



**Chartered
Institute of
Ecology and
Environmental
Management**

ROGER CROFTS

CIEEM Medal

for

Outstanding, Lifelong Contribution to Environmental Conservation, Governance and Management

30 June 2016

The prestigious CIEEM Medal is awarded in 2016 to Professor Roger Crofts CBE FCIEM in recognition of his outstanding, lifelong contribution to environmental conservation, governance and management. Roger has an exceptional record of leadership at both national and international levels.

Advancing Professional Practice

Internationally, Roger has been Chair of the IUCN UK Committee and of its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) European Region and is now one of only six WCPA Emeriti globally. He persuaded colleagues to enlarge the international definition of a 'protected area' to include 'nature', and led the establishment of an international specialist group on geoheritage conservation. He was a major contributor to the work of the WCPA team which recently reviewed the application of IUCN's Protected Areas categories in the UK, particularly recognising the major significance of conservation NGO landholdings. He served as an assessor for PAN Parks, and as a lecturer on the Protected Areas MSc programme at Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt. He has advised governments on protected areas management in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and played a formative role in the establishment of National Parks in Denmark and protected areas and wider environmental management in Iceland.

Roger led the development of the key outcome statements of the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa. These provided the plan of action for the next decade for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the work of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

In recognition of his sustained and outstanding environmental work in Iceland, including publication of *Healing the Land*, Roger was awarded the Soil Conservation Medal in 2011, and the Knight's Cross of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon in 2014, bestowed by the President of Iceland.

Roger's early involvement in Iceland emerged through his close working relationship with Scottish Natural Heritage's Founder Chair, the late Magnus Magnusson KBE. Recently, Roger has been the main voice from outside Iceland to argue for a changed approach to its care and management of nature, natural processes and natural resources.

Influencing Corporate and Political Policy and Understanding

Roger's main legacy in Scotland is his leadership and vision on natural heritage. It began in the late 1980s with his development of new ideas for managing conflict in nature conservation, developing the strategic vision, and articulating it in a highly regarded White Paper, *Scotland's Natural Heritage: The Way Ahead*, approved by Scottish Ministers. The ideas were accepted, and Roger led the drafting of the Bill, articulated by Ministers and accepted after debate by both Houses of the UK Parliament, becoming the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991. Roger won the public competition for the role of Founder CEO of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in 1992. Resolving the tensions of merging the predecessor bodies (the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland and the Countryside Commission for Scotland), he led and managed SNH over the next decade, putting in place governance structures and management schemes for nature protection. He presided over the implementation of Natura 2000 giving rise to extensive networks of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SACs).

Development of Organisations and Capacity-Building

Unusually in the UK throughout the course of post-WWII statutory nature conservation, Roger and the late Max Nicholson are amongst the few to have moved from central government departments to key leadership roles in conservation agencies (SNH and the Nature Conservancy Council, respectively).

For its first decade, Roger implemented his approaches and ideas as the creative and pragmatic founder leader of SNH. During that period, he forged changes in the attitudes and mind-sets of his staff and Board members and many stakeholders, stimulating the development of modern, cost effective mechanisms for dealing with management of nature and for devising and leading the implementation of Natural Heritage Futures, which is still the foundation for natural heritage strategy and action documents for Scotland.

Intellectual Insight, Research and Writing

Roger's efforts in environmental management, governance, advocacy and advisory work have been recognised with a CBE, Fellowships of five learned and professional bodies (including the Royal Society of Edinburgh and CIEEM), two Honorary Doctorates of Science (DSc), and Honorary Professorships at four universities.

He co-authored the acclaimed *Land of Mountain and Flood: The Geology and Landforms of Scotland*, and has co-edited *Scotland's Environment - The Future, Conserving Nature - Scotland and the Wider World*, and *Ecosystems and Health: A UK Perspective*, and has published many articles in refereed journals and given hundreds of talks on environmental management around the world.

Extending Public Understanding and Influencing Attitudes

As Patron of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers, and Chairman of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, he is passionate about promoting the role of integrated approaches to the world and its peoples, and specifically is leading the development of a Knowledge Exchange Network for geography linking academics with the general public on key issues of public concern. Supposedly in retirement, Roger has been actively engaged, as a non-executive director and trustee, in strategic management and governance of a large and diverse range of environmental NGOs and other organisations, including Plantlife, Fieldfare International Ecological Development plc, the National Trust for Scotland, the Crichton Carbon Centre, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, Scottish Rural College, and the Sibthorp Trust.

Beyond these achievements, Roger is a grounded, energetic, clear thinking and encouraging environmentalist. He is a mentor and adviser of the highest calibre. He remains active and involved in professional and societal affairs of key importance to sustaining excellence in environmental stewardship. Roger is an undoubtedly well-deserving recipient of the CIEEM Medal.

*Stephanie Wray CECol CEnv FCIEM
CIEEM President*