

Climate change in the Scottish uplands





ESRC Transdisciplinary Seminar Series
**“Sustaining Mountain Landscapes:
Conflict and Compromise in British Uplands”**

5 seminars, 2004 - 2006

Context of seminar

- increasing attention to mountain/upland areas and their wider importance
 - global, Europe, UK
- diverse changes in the uplands
 - CAP reform, FMD, demographics, air pollution, climate change, etc.
- recent meetings in the UK highlight needs for inter/transdisciplinary thinking to inform policy agendas

Objectives of seminar series (1)

- 1) to facilitate discussions between **researchers in distinct disciplines** concerned with the **long-term future** of the British uplands;
- 2) to explore the capacity of **existing research** approaches & sources of knowledge in providing the **appropriate outputs for decision making**;
- 3) to investigate the performance of current & likely future **alternative institutional frameworks of governance** in upland areas & their contribution in **policy advice and conflict management**

Objectives of seminar series (2)

- 4) to develop **inter-disciplinary research networks** combining academics and stakeholders;
- 5) to identify **new research agendas** that cross traditional academic and funding council boundaries.

Seminar series

- 1) Landscape instability and environmental change (Durham)
- 2) Can ecological prerogatives be meaningfully recognised through conservation or new forms of income generation? (Snowdonia)
- 3) Climate change in the Scottish uplands (Perth)**
- 4) Social value of the uplands (Cumbria)
- 5) Land ownership and use (Exmoor)

Today: morning presentations

Themes:

- Climate change policy in Scotland
- Upland climate change
- Precipitation and catchments
- Forests
- Agriculture
- Biodiversity
- Tourism

Morning presentations

Key issues:

- what we (think we) know
- what are the gaps in data/information and understanding
- key issues for interdisciplinary research

Presentations + clarification, brief discussion

Afternoon: Structured discussion

How we might move forward with:

- research agendas (what, where, why, how)
- networks (who)

relating to climate change in the Scottish uplands

Outcomes

- Networking & knowledge transfer
- Presentations on website
- Contributions to overall seminar series outcomes and potential future activities
- Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership
- ???