

Karst Landscape and Site Conservation

Elery Hamilton-Smith
IUCN / WCPA Task Force
on Caves and Karst

Governance

- I strongly believe that the best patterns of governance arise when stakeholders negotiate to achieve the best possible arrangements for that governance

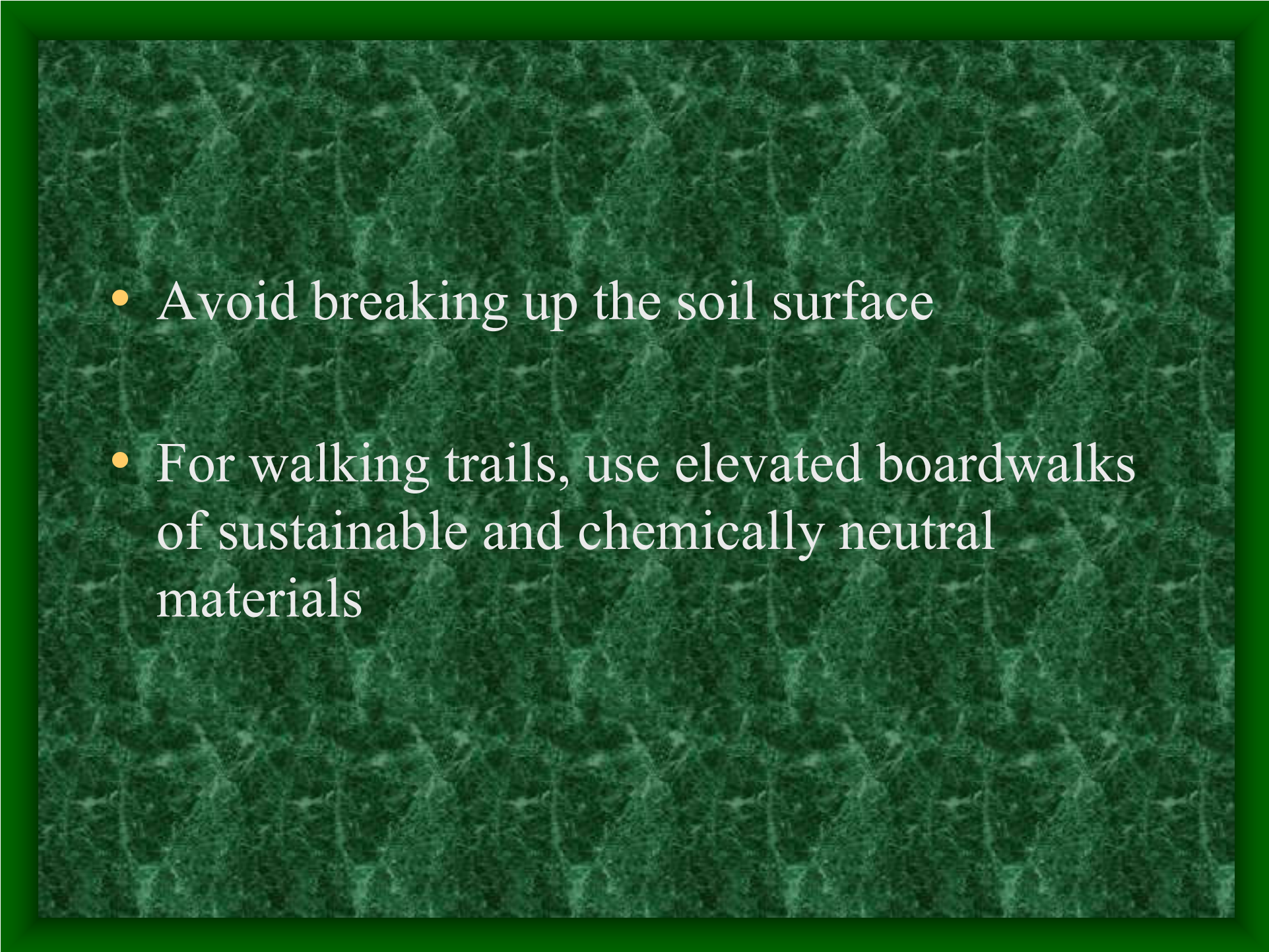
- I recommend two very important readings which may assist in this process
- I also note that the best governance provides, in one way or another for a dynamic balance between leadership, expertise and broad participation
- It also depends upon open and transparent communication at all times

Groundwater

- It is vital to ensure freedom from pollution or sedimentation

Soil as a Vital Element in Management . . .

- On tropical karst, the soils are extremely vulnerable: thin, easily mobilised and hence subject to very damaging erosion
- Avoid clearance of vegetation
- Restore vegetation when necessary

- 
- Avoid breaking up the soil surface
 - For walking trails, use elevated boardwalks of sustainable and chemically neutral materials

- Further roads should not be constructed
- But if they prove necessary:
 - Use manual construction – no heavy machinery or on-site camping
 - Use sediment traps on run-off points
 - Re-vegetate verges as soon as possible

The Forest is of fundamental importance as the base of life

- Minimise any damage; restore as necessary
- Take the strongest possible action to prevent illegal timber theft and poaching of fauna
- Avoid or remove litter at all times

The Animals of the park

- They are very vulnerable
- The most dangerous and damaging species is human beings – they must be strictly controlled
- Prevent any hunting as strictly as possible

Poverty must not be tolerated

- People may be hunting in order to survive
- The relief of poverty through new employment opportunities must be seen as a vital support to conservation

Issues of visitor management

- Tourists should never be a problem; the problems blamed on tourists are usually simple problems which result from lack of adequate resources to manage tourism, or at the worst, ignorance or stupidity of managers

Visitor Management needs

- Welcoming and hosting of visitors
- Appropriate provision of information
- Providing access and basic facilities, which must not cause environmental damage
- Avoiding over-crowding

Access means a network of walking tracks

- Basic facilities at key nodes:
 - Tables and seats for meals
 - Composting or other suitable toilets

A Difficult Issue

- Smoking should not be allowed
- Cigarette butts poison soil bacteria and damage both soil stability and survival of vegetation

A miscellany of policy issues

- Sustainability
- The Precautionary Principle
- Visitor Codes of Practice
- Continuing Vigilance



Thank you for
your attention