

THE WORLD'S SPECIAL NATURAL PLACES: INSPIRATION AND CHALLENGE

Three parts: what, where why & how; what are the big issues; are we winning the battle.

1. What where how and why?

A grand tour of places I have studied:

- **Scientific discovery:** Burgess Shales, Spitsbergen surging glaciers
- **Nature in charge:** Cepkeliai, Ho valley forest, Surtsey, Holuhraun, Spitsbergen esker, Trotternish
- **natural interdependencies:** Waimangu NZ, Alvar Oland WHS Sweden: rocks and plants, San Cristobel Galapagos lavas and birds, Napa parrots, Kosciuszko old rocks and plants
- **cultural connections:** Olduvai, Rila, Triglav, Alta
- **Awe and wonder:** Yellowstone pools, Svalbard periglacial forms, Ngorongoro wildlife, Lyell quote at Joggins

Why do these places exist?

- **Special places:** rarity, scientific (key past sites, sites and places for new minds and methods), plus ethical (for nature's sake), cultural (recognise connections and celebrate dependencies), educational (instructing educating new generations) and enjoyment (awe and wonder)
- **Foresight:** individuals (John Muir, Arthur Tansley, Peter Scott, Kenton Miller, Bing Lucas), agencies and governments (Canada, EU), unique organisations: IUCN (Swiss, French, British founders, lobbyists)
- **Just because they are nature's best**

How are they looked after?

- **IUCN definition and scrutiny**
- **International systems: UNESCO - WHS: the best of the best, Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves**
- **National with USA and Canada eggs**

2. What are the big challenges?

- **Newspaper headlines**
 1. Ignoring the consequences: Amman water demand
 2. Removing nature for economy: Olympic penin forestry, Tatra tree removal
 3. Thinking differently nature + economy: Biofare Ukraine; Fulufjallets PanParks; Doi Inthanon
 4. Too much development: coastal, Hohe Tauern
 5. Too many people: Galapagos, Tanzania, China NPs therefore regulations, payments, permits, no go, honey pots
 6. Rangers & guides are key: deaths and pluses

3. Are we winning the battle? Is there a better future?

What needs to be done?

- This year change targets of the CBD from land & sea area to effective management targets for protected areas
 - Biodiversity loss: codes of conduct for agriculture and forestry in and around protected areas + ban exploitation of nature
 - Public visits: restrict visitors to within an areas' carrying capacity
 - Political support: move from 'paper parks' to effectively managed and sufficiently resourced areas
 - Expert input: develop and ensure it is used effectively
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- Change mindsets from negative to positive table of no and yes plus the WCPA posters
 - Role of WCPA + Green List & PAME
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- Mandela "A sustainable future for humankind depends on a caring partnership with nature. We pledge to bequeath protected areas as precious heritage to future generations"
 - The youth quote