

### **Executive Committee meeting 69 (ExCo69)**

Draft minutes of the IUCN National Committee UK meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Scottish Wildlife Trust Offices, Leith, Edinburgh

**Present:** Stuart Brooks (IUCN NCUK Chair, John Muir Trust), Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo), Jonathan Hughes (The Wildlife Trusts), Susan Davies (Scottish Natural Heritage), Tim Stowe (RSPB), Mark Baxter (DEFRA - by phone), Chris Mahon (IUCN NCUK CEO)

#### **1. Chairs Welcome**

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular welcomed TS as a new member of ExCo. TS is the RSPB's Director, International Operations and will bring valuable experience and knowledge to future ExCo meetings. Apologies were offered for the late issuing of papers owing to the changeover in Secretariat. Some agenda items were reshuffled to accommodate Defra input via telephone.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Pienkowski UKOTCF, Sue Stolton (WCPA), Nigel Dudley (WCPA), Richard Edwards (Wildscreen), Glyn Davies (WWF) and Trevor Salmon (DEFRA)

#### **3. Approval of minutes**

Amendments proposed by SD and required for:

Item 6.2 para1 line 9 – 'sort' should read 'sought'

Item 6.2 para 3 bullet 4 line 3, 'lead' should read 'led'

List of actions 68.5.8 BIT = Biodiversity Implementation Team – delete duplication

### **Actions from the previous minutes**

**68.4.1** contract details being finalised by SB

**68.4.2** done - by SB. 2.5k transferred to IUCN NCUK account

**68.4.3** done

**68.6.4** done - Twitter account set up by JH

**68.6.5** done - MB presence indicates continued support for DEFRA engagement. JNCC Marcus Yeo also spoken to by SB at conference concerning improved engagement

**68.6.6** done - by JH commitment received from TWT to increase subscription to £1000

**68.4.7** ongoing - Annual report final text now with designer. Final document to be sent far and wide with a cover letter and explanation of NC changes. Contact list to be created by CM.

**68.5.8** done

#### **From ExCo67**

**67.4.2** as above with SB

**67.4.7** IFTF JH to follow up with Rebecca Hildreth in London

**67.4.8** ongoing - Existing list of Members to be circulated to ExCo as a reminder.

**67.4.9** ongoing

#### **4.1 Members meeting Cambridge**

Paper 69.4.1 was circulated prior to the meeting. The date of 7<sup>th</sup> August was confirmed for this Members Meeting and the next meeting of ExCo(70). CM to find a suitable venue and create schedule. Some additions to the purposes of the meeting were suggested and these may influence the agenda for the event. We should add the sharing of our work programme for the next 4 years to make it consistent with the strategy that is approved at Jeju. Need to make some progress on a draft work programme and are seeking ideas from ExCo and Members. Could reflect on progress from an earlier meeting. TS asked whether we are involved in the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. CM gave some history and reflected that the relationship between IUCN and other organisations in Cambridge remains distant despite holding an ExCo meeting there previously. Holding a Members meeting in Cambridge might help improve communications. We should promote this when sending out the annual report. MB asked if we should wait until after Jeju for the strategy direction? The view was that the revised draft strategy produced after Member consultation at the regional meeting in Bonn is not likely to change much so there should be sufficient to inform our work programme.

#### **5.5 Future National Committee Projects**

SB provided a powerpoint presentation and emphasised that the National Committee should exist to 'do' rather than to 'be'. We can usefully use the IUCN brand to bring resources in as well as help deliver its objectives - the Peatland Programme (PP) and PNOTM projects are good examples of this success.

The idea of the presentation and consequent discussion was to take the PP example and see if there were any potential parallel projects that the National Committee could take forward. PP had no 'leaders' and no 'baggage'. A shared logo takes the tension away so a genuine partnership can exist. We can use this for fundraising. The funder of the PP, Peter de Haan, originally convened a meeting where peatland conservation was debated, found the then current activity somewhat dispersed and directed his investment in creating more cohesion. The PP covers policy and practice – and audiences from politicians to landowners. IUCN brand helps us act as an honest broker in contentious issues. Relevant across the UK and with international dimensions. IUCN has brand attributes – it's well known and well respected.

Taking the Peatland Programme example further, there may be options along the lines of:

- An ecosystem, habitat or species that requires positive action at policy and practical level
- Something championed by many but 'owned' by none
- Project based – so relatively short term success or easily identified milestones
- Fundable
- Relevant across UK (devolved governments)
- Where we are needed

SB's presentation suggests the following possible areas that might be open to NCUK activity

- - Urban agenda – green infrastructure
- – Migratory fish (biodiversity, policy issues around fish farming)
- – Marine (protected areas, renewables)

JH thought we should add 'green economy' to the list of possibilities - what the green economy means for nature. The WSSD Rio+20 might help progress the subject. JH offered to circulate a relevant paper. SD and MB suggested that 'marine' is a crowded and complex area though 'urban' might be a good area to explore. Also suggested was river restoration and the evidence base around species decline on agricultural land, relevant to CAP reform. TS identified the ecosystem services vs biodiversity debate and BC proposed adding alien invasive species. Mention was also made by TS of the 'Land Sharing, Land Sparing' initiative. The outcomes of both WSSD Rio+20 and WCC Jeju will influence our thinking in terms of strategic priorities. CM suggested that we should also consider the revival of IUCN Commission activity in the UK in helping to deliver some of these themes and project ideas. It was agreed that it would be helpful if there was a list of the criteria in a grid with a short project brief to be able to score these ideas.

