



Constitution of the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom

1. Title

The full title of the unincorporated association shall be "IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom". The short title shall be IUCN National Committee UK (NCUK), hereinafter termed 'the National Committee'.

For the purposes of this document 'United Kingdom' or 'UK' are at all times taken to indicate the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

2. Preliminary Points

a) Nothing in this Constitution should contradict the regulations and Statutes of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) which will take precedence over it.

b) Members

All IUCN member organisations, who are domiciled or otherwise located in the United Kingdom are eligible for membership in the National Committee subject to the subscription conditions set out below. IUCN cooperating bodies and individuals, members of IUCN Commissions and IUCN staff domiciled or otherwise located in the UK may participate as non-voting associates.

c) Secretariat

The expression 'Secretariat' shall mean such an organisation, individual or group of people as is from time to time contracted by the National Committee to carry out functions on its behalf in pursuit of the National Committee's objectives (Section 3 below).

d) Executive Committee

The Committee shall select from its number an executive committee in the manner prescribed below (Section 5) to carry out certain functions on its behalf (Section 6).

e) Rules of Operation

The Rules of Operation form a part of this Constitution. They shall be implemented by the Executive Committee and may be amended from time to time by the Executive Committee as required to ensure the efficient, fair and transparent operation of the National Committee. Any amendments to the Rules of Operation made by the Executive Committee shall be recorded in the reports of their meetings and shall enter into force following the next General Meeting of the National Committee provided that no Member has lodged an objection in the meantime. Any such objection shall be considered by the National Committee at its next General Meeting. A Member may request an amendment to the Rules of Operation by giving written notice to the Executive Committee or at a General Meeting. Any amendments or objections to the Rules of Operation entered by a Member shall be adopted by consensus.

3. Vision, Mission and Objectives

VISION STATEMENT

A strong IUCN National Committee supporting an active, informed and expanding IUCN member base, contributing to improved biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes in the UK, UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and elsewhere.

MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage co-operation among all IUCN members in the UK so as to facilitate their contribution to the programme and governance of IUCN.

OBJECTIVES

- a) To assist IUCN (that is to say, its members, Commissions, Headquarters, regional structures and other networks) to meet its objectives in the UK, including mobilising support for IUCN's international programme.
- b) To work on issues within the scope of IUCN that have implications beyond the borders of the United Kingdom and in which the members in the UK have some legitimate concern or interest.
- c) To facilitate by any means including projects, the work of members in the UK towards IUCN objectives provided the Executive Committee is satisfied that there is no other forum that is more appropriate to the issues in hand.
- d) To ensure that the UK members' views make an effective contribution to the work of IUCN including regional events, activities and meetings, meetings of Council, the General Assembly and the World Conservation Congress and any other processes that are established from time to time.
- e) To disseminate IUCN policy positions, publications, reports and information about the work of the National Committee throughout the UK as necessary.

4. Meetings

- a) The National Committee will meet at least twice per year. One of these meetings will constitute an Annual General Meeting at which the business of the National Committee will be conducted. The AGM will consider
 - (i) any business brought before it by the Executive Committee;
 - (ii) the annual budget, workplan and accounts;
 - (iii) membership of the Executive Committee;
 - (iv) such other business as members may have notified by the giving of at least 21 days notice to the Secretariat.
- b) Extraordinary general meetings may be called by unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee or at the request of one third of the members. Notice of an EGM shall be given at least 21 days in advance.
- c) Notice of the AGM together with a request for nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be given at least four weeks in advance.
- d) The quorum for a General Meeting will be 10 voting members. There will be no proxy votes and all decisions will be taken by consensus except for elections and necessary business items. Recognising that the UK Government membership of IUCN comprises the Government and the five environmental agencies all with statutory responsibilities in accord with IUCN's mission, each of these agencies is entitled to vote on UK business at the National Committee. Their voting entitlement does not extend beyond the UK to include for example the World Conservation Congress, and the Pan European Forum.
- e) At the Annual General Meeting, if required, the election of the Chair and any members of the Executive Committee shall be determined by secret ballot. The Chair of the National Committee shall also be the Chair of the Executive Committee.

5. Officers of the Executive Committee

a) The Executive Committee will consist of five individuals and a Chair elected from the membership according to the Rules of Operation and up to three individuals to be co-opted by the elected six, having regard to national balance and expertise. The Executive Committee should include at least one individual from each of:

- (i) The UK Government;
- (ii) The statutory conservation agencies (responsible for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales); and
- (iii) The other members of IUCN

b) Such members of the IUCN Council acting in the capacity of regional councillors or Commission chairpersons, who are normally resident in the UK, and senior members of the IUCN Secretariat normally resident in the UK will be invited to join the Executive Committee as *ex officio* members with no vote.

c) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per annum, a quorum being four members.

d) The Executive Committee may elect a vice-chair from amongst their elected members to stand in and deputise for the chair.

6. Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Committee between meetings, and will report to the membership on activities at least once a year. The Executive Committee shall propose an annual budget and a work plan and shall receive accounts. The Executive Committee will report the approved accounts to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Secretariat

a) The Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretariat to the National Committee. Services may be provided on a paid contractual or voluntary basis by an individual or organisation. The appointed Secretariat shall also be appointed to act as an agent for the National Committee with respect to income and expenditure, but in that case no liability shall fall on the National Committee unless expressly provided for.

b) The Secretariat will maintain a bank account on behalf of the National Committee.

c) The Secretariat may act on behalf of and represent the Committee with the authorisation of the Executive Committee.

d) In addition it will provide a Secretary to all meetings who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee. Its other duties will be set out in terms of reference and a contractual agreement as determined by the Executive Committee.

8. Subscriptions

The level of subscription to the National Committee will be determined in agreement with the member and the Executive Committee.. Any member failing to pay on two consecutive years shall not be entitled to vote until the arrears have been paid.

9. Termination

In the event of a termination of the National Committee, the net assets of the National Committee will be transferred to IUCN.

10. Limit of liability

Save as provided in the article titled 'Secretariat', the members of the National Committee will hold members of the Executive Committee fully and effectively indemnified against all losses, claims, damages and liabilities incurred by the members of the Executive Committee in connection with their duties as such members other than arising from fraud or wilful default.

11. Amendment of the Constitution

The constitution may be amended, repealed or added to following 21 days' notice with circulation in advance, by a resolution of a General Meeting carried by consensus of those present.

ADOPTED by the Extraordinary General Meeting of 28 February 1995

AMENDED by the General Meeting of 30 May 1995

AMENDED by the Annual General Meeting of 3 February 1999

AMENDED by the General Meeting of 22 October 1999

AMENDED by the Annual General Meeting of 13 January 2009

AMENDED by the Annual General Meeting of 21 April 2016