

CRICHTON CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS 20 MAY 2003 SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENT – WHAT FUTURE?

Introduction

Range +and – changes can be turned round through variety of actions in Scotland, UK and Europe.

Where are we?

Some things getting better: some birds, some other species, native trees, water quality, protection measures basins, coasts, natura)

Some things getting worse or not improving: most key species in BAPs, marine fish stocks, birds prey, bathing water, waste & management, aliens & invasives, climate and SL change. Plus agric, forestry, sporting estate incomes. Plus development pressures.

What are reasons and what do we do?

No single answer or solution. Suggest 6 key changes.

- 1. Working with dynamic and adaptive nature:** stop just counting, using science and getting answers to fundamental questions, change form designation and plans to sympathetic action, adaptation in rivers and estuaries, recognise quality and make sure it continues: ancient woods.
- 2. Changing drastically blinkered sector approach:** assess real effects, target resources to give dual/triple benefit. Prime focus on CAP/AEP, CFP, economic development.
- 3. Realising environmental opportunities:** jobs from environment- energy sector, scenery sector, sand dune sector, develop env technologies, dev and market env expertise.
- 4. Making better decisions:** improve frameworks: strategies and plans integrated eg Smart Successful, T&C planning etc, stop pretending that market is best, think all consequences, decide when enough is enough: forestry, wind farms.
- 5. Making people part of environment:** social and enviro justice, economic assessments all embracing, education for citizenship, include in decisions, develop capacity to act, local action.
- 6. Reducing our impacts:** at home & locally – recycling/energy conservation/transport, globally – consumption what when.

Yes there is a future?

People and the environment together & as one. Provided not complacent & reactionary as means integration, cross checking, stopping some, doing different as citizens, politicians, bureaucrats etc. locally, Scotland, UK Europe and globally.

Harnessing the new politics and political mix: parties agendas for action, parliament assessment/audit, pressure from civil society through formal and informal mechanisms.