



EUROPARC Federation
Report to Council
8th June 2015

Title:

Nominations for the Alfred Toepfer Medal

Summary:

Presentation of the nominations received

Recommendations:

To make a decision on the Alfred Toepfer Medal
winner



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

Nomination Alfred Toepfer Medal 2015

Name of nominee: Sex: Date of Birth: Academic title (if available): Nationality:	ADAM WATSON M EMERITUS PROFESSOR UK
Organization/Employer:	RETIRED, BUT STILL ACTIVE
Achievements	KEY ACHIEVEMENT IS BRINGING SCIENCE TO BEAR ON CONSERVATION ISSUES, WITH SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON POLICY AND PRACTICE IN PROTECTED AREAS. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE FOR FULLER ELABORATION.
Reasons why she/he should win this accolade:	ADAM WATSON HAS SPENT A LIFETIME WORKING TO PROTECT OUR WILD AREAS. HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONNECTED SCIENCE, POLICY, AND PRACTICE, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE AWARD WOULD AFFIRM EUROPARC'S POSITION AS THE PRE-EMINENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION, DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS.

Please send this form and any additional material to k.reichhardt@europarc.org until 29th May 2015.

Föderation der Natur- und Nationalparke Europas / Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe / Fédération des Parcs Naturels et Nationaux d'Europe

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Vorstand/Council/Conseil: V. Alessandro (IT), O. Holm (FR), M. Hošek (CZ), D. Lévêque (FR), K. Lotman (EE), O. Ostermann (DE)

Name of nominator: ERIC BAIRD

Organization: EUROPARC ATLANTIC ISLES

Country:

Contac details:

Thank you very much!



EUROPARC
F E D E R A T I O N

Nomination

Alfred Toepfer Medal 2015

<p>Name of nominee: Sex: Date of Birth: Academic title (if available): Nationality:</p>	<p>Miss Jane Hodges MBE (Retired) Female 27th May 1955 British</p>
<p>Organization/Employer:</p>	<p>Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority</p>
<p>Achievements</p>	<p>A tireless advocate for nature When Jane Hodges first arrived at the Park in August 1981, PCNP (as it was then) was not viewed as a nature conservation organisation the National Park organisation was a department of the County Council and the perception among the lead nature conservation agencies and charities was that the National Park was principally a landscape based designation which was mainly focussed on recreation (especially the Pembrokeshire Coast Path), access, education and planning control.</p> <p>Over the next thirty years Jane worked tirelessly both in her employed time and, perhaps more importantly in her own time, to build close and continuing relationships with a wide range of conservation and land ownership organisations in the county. She was heavily involved in a wide variety of conservation and monitoring initiatives across the whole range of terrestrial ecology but also ventured into marine issues where necessary as befitted the only ecologist (for many years) within the only primarily coastal national park in the UK.</p> <p>In doing this she helped to lay the foundations of the partnership working. to give a few examples, she was involved with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership • The Islands Committee • The MoD Conservation Committee (Being heavily involved in the production of the first Integrated Land management Plans for the major tank Range at Castlemartin which is both within the National Park, contains major coastal SSSI and SPA areas and includes a large part of the Marine SAC in its impact area) • The Cliff Climbing Liaison Group (pioneering voluntary cliff climbing restrictions with the British Mountaineering Council to encourage sustainable use of the limestone cliffs of South Pembrokeshire which are so important for cliff-nesting birds)

- The Marine SAC committees (three Marine SACs off the National Park coast)
- The Milford Haven Monitoring partnerships (which link conservation, port management and the oil and tanker industry that is so closely co-located with the coastal national park).

These initiatives typify a way of integrated working which is now taken for granted in Pembrokeshire. Today, PCNPA is quite rightly regarded as a major player in nature/biodiversity conservation and action - Jane played a major part in bringing this about.

Jane as a Scientist

Perhaps the most obvious example of a successful programme is the habitat management for chough, one of the key species which typifies the Pembrokeshire Coast. The National Trust and the National Park Authority have worked with CCW (Now NRW) and a variety of private and public landowners to put together a continuing programme of management of coastal habitats which has benefitted this threatened species.

Jane worked closely with a variety of partners in NT, CCW (Now NRW) and to raise the profile of chough conservation and to establish an extensive monitoring programme. As a result the Pembrokeshire Coast has one of the longest and most comprehensive data-sets on choughs in the UK which has been used over the years to inform land management for conservation. Jane was the principal author of the Pembrokeshire Chough Conservation Strategy - the first of its kind in the UK and the fore-runner to today's LBAP Species Action Plan. The strategy was also a prime factor in the setting up of the Conserving The Coastal Slopes project by PCNPA. Bob Haycock (CCW Warden) and Jane contributed to two international workshops on choughs (La Palma, Canaries & Portugal) which allowed Pembrokeshire to "show-case" the work that we had been doing in the National Park to an international audience;

A career defining event

The *Sea Empress* oil spill, February 1996: the 16th largest ever peacetime oil spill in the world. The spill (72,000 Tons of crude oil) impacted on all of the south and much of the west coast of the National Park and the adjoining inshore waters and lower estuary (These are areas which are mainly designated as Marine SACs). In this incident Jane had two main roles: member of the Environment Team that provided advice to the response centre on on-shore oil spill response and member of the task groups set up by the *Sea Empress* Environmental Evaluation Committee which in turn was set up by the UK government to investigate the environmental effects of the spill. As well as providing nature conservation advice to the Technical team she also developed a new set of skills and systems in Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Techniques (SCAT) and at times had to play a difficult role in restraining over-eager oil response professionals where the 'cure' was in danger of being worse than the disease. She gained a reputation for robust professionalism and scientific rigour which earned respect even from those who would generally see the ecological considerations as a constraint.

Jane also carried out survey work on the data from which were used by various contractors and others working to the *Sea Empress* Environmental Evaluation Committee (SEEEC) as well as by the Environment Team in the Joint Response Centre. This dual role gave her a perhaps unique perspective on the spill and its consequences for the National Park. She worked almost

	<p>full-time on the <i>Sea Empress</i> response and subsequent environmental investigations for just over two years, finally going back to her core work in March 1998. She continued to contribute to the review and development of oil spill contingency planning at a UK as well as local/regional level for several years after the <i>Sea Empress</i> incident and represented the NPA on the standing West Wales Environment Group that was set up following the first review of the National Contingency Plan post-<i>Sea Empress</i> (in which she was heavily involved) until her retirement. Jane was appointed an MBE in the 1999 New Year Honours List for "Services to Ecology in Pembrokeshire".</p>
<p>Reasons why she/he should win this accolade:</p>	<p>Jane has given a life of tireless dedication to the cause of ecology and nature, which has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Her part in the response to the Sea Empress disaster was no doubt for her, both low and high point in her career. Whilst local people literally cried as the oil rolled on to their treasured coastline, Jane knew she had the skills to enable to the National Park to make a real difference to the clean-up and thereafter in ensuring the lessons learnt were incorporated into emergency planning at a National level.</p> <p>Jane is now retired and whilst she is not often seen at a computer these days, she still gives hours of her time to monitoring chough populations and horseshoe bats and other ecological fieldwork. She has also given her time generously in helping her successor settle in to her new role.</p> <p>The National Park Authority would be thrilled to honour Jane's contribution in this way.</p>

Please send this form and any additional material to k.reichhardt@europarc.org until 29th May 2015.

Name of nominator: Sarah Mellor

Organization: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Country: UK (Wales)

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Thank you very much!