

# The European Diploma for Protected Areas: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

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The Burren, Ireland - *Boloria euphrosyne*



# Structure of this talk

- 1. **Introduction:** Development of the EDPA.
- 2. **Yesterday:** Reflections on our thinking during the last 50 years.
- 3. **Today:** Reflections on our thinking during the last decade.
- 4. **Tomorrow:** Possibilities for the next 50 years.
- 5. **Conclusions:** Continuing the EDPA.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## The development of the EDPA

Why was the European Diploma for Protected Areas (EDPA) founded in 1965?

It was established

“as a means of granting recognition to certain areas for the quality of their protection and conservation”.

The implication is that

“there are measures to ensure the continuation of this protection in the long term”

and that there are

“methods to monitor the state of conservation”

# The number of EDPAs awarded

## 5 decades of awarding the EDPA:

- 1965-1974 13 awarded
- 1975-1984 7 awarded
- 1985-1994 20 awarded
- 1995-2004 26 awarded
- 2005-2014 7 awarded

64% (47 protected areas) were awarded in the first half of each of these decades

# The Council of Europe's Member States with EDPAs

## 28 Member States now have at least one EDPA:

• 1 EDPA	11	AM, B, BG, EST, GR, IRL, L, SLO, CH, TR and UA
• 2 EDPAs	5	BLR, FIN, PL, P and SK
• 3 EDPAs	5	A, CZ, H, RO and E
• 4 EDPAs	3	NL, RUS and S
• 5 EDPAs	1	UK
• 6 EDPAs	1	F
• 7 EDPAs	1	I
• 8 EDPAs	1	D
Totals	73 EDPAs	28 Nations

## 2. Reflections on our thinking during the last 50 years

What has influenced our thinking about the environment and the need for conservation over the last 50 years?

- Silent Spring
- Nuclear Winter
- Acid Deposition
- Loss/Fragmentation of Habitats

