THE CONSERVATION SCIENCE/POLICY INTERFACE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Organised by Nathalie Pettorelli, Zoological Society of London and Ceri Margerison, British Ecological Society

Good communication between policy makers and scientists is a crucial requirement for developing policies that cost-effectively achieve measurable outcomes in conservation. Yet science and other forms of knowledge are not used effectively in policymaking; and policymakers do not always effectively inform scientists about their needs for scientific knowledge. Why is this so?

One of the biggest misconceptions when thinking about the science-policy interface is that science policy communication follows a 'linear model', which assumes that policy makers pose questions, and then scientists feed in the appropriate evidence so that policy makers can make well-informed decisions. This type of situation is largely uncommon, as science and policy are both complex activities that are not straightforward in their approaches to solving problems.

This event will bring together ecologists, conservation practitioners and policy-makers to discuss case-studies showing how science – policy interactions work in practice. Experts who work at the interface between science and policy will show, through a series of presentations, how good communication and excellent working relationships are crucial to successfully influencing or initiating change. Our speakers and interactive discussions will also explore the cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary approaches required to address biodiversity loss and ecosystem service degradation.
INTRODUCTION – Chair: Nathalie Pettorelli, Zoological Society of London

09.00 Bill Sutherland, British Ecological Society
09.15 Jonathan Baillie, Zoological Society of London

SESSION I: ENGAGING WITH POLICY MAKING – A SCIENTIST’S PERSPECTIVE
Chair: Sheila Wren, John Muir Trust

09.30 Scientific evidence in the control of bovine TB: a black and white issue?
Rosie Woodroffe, Zoological Society of London

10.00 Scientists into policy: getting involved in the Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry on Invasive Species
Helen Bayliss, Bangor University

10.30 POSTER SESSION (TEA/COFFEE)

11.00 When wording does matter – the infrastructure Bill as a case study
Sarah Durant, Zoological Society of London

11.30 The role of evidence in developing the England biodiversity strategy Biodiversity 2020
Peter Brotherton, Natural England

12.00 Science evidence in marine environments is not just another stakeholder input
Charles Sheppard, University of Warwick

12.30 LUNCH

SESSION II: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE SCIENCE/POLICY INTERFACE PROFESSIONALS
Chair: Richard Jenkins, IUCN

13.30 NERC and the science/policy interface
Sasha Leigh, Natural Environment Research Council

14.00 Scientific evidence and the scrutiny of policy in the UK Parliament
Jonathan Wentworth, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST)

14.30 Policy isn’t made in a vacuum: incorporating natural science, social science and value judgements
Abigail Bunker, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

15.00 POSTER SESSION (TEA/COFFEE)

CONCLUSIONS – Chair: Ceri Margerison, British Ecological Society

15.30 The role of argument, evidence, ideas and advice in policy formation and change
James Wilsdon, University of Sussex

16.00 Utilising ecosystem assessments to build effective science-policy interfaces
Claire Brown, World Conservation Monitoring Centre

16.30 Panel debate – key recommendations to improve communication between science and policy
Claire Brown, Sasha Leigh, Jonathan Wentworth and Abigail Bunker

17.00 End of Symposium

Draft programme 05/03/2015 – subject to change
The Conservation Science/Policy Interface: Challenges and Opportunities

16 April 2015. The Meeting Rooms, Zoological Society of London, Regent’s Park (Outer Circle), London NW1 4RY, UK.

Symposium Attendance Full rate Discounted rate (applicable for ZSL Friends & Fellows1, and students2)
For one day or part day £20 £10

Deadline for Registration 10 April 2015

REGISTER ONLINE: Online registration will open shortly

To pay by cheque or card, please complete and return this form to: Jennifer Howes, ZSL Scientific Events, Zoological Society of London, Regent’s Park, London NW1 4RY, UK; e-mail: jennifer.howes@zsl.org; tel: +44 (0)20 7449 6227.
Please complete one form per delegate.

REGISTRATION

I AM / AM NOT a Fellow or Friend of the Zoological Society of London1
I AM / AM NOT a registered graduate/undergraduate student2

1Please provide your ZSL Membership number ………………………………………
2Please provide a supporting statement from your course supervisor or a copy of your student card.

Your details
Title: ………………… First name: ………………… Surname: ……………………………
Name (as you would like it to appear on your badge): ……………………………
Position: ……………………… Organisation: ……………………………
E-mail: …………………………………………… Tel: ……………………………

Special dietary requirements (please specify, including vegetarian): ……………………………

Mailing address (billing address should be provided for card payments): ……………………………

Delegate list: We would like to make a list of delegates available to all attendees. Please indicate here if you do not want your information (name, position, organisation, e-mail address) to be included [ ]

PAYMENT DETAILS

Cheque I enclose a cheque for £……………… payable to: The Zoological Society of London.
Please note that cheques can only be accepted in Sterling drawn against a UK bank.

Card Please complete all details below and return by fax or by post:
Please debit my Visa / MasterCard (delete as appropriate)

Amount £………………
Card Number ………………… / ………………… / ………………… / …………………
Expiry Date ………………… / ………………… Card security code …………………
Name on Card ……………………………………………………………
Signature of Card Holder ………………………………………………… (last three digits printed on or just beneath card signature strip)

Cancellations must be received in writing before 10 April 2015 and will be refunded. Substitutions may be made at any time without charge; please notify Jennifer Howes of any change in attendee details.
The Zoological Society of London’s Meeting Rooms are next to the ZSL Main Office, on the Outer Circle, Regent’s Park. Cars may be parked in the ZSL London Zoo visitors’ car park – please contact Jennifer Howes (details below) to arrange a special parking rate. The nearest public transport is by the 274 bus (to ZSL London Zoo), or by Underground (to Camden Town).

**NOTES**

**Attendance** All places must be booked in advance. **Full rate:** £20; **Discounted rate:** £10 (for students and ZSL Friends and Fellows).  
Registration deadline: 10 April 2015

**Meals and refreshments** Coffee, tea and a buffet sandwich lunch will be served during breaks and are included in the ticket price. Please state if you have any special dietary requirements, including vegetarian.

**Booking and enquiries**  
Please contact: Jennifer Howes, ZSL Scientific Events  
Zoological Society of London,  
Regent’s Park (Outer Circle)  
London NW1 4RY, UK.  
E: jennifer.howes@zsl.org ; T: +44 (0)20 7449 6227 ; F: +44 (0)20 7449 6411  
http://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on