

ROGER CROFTS COMPLETES 10 YEARS AS CHAIR OF THE SIBTHORP TRUST

After ten years as chair of the Sibthorp Trust, it is time to hand over the reins. Over the decade we have achieved a great deal in furtherance of our mission, given to us by Mary Sibthorp our benefactor, to stimulate debate without fear or favour on environmental issues.

In our three Sibthorp Seminars we covered a diversity of topics. We challenged the role and benefits of conservation targets in achieving improved biodiversity conservation. We challenged society and the medical profession to play a more active role in linking ecosystem health to the health of the human population. And we have rigorously assessed progress in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in which the Trust had a formative role.

We have stimulated debates on a range of issues through talks, web-based approaches and brochures. Most especially, we espoused the importance of 'natural capital' almost a decade before the first international meeting on the subject. We provided a vehicle for different attitudes and opinions on climate change in the run up to the FCCC CoP in Cancun. And, most recently, we have led debates with younger generations on the ongoing problem of the development/conservation conflict globally with a view to seeking new solutions.

As a Trust, we have changed our name to recall the munificence of our benefactor and to remove confusion with revised IUCN arrangements in the UK, appointed new Trustees, and become a member of the international Union for the Conservation of Nature.

I wish my successor and fellow trustees all success in stimulating genuine debate on the environmental issues of the day.

Roger Crofts