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Management: Research, Policy, Practice**

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INTRODUCTION

The management of ecosystems and habitats generally focuses on the direct manipulation of vegetation, or factors controlling it, to deliver required outcomes. The approaches used not only influence species responses, but also how land functions to protect and provide resources, support livelihoods, and promote human well-being. Effective management of ecosystems and habitats requires evidence to inform both policy development and “hands-on” implementation, involving academics, conservation managers, ecological consultants, local authority staff, the private sector, and policy-makers. This conference in March 2018 on “Ecosystem and Habitat Management: Research, Policy, Practice” at the University of Worcester, brought together these parties to explore new developments in research, policy and practice relevant to ecosystem and habitat management.

These proceedings contain papers presented at the two-day conference, which followed a series of meetings in previous years run by the AAB under the title of “Vegetation Management”, the last one being in 2011. The change in title to “Ecosystem and Habitat Management: Research, Policy, Practice”, reflects the increased emphasis on the appropriate management of ecosystems to deliver benefits for humans via ecosystem services in cropped and uncropped areas, whilst continuing to acknowledge the ongoing importance of managing vegetation to enhance and/or control species.

Dr Duncan B Westbury
University of Worcester, UK

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