



## **67<sup>th</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the IUCN National Committee UK meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Bristol Zoo Gardens, Clifton, Bristol.  
1030-1500.

**Present:** Chris Mahon (Chair), Stuart Brooks (Scottish Environment Link), Jonny Hughes (The Wildlife Trusts), Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF), Sue Stolton (WCPA), Simon Stuart (Chair SSC) and Susan Davies (SNH) – by phone.

**Secretariat:** Sarah Robinson (RZSS)

**Guest:** Heather Christie (FCO)

### **1. Chairs Welcome**

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Bristol Zoo. Thanks were given for the venue, arranged by Brian Carroll. It was noted that the attendance at the meeting only just made a quorum, and a brief discussion followed about how to encourage a better turn out at future meetings.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo), Glyn Davies (WWF-UK), Richard Edwards (Wildscreen), Nigel Dudley (WCPA), Martin Spray (WWT), Mark Baxter (Defra) and Trevor Salmon (Defra).

### **3. Approval of minutes of ExCo 66 and update on actions**

The draft minutes of ExCo were sent around the group previously for corrections, a couple of minor corrections were noted by CM and JH. These points will be corrected and therefore the minutes were approved. CM talked through the action points and the following action points were signed off as complete; 66.4.1, 66.4.2, 66.4.4, 66.6.5, 66.8.6, 66.8.7, 66.8.8. Action point 65.5.7 was abandoned and action point 66.4.3 is on-going.

### **4. Strategy Objective 1 – Organisational effectiveness**

#### **4.1 Reorganising the National Committee**

A proposal had been circulated to ExCo by SB and discussed. In summary it is suggested that the committee moves away from the reliance on a volunteer chair and puts the secretariat services and much of the chair's role into an executive position. This would incorporate such responsibilities as, high level networking; promoting IUCN NCUK in the UK and elsewhere and taking the committee and its work forward.

It was considered that this should improve efficiency and offer the significant benefit of continuity through Chris Mahon who is proposed to take on the executive role, given his experience and contacts developed over the last 4 years. All present supported the principle and collectively agreed that this was the way forward.

The question of how this should happen was discussed. Given the executive committee wish to contract Chris Mahon to organise a conference for IUCN NCUK in April 2012 (see Paper 67.5.6) it was proposed that Chris step down as Chair with immediate effect. This would enable the conference contract to go ahead, avoiding any conflict of interest, and would also be appropriate in light of the proposed reorganisation of the Executive Committee.

SuS proposed a vote of thanks for Chris Mahon be minute and all present agreed that he had done an excellent job as Chair of the National Committee and thanked him for his work.

It is thought that there is still a requirement for a Chair to work alongside CM in the Executive role. There will be a call for nominations with the intention that the new chair would be elected at the AGM in April. CM is in agreement with the proposal, SB offered to act as Chair for the interim period and this was welcomed and accepted. The following actions were proposed:

**Action 67.4.1 SB Define the roles of Executive post and Chair**

**Action 67.4.2 SB Write a contract for the Executive position that incorporates future possibilities**

**Action 67.4.3 SB Write to IUCN UK members about the change and call for nominations for the Chair position**

MP recognised the work done by CM as Chair and RZSS as secretariat. He was in agreement with the proposal and reiterated the need for a strong Chair in the new set up.

CM thanked the ExCo for the pragmatic decision and vote of confidence. He didn't know, when he took on the interim Chair position followed by Chair, where it would lead but sees the new proposal as an evolution. He also raised the question of who took responsibility for on-going work in the interim period.

It was agreed that Chris should continue to work on the PNOTM project as Chair of the Protected Areas Working Group given the stage it has reached as it may be detrimental to remove him from the project, all agreed. Other work will require further discussion with the Interim Chair and the Secretariat on a case by case basis.

#### **4.2 Co-opted reps reports**

MP made available the latest edition of Forum News (also available on line at [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)) and highlighted several points from his summary paper (64.4.11).

- The UKOTCF workshop on developing ideas for biodiversity conservation objectives for UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
  - The intention is not to replace existing documents but to build on them.
  - Objectives would act also as a guide for external bodies (ie NGOs) when working in and with the Territories.
  - The objectives are very much in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- UK Government funding withdrawal
  - Seen as a retrograde step
- The UK Government UKOT White paper consultation will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December
- BEST scheme application was not successful
- The Forum continues to advise and help the Net-BIOME initiative insofar as it can without UK Governmental support.