Seitsemien National Park, Finland - *Campanula patula*

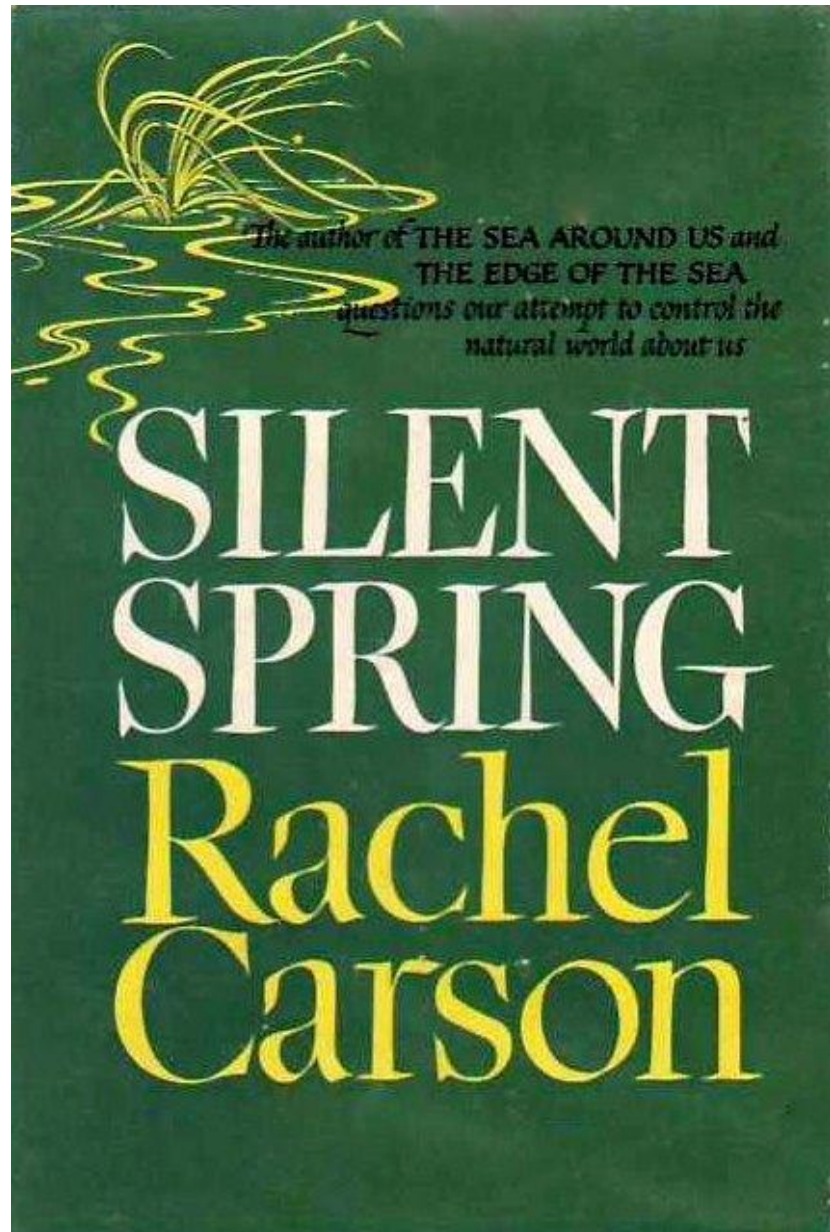




# ***SILENT SPRING***

## **By Rachel Carson**

- Published on 27 September 1962.
- Brought environmental concerns to the world's people and governments.
- Fiercely opposed by chemical manufacturers of DDT.
- Led to many nations banning the use of DDT for agricultural purposes.
- In the USA, probably led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.



# Nuclear winter

- Concern that small particles/aerosols lifted by explosions might cool the Earth.
- Even a small-scale, regional nuclear war could disrupt the global climate for a decade or more.
- Wider effects could cause a massive ozone hole, having major health effects for people and wildlife due to ultraviolet radiation.
- Might a 'nuclear winter' be followed by a 'nuclear summer'?





# Acidification

- Concern about  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$ , generated by power plants, impacting the environment.
- European concern particularly focussed on acidification of lakes in Sweden.
- Control measures – applying lime to the acidic waters.
- Now – uncertainty about DOC (dissolved organic carbon) and its role in acidification.



# Loss/fragmentation of habitats

- **Loss of habitat**: e.g. 97% of semi-natural grasslands in England and Wales between 1930s and 1984.
- **Land use** change: e.g. woodland management changes from natural forest types to faster-growing species.
- **Fragmentation**: due to human developments – industry, residential, agriculture, forestry, marine fisheries, roads, airfields, etc.
- **Species decline**: In the United Kingdom, of 3148 species assessed, 60% have declined during the last 50 years, slightly more than half of which have “declined strongly”.



# How have these drivers of change affected the EDPA network?

Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria - *Salamandra salamandra*



- Impetus for the establishment of the EDPA network in 1965.
- Need to protect species, habitats and landscapes of truly European importance.
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).
- European Union's Birds and Habitats Directives (and Emerald Network).



# 3. Reflections on our thinking during this decade

- What is new in the last decade?
- Climate or environmental change.
- The value of ‘natural capital’ or ‘ecosystem services’.
- Some of the same old things in new formats.
- The ‘Thayatal (Hardegg) Declaration’ in 2005.

Thayatal National Park, Austria – *Felis sylvestris*



# The 'Thayatal (Hardegg) Declaration'

40th anniversary of the European Diploma – a network for nature and people  
40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Diplôme européen – un réseau pour la nature et les populations

- 1. Given the well-established benefits it has brought, the European Diploma must remain a key instrument for protecting exceptionally important sites in Europe ...
- 2. The European Diploma should be extended, as a priority, to countries that have not yet submitted applications and to transfrontier zones.



# The 'Thayatal Declaration'

Council of Europe, Environmental Encounters, No. 62

Conseil de l'Europe, Rencontres environnement, N° 62



- 3. The high standard of requirements, in particular the supervisory system attached to the Diploma, which is its key asset and what makes it original, must be maintained ...
- 4. The European Diploma should receive increased political and financial support from governments and where appropriate from other interested donors ...



