

# **INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF ESTABLISHING NATIONAL PARKS**

**ROGER CROFTS**

IUCN World Commission on  
Protected Areas

Regional Vice-Chair Europe

# Presentation content

1. Definition & purpose of national park
2. Engaging all interests
3. Processes for establishment
4. Management arrangements
5. Governance arrangements
6. Funding arrangements
7. Progress

# **Internationally agreed definition of Protected Landscape**

Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinctive character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area

# **Purpose for Denmark's National Parks**

**Not one single purpose but many in harmonious relationship**

- Maintaining cultural landscape
- Preserving key heritage assets
- Connecting local communities with their environment
- Providing opportunities for urban community enjoyment
- Providing opportunities for sustainable development

# Collaboration is best

## **DO NOT**

Leave it to a few  
specialists

Leave it to the  
government

Let the locals get on  
with it

**Engage everyone** in  
communication,  
sharing of ideas and  
making plans

**All constituencies**  
local, national &  
international

**All** age & ethnic groups,  
both genders, all  
sectors of society

# Resolving conflicts

Need to have clear decision rules based on principles that

- national parks are for benefit of present and future generations
- long-term stewardship of the natural and cultural resources is vital and
- special arrangements may need to be developed with key affected groups such as farmers and fisherman, eg French farmers and Australian fisherman

Working principle should to favour the long term conservation of the natural and cultural resources when there is conflict between 'conservation' and 'development'

# **When should they be established?**

- When all of the stakeholders are ready!!!!
- Do not be pushed and pressured by particular interest groups
- Create positive atmosphere to move matters forward at a steady pace, somewhere between the sprinters and the snails
- Agree programme of establishment of Parks over number of years
- Remember greater consensus means easier political process

# The bigger the better!

- Too small means no different from now
- Too small means that boundary disputes occur
- Too small means that communities are excluded
- Larger means more collaborative approach
- Larger means reconciliation within boundary
- Larger means more aspirations can be satisfied



# **Wider natural context for national parks**

Should not be seen in isolation from  
surrounding territory: 'islands of protection  
in a sea of devastation'

Learn from experience elsewhere in Europe  
on networks and corridors to connect  
protected areas

Learn from experience about re-introducing  
species: is the ecology appropriate, do  
people support it, is it costly?

# **Complementary subdivision of park area**

- Some parts are more important than others and require strict protection
- Others parts have greater capacity to allow other activities, eg tourism & recreation
- Essential that area is subdivided to allow different uses to be pursued
- Use zonation system based on 6 IUCN Categories and on 3 zones of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

# Zoning to achieve objectives

1. **Core conservation zone** managed for strict protection of natural assets of landscape and wildlife but with compatible activities allowed such as grazing, recreational use
2. **Countryside management zone** lighter touch and allowing more activities of direct social and economic benefit
3. **Community development zone** containing settlements, more intensive use of land

# Management arrangements

- Strategic plans for major land uses and other activities developed by collaboration
- Integrated delivery by all parts of government local and national
- Develop codes of good environmental practice
- Dedicated countryside management service

# Governance arrangements

**Too large ungovernable Too small not representative**

Key criteria should be

1. Include all relevant stakeholder groups
2. Provide opportunity for building capacity of stakeholders
3. Adopt business-like approach

Use combination of elections for local representatives and nominations for national representatives: remember national parks are national/local agreement

# What functions?

## **All functions delivered by park authority**

- + integrated approach
- + no arguments  
between bodies
- not open &  
transparent
- disputes internalised

## **Coordinate delivery of functions**

- + reduce conflict
- + focus on park needs
- cumbersome
- who has authority

# What sort of body?

Preference for separate body not add on to existing body: culture, new approach

National Park agency should have

- own staff
- separate budget
- representative Board directors
- funds for specific activities on ground
- responsibility for strategies and plans

# Skills needed

Yes need traditional skills in ecology and environmental management

But also need skills in

- Negotiation
- Conflict resolution
- Communication
- Marketing
- Land & water management
- Fund raising



# **Estimate value of national parks**

## **Use values**

- Direct use: recreation, grazing education
- Indirect use: flood control, nutrient retention
- Option values: future uses

## **Non-use values**

- Existence values: knowing it exists
- Bequest values: ritual & spiritual, landscape, biodiversity

# Calculate people and cash needed

- Boundary definition & agreement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Partnership working
- Agreements with resource owners
- Habitat restoration
- Visitor management
- Interpretation
- Monitoring .....

# **New funding deals with government**

Funding on traditional basis for management of park area and running the agency

Funding to recognise that park provides public goods & services

Funding for management incentive schemes for heritage, culture, recreation, farming and fishing

Any income from protected areas activity should go to the park authority not the Finance Ministry!

# The best National Parks

- Primarily protect natural & cultural heritage
- Enhance & restore heritage
- Managed as integral unit
- Part of national system
- All interests actively engaged
- Development complements, not undermines, protection
- Government is committed and resources are available
- Engender national pride and are widely supported

# **Your progress in light of international experience**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>completed</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>completed</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>completed</b>
<b>Where</b>	<b>almost there</b>
<b>Scale</b>	<b>almost there</b>
<b>Process</b>	<b>excellent approach</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>some issues to resolve</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>still needs decisions</b>
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>still to formulate</b>