

# BES / IEEM

## Ecological Impact Assessments: Science and Best Practice

**The conference has been postponed one year to 11-12th July 2006, but will be held as originally intended at Bath Spa University College**

**The call for papers has also been extended to 1st October 2005.**

### **Aims of the conference:**

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are an important tool for conserving ecosystems and biodiversity in the wider environment. Recent national and international legislation has increased mandatory requirements for EIAs, their scope and standards. However, standards of ecological assessment have often been deficient and current ecological principles and scientific methods overlooked or poorly applied.

The BES (Conservation Ecology Group) and IEEM are therefore organising a joint symposium, the aim of which is to compliment the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment that are being prepared by IEEM by focussing on raising the standards of ecological science in EIAs. The specific objectives of the conference are to:

- emphasise the need for ecological science in EIAs;
- promote current best practices in the application of ecological science to EIAs;
- identify opportunities for applying new ecological theories and knowledge in EIAs; and
- identify further ecological research needs with respect to EIAs.

The conference is primarily aimed at ecological scientists undertaking research applicable to impact assessments, EIA clients and practitioners, and others involved in the EIA process, including developers, consultants, planners, government development agencies, local authorities, conservation agencies, lecturers and trainers in EIA and non-governmental conservation organisations. Attendance will be limited to a maximum of 200.

The meeting will consist of a 2-day symposium, with presentations reviewing key issues, and workshop sessions to produce agreed practical recommendations on best practice. This will be followed by a web-based discussion forum on the meeting's conclusions and recommendations. The symposium presentations and the workshop recommendations will be fully published as edited and peer reviewed proceedings.