CM asked about how IUCN had worked with UKOTCF on the recent publication 'Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe overseas: Outcomes of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity'

MP responded that the press release had been good for raising the profile of OT's but the document was unsatisfactory. The UKOTCF weren't happy with the timescale or framework of the report and had gone to some length to provide comments addressing gaps in the report but felt these had been ignored. SiS offered to follow this up with IUCN Europe.

MP gave one example from the document which suggested that the Environment Charters should be replaced; he felt this would be a bad thing as whilst they are not perfect they took quite an effort to gain and are viewed in the Territories as one of the few ways of making decisions accountable. They should not be scrapped but be built upon, using the requirement within them to develop strategies to carry them forward.

SD voiced concern that a document containing misleading comments will be used by governments.

SuS informed the committee of general WCPA news as the PNOTM project formed a separate agenda item. IUCN HQ is undergoing a major capacity building exercise and Trevor Sandwich has been taken on as the Director of the Global Protected Areas Programme. SuS has details of the recently defined priorities of the programme which she is happy to share with interested parties.

The current Commission Chair is coming to the end of their term and WCPA are seeking nominations for candidates to be made to IUCN. There may be a UK candidate. IUCN Council will make their decisions in mid-February, if there are not enough candidates the nominations will be reopened.

#### **4.3 Secretariat Update**

It was decided that the next ExCo meeting will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of March in Edinburgh at the Scottish Wildlife Trust offices. The 2012 AGM will be held at the same time as the conference in April to maximise attendance. It was noted that next year is a busy one for meetings, WCC, CBD, etc.

No news had been heard from ICOMOS/IUCN UK Landscape Working Group, CM will contact.

The Sibthorp Trust is now a member of IUCN and need to be approached about a contribution to the National Committee.

#### **Action 67.4.5 Secretariat to email ExCo and organise the next meeting in March 2012**

#### **Action 67.4.6 CM to contact ICOMOS/IUCN UK Landscape Working Group**

#### **Action 67.4.7 CM to contact the Sibthorp Trust about a NC contribution.**

#### **4.4 Financial report**

A few organisations have not paid their contribution to the National Committee this year but fortunately all substantial payments have been received. We should end the financial year in a positive position.

PNOTM payments are of some concern; Middlemarch will not be paid the final instalment due to a dispute over their contract delivery but aren't expected to contest this.

A final statement will be produced to reconcile with the bank for the end of March. CM Thanked Daniela Bennett at the Secretariat for her work on the accounts, SB reiterated his thanks.

#### **4.5 Donations from IUCN members**

ExCo discussed the associated paper. SiS gave some background on IFTF and how it has been working with SSC. SB Thanked SiS for the clarification and wanted to ensure that there was a clear understanding of how the money would be spent, acknowledged and recognised. Perhaps for a species management conference?

JH offered to contact IFTF on behalf of the Committee.

SiS Noted that there had been a big growth worldwide in NGOs joining the IUCN but not from the UK. Would it be worth doing a piece of work on looking for new members? A gap analysis? This would benefit the National Committee as well as IUCN international. SB and MP responded that this has been a consideration of the National Committee who are keen to demonstrate value before making the approach.

SiS suggested looking at the field and assessing who the obvious non participants were. SB noted that many members come in under umbrella organisations such as LINK. CM highlighted BIAZA as an umbrella member whose members also chose to join IUCN as individual organisations in 7 cases.

MP stated that the IUCN brand isn't always known making it difficult for organisations to see an immediate use. JH followed this saying the Woodland Trust had recently asked 'What would be in it for us?' when he discussed membership. SiS said that there were opportunities, some members using these ruthlessly, others not taking advantage.

SR suggested University departments may be interested in membership.

**Action 67.4.8 JH to contact IFTF and discuss the donation.**

**Action 67.4.9 All ExCo members to look for new members to join IUCN**

#### **4.6 IUCN Charity in the UK update**

SiS gave an update from Jane Smart, it is hoped that the legal paperwork will be completed in the coming weeks and everything will be finalised by March. Richard Jenkins has been appointed as Director and will take up his post on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2012

#### **Action 67.4.10 Chair to communicate forthcoming National Committee changes to Jane Smart**

SiS gave a brief update on IUCN international. Framework donors, ie governments, are cutting their contributions and in some cases dropping them altogether. This has resulted in a financial deficit of between one and three million Swiss francs this year. Redundancies are hitting HQ staff hard, the organisation is doing what it can to reduce the impact on delivery. There are more financial storms to come. Last month IUCN Council meeting in Delhi was short and the minutes are available on the website. The next council meeting will approve all elements of the forthcoming world conservation congress.

