

## **SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF THE BONN CONVENTION: 2 MAY 2001**

### **TALK BY ROGER CROFTS, SNH**

#### **Introduction**

- Welcome as Chief Executive of SNH
- Welcome from IUCN as Chair of UK Committee and Chair of WCPA Europe.

#### **Migratory Species success stories**

- Migratory species are a key part of Scotland's natural heritage as we are at the crossroads between Arctic, Alpine and Tropical species and therefore we have high responsibilities in both the summer breeding season and the over wintering seasons along with other countries.
- Have some good success stories particularly the successful re-introduction of the osprey, the growth in numbers of corncrakes albeit on a marginal agricultural lands, and excellent success with the various species of geese: green and white fronts, greenland and svalbard barnacle species, grey lags from Iceland and from pink foots from Iceland and Greenland.
- At times there are problems with farmers and also with egg thieves.
- Despite the success, many of the species still not at biologically viable levels.

#### **Ingredients for Success**

- Identify five key ingredients for success in achieving healthy populations of migratory marine and terrestrial species
  - 1) sound science: important to have sound scientific knowledge of species interactions, habitat requirement species and population viability estimates. At times this will result in quite challenging arguments especially for environmental NGOs if there are proposals for reduction in numbers because they are above viable levels. Equally important to ensure that the scientific material is available in understandable form to decision-makers and the wider public audience.
  - 2) Influencing policy instruments: quite vital to ensure that all relevant policy instruments, both environmental and sectoral, have biodiversity contained within them otherwise the activities which are supported and encouraged through these instruments will continue to create reductions in biodiversity and damage species and habitats. Within the EU, particular attention has to be paid to further reform of the CAP and fundamental reform of the CFP.

3) Effective protection in protected areas: major issue is not the number and area coverage of protected areas but the effectiveness of the management regime within the respective of the ownership/tenure. WCPA moving very much in the direction of management effectiveness and collaborative management of key tools. Ensuring that owners, managers and tenants know what their roles and responsibilities are and how they can be improved is a critical part of the process.

4) multi-lateral agreements: multi-agreements including countries which host breeding and over wintering and also vital countries in the zones of migration passage are a key part of the package. However if the agreements are nearly totemic then they are not worth the paper they are written on and we must have firm agreements which are meaningful to species conservation in practice.

5) new partnership alliances: continuation of existing alliances between statutory and voluntary environmental bodies is important. Added to this is the need to build new alliances particularly with decision-makers, local communities, owners and managers of land and commercial interests.

### **SNH Approach**

- SNH as part of the new approach in Scotland, sees itself as an organisation on the international as well as the national stage. A number of us are engaged in international activities and staff attend conferences to learn and to brief others on our work.
- Work within the framework of our European and International influencing strategy.
- Have up to date scientific endeavour which we release to the scientific and the wider use community in various forms.
- Undertake practical demonstration projects to show different ways of undertaking conservation activity.
- Learning from others.
- Hope we can learn and contribute to the work of the scientific committee and the convention as a whole.

**Roger Crofts**