

PRESENTATION TO ICELANDIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY,
NOVEMBER 2003

NATURE AND PEOPLE: ICELAND AND THE WIDER WORLD ROGER CROFTS

From Durban to Iceland: global and local issues

Increasing incomes and other benefits
Restoring people's rights
Water wars
Industry versus nature protection
Biodiversity loss
Not enough resources
Poor land management

Perceptions: Poles Apart!

'We know how to look after nature'

or

'We have degraded the land since The Settlement'

'We must sustain our environment to survive'

or

'Sustainable development is just another piece of environmental
nonsense'

Poles Apart on Nature Conservation!

'Not wanted in Our Land'

or

'Not wanted in Our Land'

Poles Apart on Protected Areas!

WE LOVE

Too few

Too small

Too much damage

Too few controls

Locals negative

More conservationists

WE HATE

Too many

Too large

Stop development

Too many rules

Locals ignored

Run by nature folk

What Iceland should celebrate!

- Mastering geothermal power
- Growing vegetables, fruit and flowers
- Getting fishing and stock in balance
- Attacking land degradation
- Attracting eco-tourists
- Agreeing a Sustainable Development Strategy
- ??Agreeing a Nature Conservation Action Plan??

Action for Nature Conservation

- Context: sustainable development
- Vision: aspirational and realistic
- Drivers: things that help and hinder
- Objectives: what we want to achieve
- Mechanisms: regulations and incentives
- Targets and indicators: reporting openly
- The 'Road Map'

Nature Conservation: rising to the Challenges

Ecological: systems, functions, linkages

Global change: climate, biodiversity

Governance: empowerment, transparency

Direction: policies, programmes, mechanisms

Resources: more positive, less negative

Competency: information, skills, culture

Protected Areas are for conservation: old paradigm

- Planned and managed against people
- Run by central government
- Viewed exclusively as national issue
- Managed for visitors
- Set aside for conservation
- Not part of a system
- Managed in isolation as islands

Protected Areas are for ALL: new paradigm

Maintaining and enhancing core goals

AND

Promoting and achieving 'Benefits Beyond Boundaries'

BY

Contributing effectively to other agendas

Reaching out positively to other people

What Iceland can contribute to the global agenda

- Providing niches for migrating species
- Promoting successful sustainable use
- Exporting technological know-how
- Exporting land restoration experience
- Contributing to food needs
- Show casing eco-tourism
- Exporting water

Your Challenge at this Assembly

- What are you proud of?
- What do you wish to change for the better?
- What can you do better?
- What achievement do you want to celebrate at your next Environmental Assembly?

‘A sustainable future for humankind depends on a caring partnership with nature’

Nelson Mandela, Durban, 2003

Your Pledge

- Develop and maintain avenues for open dialogue
- Act with humility and develop trust
- Facilitate understanding and collaboration
- Change attitudes and behaviour

People and Nature

Bequeath Iceland’s nature as a precious asset for all generations

‘A sustainable future for humankind depends on a caring partnership nature’