*Simon Stuart left the meeting at 1200*

### **5. Strategy objective 3 – Practical contribution to global and European strategies**

#### **5.1 IUCN UK Peatland Project update**

JH provided an update complementing the paper provided by Clifton Bain and Aletta Bonn. The Commission of Inquiry was discussed and those present were given a copy. A successful launch at the Scottish Parliament took place in November and further events are being planned for Jan /Feb with other UK and devolved governments.

It is intended to put together a major funding bid to take forward the programme over the next four years, there is some money for Clifton Bain to take things forward this year hopefully followed by four years of funding.

The next major item will be a conference which will be the culmination of phase one of the programme, demonstrating success and raising the profile of IUCN in the UK.

SB mentioned that the project had spoken to Tom Tew, Chief Executive of the Environment Bank, about gaining business support through carbon trading.

#### **5.2 Protected Areas Assignment Project (Putting Nature on the Map) update**

SuS gave a brief overview of the project for the benefit of HC.

On the positive side there has been excellent buy-in from organisations that they want to be part of the scheme and general support for the project which has generated debate about the categories.

Disappointingly the consultants hired for the work have not delivered. A draft handbook exists but is being rewritten by SuS and Adrian Phillips and should be available soon.

The data now on the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) for the UK does not represent the data that is available; therefore the UK is not reporting internationally that which it could. There is still a lot of enthusiasm to gather data and negotiations with JNCC are ongoing about how to work together better on the issues and they are providing support. There are two strands of data, officially reported data and unofficial data which anyone can submit (this is then checked). JNCC is responsible for the official data and improving its accuracy.

As discussed earlier (4.1) CM will continue to chair the PNOTM group,

JH asked if Local Wildlife Sites are included and would the IUCN categories apply to them?

- SuS stated that nothing is a 'no' although there are fundamental rules in the handbook.

There was some discussion concerning OT's and the categorisation process.

*JH left the meeting at 1415*

### **5.3 Protected Areas Conference**

SB introduced the paper proposing that the conference would raise the committee's profile and provide a platform for the PNOTM project. He was seeking a discussion about whether the committee agreed to move forward on this and whether they were happy for CM to organise as detailed in the paper.

General support was given by those present.

MP suggested the Crown Dependencies could be involved and any UKOT's representatives.

SB has been in contact with EUROPARC Atlantic Isles and CM with the Man and Biosphere Programme. SuS suggests involving IUCN WCPA and linking to the CBD targets.

SB and CM propose forming a small working group.

SD would like the adequacy of the current protected areas to be incorporated and suggested that it would be good to draw out the cultural and social benefits to broaden the debate.

SB hoped to 'make better use of what we have' a conclusion of the conference.

**Action 67.5.11 SB will draw up a contract for CM**

**Action 67.5.12 SB will email to get a working group together**

**5.4 '2012 Programme of Work' - bringing together ecosystem restoration practitioners in the UK and Europe.**

It was thought that given the proposed changes to the committee and the busy year ahead the committee would come back to this point at a later date. CM suggested that elements of this theme could be integrated into the PA conference.

### **5.5 Progress towards WCC Jeju**

SiS reported earlier on this item that there had been four of five times the number workshop submissions than there were places available. The limited number is due to the facility hosting the congress. He was involved in reviewing the submissions and all that can be done is being done to minimise disappointment. There is less competition for posters. It has been noted that the portal for submitting workshops was very difficult – those who had used it agreed.

CM reminded the Committee that JH and Roger Crofts were both standing for Regional Councillor for Western Europe.

The committee is also aware of UK candidates standing for Commission Chair positions.

Currently ND, SuS and JH intend to go to the WCC. SB is considering it.

#### **5.6 Biofuels consortium**

Refer to paper 67.5.8. This is an on-going process of which the committee will be kept informed.

#### **5.7 National Red Listing**

There had been some communication from Matt Shardlow at Buglife about taking forward a National Red Listing project for Britain. SiS noted earlier in the meeting that Dr Ben Collen at the ZSL Institute of Zoology was the UK focus for National Red Listing.

MP mentioned contacting the OT's about UK Red Listing, and earlier he and SiS agreed to make contact separately.

Generally on Strategy Objective 3 –

SB would like to assess why the Peatland Programme has been positive for the National Committee, it would prove useful in finding another significant project to endorse. This could be a focus for ExCo 68 or 69.

SR suggested any missed opportunities are highlighted and how a proportion of project funding or support in kind (i.e. website support) can come to the committee in return for endorsement.

#### **6. The Strategy Consultation for UK Overseas Territories Heather Christie (FCO)**

CM Welcomed Heather Christie, Overseas Territories Environment Programme Manager for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Introductions were made and HC thanked the committee for inviting her to the meeting.

