

work in practice. The aim of this paper is to stimulate debate on the development of new participatory mechanisms like these that are ostensibly orientated towards the practical reconciliation of wild land conservation and community interests. This will be done by describing and analysing these mechanisms and evaluating their success in achieving environmental democracy in Scotland. Illustrating this, the Isle of Rum, a world-renowned 'wild area' with a community development plan in preparation, will be used as a case study.

**Session 5a: Environmental Attitudes, Social Movements and Civil Society (1)**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 14.00 – 15.30, Room W110**

**Chair: Tbc**

1. **Dr William Markham**, University of North Carolina, USA

Co-author Professor Kris van Koppen, Wageningen University, Netherlands

**Nature Protection Organizations and Networks in Nine Nations: Comparative and Historical Perspectives**

This paper reports the results of a comparative and historical study of nature protection organizations and networks in eight European nations, Sweden, Norway, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, and France, as well as the U.S. The research was conducted by a team of sociologists, who prepared papers about each nation based on previous studies and original research. The organizations and networks included have nature protection--defined as efforts to protect wilderness, wild animals and plants, or cultural landscapes--as a major objective. Nature protection organizations are relatively formalized and permanent organizations, while nature protection networks are more loosely organized associations of nature protection organizations or less formally organized groups. Our paper focuses special attention on the effects of variations in economic factors, cultural contexts, political structures, and other social movements on nature protection efforts. The results include both interesting and important parallels and significant differences across nations. In all of the nations except Poland, nature protection organizations were challenged and transformed by environmental movements during the 1970s, but nature protection continued to be a key goal and has regained prominence in recent years. Nevertheless, differences in national contexts have also produced variations in the organizations' goals, structures, and strategies.

2. **Dr Hein-Anton Van der Heijden**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**European Environmentalism and European Civil Society**

In the political discussion on the future role of the European Union the environment plays a prominent part (20% CO2 reduction; European energy policy yes or no; European politics of nature, etc.). Contrary to the level of the individual nation states, however, European level environmentalism and its contribution to the emerging European civil society is widely neglected in academic literature. In this paper two questions will be dealt with. 1. In which sense and to what extent does a European civil society exist? (In this respect European civil society will be conceived of as the level in between national and global civil society). 2. How does and how could European civil society contribute to the greening of the European Union? In order to answer these questions, Michel Edwards' three dimensions of civil society will be assessed: civil society as associational life; civil society as the good society; civil society as the public sphere. In addition, the concept of 'multi-level environmentalism' will also play a part in the analytical framework.

3. **Dr Lieke Salomé**, Erasmus University, Netherlands

Co-authors Dr Peter Achterberg and Dr Dick Houtman, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

**Reassessing environmental concern: the social class hypothesis**

A substantive amount of social-scientific research on environmental concern is aimed at the question whether or not people in lower social-economic strata are less concerned about the environment than those in higher social-economic strata. While some authors claim that the lower class is not concerned about ecological issues, others argue that the exact opposite is