

ICELAND'S ENVIRONMENT CONNECTING THE PIECES A GEOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

OUTMODED APPROACHES

- Narrow views: species
- Static views: nature never changes
- Exclusive views: scientists know best
- Uninformed views: ignoring science
- Exclusive clubs: NGOs, urban society

NEW APPROACHES

- **FIVE NEW APPROACHES ARE NEEDED**

1. Working with dynamic and adaptive nature

- stop counting and thinking static
- use science to answer fundamental practical questions
- use ecosystem approaches
- change from designation to perpetual protection

2. Changing blinkered sector approach

- change organisational structures and cultures
- target resources to give dual/triple benefit
- make economic development benefit people and environment

3. Realising environmental opportunities

- more sustainable use of natural resources
- jobs from environment- energy sector, scenery sector
- develop environmental technologies
- market environmental expertise

4. Making better decisions

- deliver on the sustainable development goals and objectives
- stop pretending that market is best
- think through all consequences
- decide when enough is enough

5. Making people part of environment

- social and environmental justice
- economic assessments all embracing
- education for citizenship
- develop capacity and action locally

6. Reducing our impacts

- at home & locally – recycling/energy conservation/transport
- globally – consumption

PROTECTED AREAS: OUTMODED APPROACH

- developed and managed in isolation
- planned and managed against people
- run by central government

NEW APPROACHES FOR PROTECTED AREAS

Maintaining and enhancing the core goals of protected areas

and

Promoting and Achieving
'Benefits Beyond Boundaries'

by

Contributing effectively to other agendas, and
Reaching out positively to wider constituencies

TOOLS FOR NEW APPROACHES

- Three ecological and environmental approaches to protected areas
- Three integrated approaches linking protected areas to society

1. IUCN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Ia Strict Nature Reserve
Ib Wilderness Area
II National Park
III Natural Monument
IV Habitat/Species Management Area
V Protected Landscape/Seascape
VI Managed Resource Protected Area

2. CORRIDORS AND ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

ecological network is ‘a coherent system of natural and semi-natural landscape of marine elements that is configured and managed with the objective of maintaining and restoring ecological functions, while providing appropriate opportunities for the sustainable use of natural resources’

3. PLACE WITHIN BIOREGIONS

- recognition that the activities outside protected areas can have a profound influence on the state of health of the features within them
- valuable tool for ensuring that there is representation of the necessary variation of species, habitats and landscapes within the protected areas suite

4. BIOSPHERE RESERVES

- conservation function: to preserve genetic resources, species, ecosystems and landscapes
- development function: to foster sustainable economic and human development
- logistic support function
- three components: **core** areas, **buffer** zone, **transition** zone /area of cooperation

5. BIOREGIONAL PLANNING

- natural environment is subject to change as a result of human activity
- integrated approach to reconcile aspirations and goals within a defined territory
- components: scale and scope, stakeholders, knowledge, governance, incentives, adaption

6. THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

- ‘a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way’ in context of CBD
- 12 Principles and 5 Operational Guidelines
 - Requires: changes in Policy, Legislation and Organisations