

## **Additional text: Re-connecting with Water. D. Bright.**

### **Slide 3**

Conservation and resource protection over the years has evolved. By and large, conservation initially took the form of 'fortress conservation' and this is still the most prevalent form in the UK. This approach requires regulation and publicly funded monitoring and maintenance and excludes communities and ignores wider socio-economic costs. The public has become disenfranchised from the subject and the objects of conservation and there is little support and some antipathy for this approach, nicknamed 'fence it and forget it' conservation.

### **Slide 4**

What followed was referred to as Community Conservation. Westcountry Rivers Trust was at the forefront of this movement in the UK. Community Conservation depended on the establishment of win-win scenarios for resource managers, in our case farmers.

### **Slide 7**

Over time the Trust developed an extensive suite of farm advisory information sheets which described how to subtly change management, limiting costs of inputs and preventing losses. Importantly, the recommendations had an economic benefit for the farmer and ancillary benefits for the environment. These integrated conservation and social development projects were the great hope for sustainable development.

### **Slide 9**

Their decline in popularity stemmed from the fact that the approach only *indirectly* linked social and economic development initiatives to conservation. As such, the outputs of community conservation initiatives were often a rise in social welfare, but an increase in the level of conservation could not be ensured and was instead a by product.

### **Slide 10**

The great hope for the future of conservation is Paid Ecosystem Service provision (PES). PES is a market-based system whereby those who benefit from ecosystem conservation transfer money to those who provide the Ecosystem Services (ES), thus creating a market where none previously existed and incentivising ecosystem protection.

### **Slide 11**

Currently, for example, farmers in the Westcountry represent less than 1% of society and yet manage nearly 80% of the land. Farmers manage (for better or worse) the large proportion of many ecosystem services for society including flood defence, water supply, biodiversity, amenity, landscape value, green house gas flux and food production yet they only get paid for the food production.

Given this disparity, through PES we would create a direct economic link between those who benefit from flood defence, water supply etc. etc. to encourage them to pay a hypothecated sum to the

provider (the farmer) to deliver these services instead of producing food in critical areas of a catchment.

**Slide 14**

For those who are slaves to alliterative aphorisms this is a seachange from 'Polluter Pays' to the more positive model of 'Provider is Paid.'

**Slide 15**

Here are some international examples that we have been observing and working with in the case of the New York river basin.