The PP has stimulated sign up from 4 Ministers and JH reported that Defra would like to launch a Ministerial statement endorsing action plans for peatlands – a potential opportunity exists around the WCC in Jeju.

A discussion was had on the value of holding a seminar, similar to the way that the PP was initiated – to invite people to share what the big issues are in order to help us determine our priorities. CM suggested that we should include a Webinar in order to help overcome the issues of meeting location and attendance. We could present projects as bids or challenge Members on what they think we have to address in the next 10 years or so. TS suggested we look at the UK Approach document Bill Sutherland's 'Forward Look' on what the big issues for conservation are (horizon scanning).

JH agreed to circulate a green economy paper **Action JH**

SD and TS agreed to circulate the relevant papers **Action SD and TS**

CM to do a discussion paper on themes **Action CM**

SB will work on the criteria from PP **Action SB**

JH we should encourage our members to take up the IUCN position papers in their strategies.

### **6.3 Progress with WCC Jeju**

Defra hope to attend (Trevor Salmon) where they have agreed to co-sponsor a motion on elephants. At this point MB left the meeting. JH, CB and CM will be attending the event. Due to other work commitments SB and SD are unfortunately not able to attend.

The Peatland Programme workshop will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> September and the WCPA conservation campus at which our protected areas work will feature, will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### **4.2 Financial administration**

A paper 69.4.2 was circulated before the meeting setting out the situation. Two volunteers from ExCo are needed for replacement bank signatories. Jonathan Hughes and Susan Davies agreed to do this and Susan Davies volunteered to act as Treasurer. SB would hand over responsibilities once accounts and financial information were fully transferred to CM from RZSS. It was agreed to move bank accounts if required.

#### **Resolution**

***This 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the IUCN National Committee for the United***

***Kingdom empowers the Chief Executive to determine and initiate appropriate banking arrangements on behalf of the National Committee UK, including the opening and closing of bank accounts as necessary.***

#### **5.1 Co-opted Member representatives reports**

Papers 5.1a and 5.1b circulated previously by the Secretariat on behalf of SS and MP were accepted with thanks.

#### **5.2 Peatland Programme**

A paper was circulated at the meeting setting out the latest news. The Commission of Inquiry report was launched at Stormont and the House of Lords (as well as previously at the Scottish Parliament) and work on its advocacy continues. A case studies document showcasing restoration of peatland is being produced ready for the Bangor conference.

#### **5.3 Putting Nature On The Map (PNOTM) update**

A paper 69.5.3 was circulated before the meeting. Phase 2 of the project is about to begin, subject to contract. CME have been appointed to carry out data acquisition, management and communications until the end of 2012. Funding (£2500) from the Sibthorp Trust matched by IUCN NCUK funds is making the continuation of this project possible.

#### **5.4 Protected Areas Conference and IUCN NCUK AGM**

A paper 69.5.4 was circulated before the meeting which identified the success of the event and some lessons learned. The Chair reiterated the intention of reconvening the protected area community at a future date prior to the World Parks Congress. A letter summarising the outcomes of the conference will be circulated to Members signing them to the website for the presentations.

#### **5.6 Annual report**

Text has been received and a draft mock-up was shown to ExCo Members. Images are now required to complete the document. Around 200 copies is expected to be the print run.

#### **6.1 CEO report**

A paper 69.6.1 was circulated before the meeting. This item to go to the front of the agenda in future to provide the context for the meeting.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

7.1 CM to write a draft process to accommodate the opting in or out of external requests. JB suggested a sign up process to press statements too. We should all think about what we do want to comment on and include in the criteria.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

8.1 The next meeting (ExCo70) is scheduled for the 7th August 2012  
CM to find venue in Cambridge **Action CM**

### Actions arising from the meeting

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date
68.4.1	CEO contract details	SB, CM	
68.4.7	Annual report completion	CM	
68.4.7	Members list to be circulated to ExCo	CM	
67.4.7	Follow up with IFTF	JH	
69.5.5	Share green economy document	JH	
69.5.5	Share UK Approach document	SD	
69.5.5	Share horizon scanning documents	TS	
69.5.5	Discussion paper on future project themes	CM	
69.5.5	Criteria grid from Peatland Programme	SB	
69.7.1	Process for response to external requests and press releases	CM	
69.8.1	Find venue in Cambridge for Members Meeting	CM	