

**PROTECTED AREAS THE FUTURE AGENDA FOR SCOTLAND
SUMMARY OF THE ACTION POINTS FROM IUCN NCUK WORKSHOP EDINBURGH 09/02/15
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1. Changing our mind set

- message is not getting through to other interests about the value and importance of protected areas. So need to change our language and the way we articulate it. For example, protected areas provide a *Natural Health Service*.
- need to go to others rather than expecting them to come to us. We can act as convenors and facilitators, but need to define new *playing field* for engagement with other interests on neutral ground.

2. Blending protected areas onto all relevant government programmes

- government policies and actions still silos in and need for protected areas to be recognised as more than nature or environment policy
- seek integration into other policy areas across the whole spectrum
- need to focus especially on removing or changing those policies that have perverse effects on protected areas
- need to develop transparent reporting systems to ensure that multiple policy objectives are delivered

3. Improving evidence-based decision making

- recognition that too much rhetoric and insufficient objective material on which to develop decisions and argue for the changes needed
- importance of linking in the knowledge development organisations, such as research institutes and universities (latter as part of the 'impact' element of Research Excellence Frameworks)
- particular importance is for objective information on following aspects: ecosystem functionality, effect of invasive species, impacts of climate change and other dynamic factors.

4. Redefining the outcomes provided by protected areas

- noted that most protected areas, for biotic and abiotic nature, are defined by features rather than for natural processes, such as ecological functions or for people benefits
- therefore need to redefine the outcomes of protected areas to reflect new and emerging agendas, such as ecological and Earth dynamics and the related rates and directions of change, management of natural capital assets, the achievement of ecological and ecosystem health, and the impact of intrusive factors such as invasive species
- recognition of low effectiveness of protected areas management data and need to define new measures more relevant to the redefined outcomes

5. Developing the new map of Scotland

- *Putting Nature on the Map* project has created a new map of protected areas for the UK which satisfy the IUCN definition of a protected area
- many other 'maps' for specific purposes exist to reflect government policies which are inconsistent with protected areas and safeguarding them through linking corridors and networks, for example housing development, renewable energy, forestry expansion, and therefore need for a new map of Scotland
- Land Use Strategy does provide the overarching policy basis for this new map which should be developed from the basis of the outcomes sought for people and for nature in a sustainable development context in the longer term.

February 2015