



3rd February 2010

Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the IUCN UK Executive Committee I am pleased to invite you to the first of five IUCN UK conferences between April 2010 and April 2012. The first will take place from 18th to 20th April this year, at the 'Our Dynamic Earth' conference facility in the World Heritage City of Edinburgh. Conference activities will also take place at Edinburgh Zoo and the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens.

The theme of the conference, "Nature – What's in it For Me?", explores ecosystem management for human well-being, one of the five themes in "Shaping a Sustainable Future", the IUCN Global Programme 2009-12. We hope this holistic theme will appeal to, and have value for, delegates beyond the traditional environmental conservation sector as we seek to engage with new audiences from other areas of society who have interests in this subject, such as business and health.

Here we aim to bring together demonstrations of UK good practice, share knowledge and experience, prepare methods of collating and disseminating our collective activities with a view to making these available to others. As well as plenary sessions with luminary speakers, including IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefevre, there will be a workshop session too, utilising the skills and strengths of the six IUCN Commissions.

This conference will be hosted by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland who are the IUCN UK Secretariat organisation, and the event is also being sponsored by WWF, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales. We are grateful for this financial support which assists in keeping the delegate fee to an accessible level.

As there are only 260 places available for this conference, prospective delegates are advised to book early to ensure a place. To assist in this process of booking in time, an 'early bird' reduced rate of £95.00 is available until the end of February. To access the online booking registration system, please find the link on the home page of the IUCN UK website www.iucn-uk.org

I do hope to see many of you in Edinburgh in April.

Best wishes,

Chris Mahon

Chris Mahon, Chair, IUCN UK National Committee