The committee was taken through why OT's are important and why the government is changing the way it engages with them. The National Security Council has agreed that they are a cross governmental responsibility and the FCO has asked government departments to draw up papers on how they do and will engage with OT's. The government is currently encouraging contributions to its consultation process as it moves towards a new White Paper on the Overseas Territories next year. HC highlighted the deadline for contributions (31<sup>st</sup> December 2011) and encourage more returns on the environment.

HC has responsibility for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme which has traditionally funded small environmental projects. It is currently changing and conducting a gap analysis to assess where and how they can target the available funding to better help. Small project schemes in 'poor' territories are being carried over, making sure funding is still in place for those in need. Looking forward the priorities are; invasive species; conservation of flagship species; biosecurity and climate change mitigation.

CM Asked if OT's will be part of the Natural Capital Committee reporting to George Osborne?

- HC will look into this.

SB asked if the territories were signed up to agreements such as the CBD?

- HC explained that the UK is answerable to the treaty on behalf of the OT's, however the OT's choose whether they wish to sign up.

JH asked what the FCO's relationship was with JNCC

- HC said that as an agency of Defra JNCC's closest relationship was with them. However FCO had worked with the Secretariat of the UK OT's on biodiversity strategies prior to Aichi and Nagoya.

National Ecosystem Assessment – were OT's part of this?

- HC don't know but lots of data could be provided for the OT's.

MP noted the differences that UKOTCF and its member organisations had with FCO over the suspension of OTEP grants, but recognised that it would be inappropriate to pursue that in this venue. He was interested in the mention of EU funding and noted that there is no scaling in their procedures.

- HC responded that it would be an overseas association decision working to ensure funding is accessible.

MP raised the question of renewable energy and to what extent the FCO can address the problem of energy supply monopolies and the fact that they may stand in the way of renewable.

- HC said requests were coming in from the OT's but there are limitations given the situation of an often small economy with one utility provider, they are doing what they can.

MP welcomed the FCO exploring the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the specific example given by HC of getting legislation moving again in Cayman., He was unsure, however, how redirection of funding could help in changing political will to change environmental policy

- HC stated that all they can do is encourage.

Thanks were given to Helen Christie by the ExCo.

## 7. Strategy objective 4 – Raising profile and improving communication

### 7.1 Global Business Of Biodiversity (GBOB2), conference feedback

The event was not the same scale as GBOB1, the quality of speakers was high and it was a useful event for the IUCN NCUK to be seen at.

### 7.2 Man and Biosphere Committee

ExCo agreed to take part in the MAB Committee as invited. Representation will be determined after the AGM in April.. SD stated that UNESCO has lost 60% of its budget and there was strong engagement and interest from Scotland.

### 7.3 Pan-European meeting in Bonn and the European Regional Office

Details are provided in the paper. The National Committee wish the departing Susanna Soderstrom their best wishes and good luck for the future.

SB noted that Hans Friederich did a great job at articulating the values of IUCN to the Scottish Environment LINK's annual congress in November.

It was also noted that Willem Ferwerda - Executive Director of the National Committee for the Netherlands is stepping down to focus on Business and Biodiversity.

## 8. Any Other Business

There was no other business brought forward.

## 9. Next meeting (ExCo 68)

14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2012, Scottish Wildlife Trust Offices, Edinburgh.

The meeting drew to a close at 1500 with a vote of thanks to Chris Mahon as he officially stood down as Chair of the National Committee. CM thanked everyone for their support.

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date of completion	Status
67.4.1	<b>Define the roles of Executive post and Chair</b>	<b>SB</b>		

67.4.2	Write a contract for the Executive position that incorporates future possibilities	SB		
67.4.3	Write to IUCN UK members about the change and call for nominations for the Chair position	SB		
67.4.4	Secretariat to email ExCo and organise the next meeting in March 2012	Secretariat		
67.4.5	CM to contact ICOMOS/IUCN UK Landscape Working Group	CM		
67.4.6	CM to contact the Sibthorp Trust about a NC contribution.	CM		
67.4.7	JH to contact IFTF and discuss the donation.	JH		
67.4.8	All ExCo members to look for new members to join IUCN	ExCo		
67.4.9	Chair to communicate forthcoming National Committee changes to Jane Smart	SB/Secretariat		
67.5.10	SB will draw up a contract for CM for the protected areas conference	SB		
67.5.11	SB will email to get a working group together for the protected areas conference	SB		
From ExCo 66: 66.4.3:	CB to find out if funding is available to enable IUCN UK to take the Peatland Programme material to the Pan-European meeting and the next World Congress	Clifton Bain	On going	