



Job Description for a Project Co-ordinator

***Putting Nature on the Map* – a project to identify and categorise the places in the UK where the conservation of nature and landscape comes first**

Background

The IUCN UK National Committee is leading a UK-wide exercise to identify the places that meet the IUCN definition of a 'protected' area and assign management categories to all sites in light of new IUCN guidelines (IUCN, 2008)¹. It will do this in response to a request from IUCN and as a contribution to the UK's efforts for the International Year of Biodiversity. The work, which will begin in the summer of 2010, will last for approximately one year. It will be led by a Task Force appointed by the UK Committee and supported by a project co-ordinator.

Details of the project are in the attached annex.

Short description

The central task of the co-ordinator will be to work with IUCN-UK to draw up a revised list of protected areas, compiled according to the new IUCN guidelines on categories. The work will involve these elements:

- Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the IUCN protected area management categories system, and a detailed knowledge of the 2008 guidelines
- Drawing up a draft list of protected area types in the UK and work with IUCN-UK to review this information in light of the categories system
- Making a preliminary assessment of the different types of designations in the UK in terms of the IUCN definition of protected areas for discussion with and decision by the Task Force
- Undertaking face to face discussions/training of those in protected area agencies, conservation NGOs and others who will themselves be asked to identify places that meet the IUCN definition and to assign categories to them
- Organising technical workshop/s to address issues raised by the assignment exercise (subject to funding it is planned to hold three workshops on category V, Marine and SSSIs)
- Coordinating the preparation of on-line tools and published guidance to assist protected area agencies, conservation NGOs and others in understanding the system, including a short publication on the interpretation of key concepts in the UK context, with examples
- Developing an on-line and hard copy data collection questionnaire which can be completed by those with first hand and detailed knowledge of different types of protected areas
- Providing an on-line help service to those who are completing their returns about protected areas within their jurisdiction
- Working with the Task Force, and with UNEP-WCMC, to develop and agree a process of checking and verification to ensure the accuracy of the data
- Finalising the list of protected areas with categories for submission, by the IUCN-UK Committee, to Defra (as lead for the UK State Membership of IUCN) and onwards transmission to UNEP/WCMC
- Submitting a final report to the UK Committee on the exercise, to a form advised by the Task Force, which can be used as feedback to IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas, and to UNEP/WCMC
- Developing with IUCN-UK a communications strategy for the project and provide regular updates for the IUCN-UK website and other relevant fora
- Working with IUCN-UK on additional fundraising for the project

¹http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_puball/wcpa_pubsubject/wcpa_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories

Important considerations

In fulfilling the above elements, the project co-ordinator will be guided by a small Steering Committee which has been convened by IUCN-UK to lead project and a wider Advisory Group who can help provide contacts, comments and expertise, but it is clear that he/she will need to ensure:

- That while a UK-wide perspective is to be taken, the diversity of protected area interests to be found in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are fully involved.
- That both statutory agencies and conservation NGOs have an interest in the exercise, which should cover all forms of governance.
- That close liaison is maintained throughout with both IUCN/WCPA and UNEP/WCMC throughout.
- That the often separate communities of nature conservation and landscape protection are both drawn fully into the exercise and encouraged to work together as far as practical.

Desirable experience

The co-ordinator will need to demonstrate research type experience in data collection, questionnaire design, GIS systems, report writing and at least small-scale project management. While experience with the IUCN protected area management categories and aspects of nature conservation and landscape protection is desirable, evidence of experience with similar analytical exercises will be considered.

Skills and qualities required

The following skills and qualities are essential:

- Analytical skills
- Writing skills
- Communication skills
- Skills in the design of information systems

Timeline and fees

The task is to be completed within one year (from September 2010 to September 2011) on a part-time basis. A total fee of £16,000 is available – 25% to be paid on signing the contract and the remainder on deliverables. This fee includes travel expenses (expected to be no more than £1,000) and all office expenses.

Reporting

The Project Co-ordinator will report to a project Steering Committee who will be responsible for the management of the project, will take all decision on expenditure, ensure requirements of funders are satisfied, sign-off on all outputs and provide guidance to the project co-ordinator.

Applications

Applications should be submitted by email to the IUCN-UK Secretariat (IUCN@rzss.org.uk) by July 15th 2010.

Applications should include a one page statement about you consider yourself suitable for the task and a one page summary of your CV.

If necessary telephone interviews of short-listed candidates will be carried out between July 19th and July 31st.



Annex:

***Putting Nature on the Map* – a project to identify and categorise the places in the UK where the conservation of nature and landscape comes first**

For a century or more, conservation charities and public bodies of all kinds have managed areas of land and sea in the UK to protect nature and conserve landscape. Some of these places – such as National Parks or National Nature Reserves – owe their origins to legislation, others – like nature reserves – to the work of far seeing individuals or organisations. The result is a complex patchwork of places where special measures are taken for nature and landscape.

And yet astonishingly there is no comprehensive, up-to-date, central record of all these places whose management meets international standards. So we cannot say with confidence how much land and sea is managed primarily for nature and landscape, nor the priorities for management. We know a lot about individual types of protected areas of course, but have patchy knowledge of the overall picture. This hinders our efforts to use these areas to help nature and landscape adapt to climate change. Our collective national conservation efforts are not always appreciated. We cannot fully promote our nature lands for recreation and tourism. And we undersell our national experience in conservation when the global need for marketable skills and expertise in this area has never been greater.

Putting Nature on the Map aims to address this challenge. Using the latest advice from IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, we will work with the full range of public, private and voluntary organisations in all parts of the UK to identify what ‘protected areas’ exist, classify the aims of their management, record this information, and make it available nationally and internationally. The work will be done under the auspices of the UK IUCN National Committee, supported by public agencies and private charities, and working with the Cambridge-based UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

At the end of the exercise in 2011, UNEP-WCMC will have a comprehensive digital and mapped record of the land and sea areas in the UK where nature and landscape are given priority (recognising of course that in many other areas these are important management considerations). This information will be freely available to all decision makers in the UK, and can be updated as required.

As a result, it will be possible:

- to say precisely what kind of internationally recognised protected areas exist in the UK, and where
- to raise the profile of protected areas with the public, using maps and interactive computer technology
- to provide better information to planners working on land use strategies, especially to help nature adapt to climate change
- to show better how protected areas provide ecosystem services, such as water storage and flood prevention, carbon storage carbon, soil and vegetation protection, and to valuable qualities like tranquillity
- to demonstrate how these areas contribute to the diversity and distinctiveness of the UK’s landscapes
- to show the full range of places that can attract tourists seeking contact with nature and landscape
- to help the UK fulfil its obligations internationally, for example in global treaties on biodiversity and within the EU
- to showcase UK conservation experience abroad as a marketable service.