinsic values and *how* do we value them?
- How is the management of protected areas changing due to evolving conservation thinking *i.e.* landscape scale ecology, ecological networks, ecosystems services and climate change adaptation?
- If there is a future for protected areas how can we be more effective in communicating their special qualities and the role they play in making a wealthier, healthier, smarter and stronger society?

Tamas Marghescu, formerly of IUCN, will be our pre-conference after dinner speaker and will draw on his experiences in Europe to give us an international perspective on protected areas. Tamas brought a long and diverse professional track record in the fields of environmental policy and nature conservation to his recent post as IUCN Regional Director for Europe. Prior to joining IUCN, Tamas served for six years as special adviser to Hungary's Ministry of Environment, where he was engaged in a wide range of national and international policy issues, such as the establishment of forest protected areas, conservation of biodiversity and the implications of European Union enlargement for the environment. His professional career has also taken him to Thailand, where he served as the Chief Technical Advisor for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and to Germany, where he began his career as a forestry officer.

Stewart Pritchard, Policy and Advice Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage, will set the scene for the conference by considering the purpose and scope of protected areas and the merit of the range of international and national designations: from SACs and Ramsar sites to SSSI's and Local Sites.

Rob Cooke MIEEM, Director of Policy, Natural England, will address the responsibilities of Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations in relation to the range of protected areas from international and national nature conservation to landscape designations such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Scenic Areas.

Andrew Dodd, Head of Site Conservation Policy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, will set out the roles and vision of Non Governmental Organisations in relation to the management of protected areas for landscape and nature conservation.

Professor John Rodwell, will provoke our thoughts and challenge our views as to the merit of protected areas and any future role they may have by considering their breadth of value: from that of biodiversity, archaeology and geology to aesthetic and spiritual.

Dr Caroline McParland MIEEM, Senior Ecologist, Mott Macdonald, will consider the management of protected areas at the landscape scale, with particular emphasis on the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBDLS).

Dr Graham Austin, Senior Research Ecologist, Wetland and Marine Research at the British Trust for Ornithology, will draw on his research experience, looking specifically at birds, to present ideas on the management of protected areas in a changing climate.

Jim Latham, Woodland Ecologist, Countryside Council for Wales, will address the linkages between protected areas and the development of ecological networks, including the re-connection of protected areas; valuing undesignated land; and the need for larger protected areas/buffers.

Dr Stuart Otway CEnv MIEEM, Head of the Natural Environment Team, Defence Estates, will consider how the military have helped to protect land of nature conservation, archaeological and geological value and the challenging and sometimes conflicting roles to be faced.

John Wilson, from Ingram Farm will give a landowners perspective of the advantages, disadvantages and expectations of farming on the eastern edge of Northumberland National Park.

Dr Caro-lynn Ferris, Director of the Countryside Access and Activities Network in Ireland, will talk about balancing the interests of access/recreation within areas of designated land.

Edward Holdaway, Europarc Atlantic Isles, will draw upon a report written for Europarc entitled *Connecting the Land and the Sea* to consider coastal protected areas and the linkages between land and sea.

Phil Belden CEnv MIEEM, Countryside Services Manager, South Downs Joint Committee. Fresh on the map of protected areas, what have been the challenges in creating and designating the new South Downs National Park?

Professor Adrian Phillips CBE, former chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. What is the future for protected areas in Europe and the UK? Is there a long-term role for protected areas, if not what are the alternatives and if so, what will that network look like in 60 years time?

For further information about the conference and to book a place, please visit
www.ieem.net/conferences.asp