# The ‘Thayatal Declaration’

Thayatal, Hardegg (Austria/Autriche), 1-3 September/septembre 2005

- **5. All protected areas and other “more ordinary” natural areas should benefit from the knowledge and skills of those responsible for areas holding the Diploma, which serve as reference territories, in the true sense of the term, for the long-term study of population and habitat changes, good managerial practice in the framework of sustainable development.**



# Some of the old things in new formats

**Money, money, money, money, money, money**

**Pesticides (particularly neonicotinoids)**

**Invasive alien species**

**Large carnivores**

**Tourism (sustainable levels)**

Purbeck Heritage Coast, United Kingdom

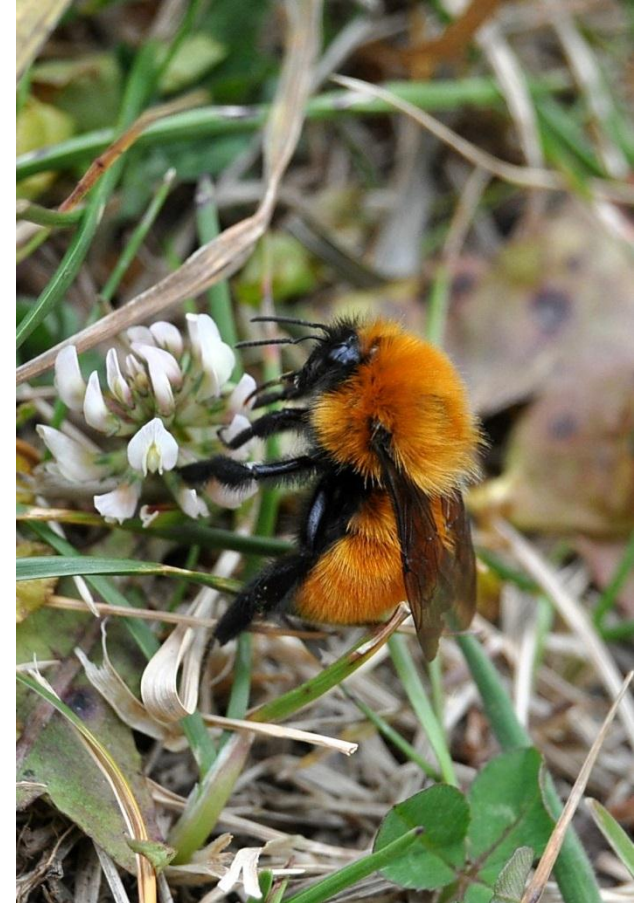


# Ecosystem services

## 4 groups of ecosystem services:

*Bombus dahlbomii* (the planet's largest bumblebee)

- **Supporting services**, e.g. nutrient cycling, pollination.
- **Provisioning services**, e.g. food production, raw materials.
- **Regulating services**, e.g. waste decomposition, water purification
- **Cultural services**, e.g. recreation, spiritual refreshment.





# Climate/environmental change

The impacts of climate change;  
what can be done about them?

- Increasing temperature.
- Change in precipitation.
- Sea level rise.
- Ocean acidification.
- More extreme events (gales, droughts, heat, cold, etc.).

Mitigation, adaptation or both?

Store Mosse National Park, Sweden – *Vaccinium oxycoccus*



## 4. Possibilities for the next 50 years



# - Greater focus on ecosystem services

**Nature becomes increasingly important to people.**

**Human survival depends on these services.**

**They might appear to cost nothing, but they must not be undervalued.**

Podyjí National Park, Czech Republic – *Melampyrum arvense*





# - Greater focus on integration

Are EDPAs purely for 'nature conservation'?

- The natural heritage.
- The archaeological and historical heritage.
- Human experiences – enjoyment, learning, research

Doñana National Park, Spain



# - Greater focus on the sea and coastline

Ekenäs Archipelago National Park, Finland – *Halichoerus grypus*



**Sea level rise**

**Ocean warming**

**Acidification of waters**

**More extreme events –  
coastal erosion**

**How will nature and people  
respond?**

# - Greater focus on the uplands

Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve, UK – *Sciurus vulgaris*



**Will species move uphill?**

**How will this affect habitats?**

**What will be the effect of changing precipitation patterns (more rain, less snow)?**

**Potential for land use change**



# - Greater focus on communication

Khosrov Forest Reserve, Armenia – *Mantis religiosa*



# 5. Conclusions: continuing the EDPA

*Something to celebrate*



# But ...

## There are challenges:

- What is the vision?
- What are the short- and long-term aims?

The secretariat in Strasbourg and the Group of Specialists



# **The Network of EDPAs**

## **2015 - 2065**

# **The Network of EDPAs 2015 - 2065**

A demonstration of sustainability: protecting our  
biodiversity

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A magnificent network of excellence

The end! Enjoy the workshop!

