



2012 Annual Report

IUCN National Committee for United Kingdom



Foreword from the Chair



This report summarises some of the main activities and achievements of the **IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom** and some of its members over the last 12 months. We also take the opportunity to highlight some of our planned activities for the year ahead. I hope you find this informative and you will be encouraged to find out more about our work and get more actively involved.

The National Committee has focused its activities over the last three years to support delivery of the IUCN Global Programme which was adopted at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in 2009. With limited resources our emphasis has been on providing a UK platform for sharing and formulating ideas through our programme of meetings and conferences. These have proven to be well attended across the public, private and voluntary sectors bringing people together that have significant influence over the future of the UK's natural environment. The UK National Committee has also been involved at the 'chalk face' overseeing two innovative and influential projects, one on peatland conservation, the other on mapping of protected areas. Both these projects have created significant outreach for the IUCN in the UK and well beyond and both have achieved much in the last year.

Members of the National Committee have represented the IUCN at a wide range of meetings, conferences, projects and programmes from the vast wild peatlands of the Flow country in northern Scotland to classrooms on the Turks & Caicos Islands to the icy tundra of South Georgia.

Throughout this period the National Committee has been chaired by Chris Mahon. Chris has shown great leadership and enthusiasm and I am delighted to say that Chris will be taking on the new role of Chief Executive for the National Committee from 1st May 2012. Thank you Chris for all you have done and I look forward to working with you over the next four years to see us achieve even more.

Thank you also to the members of the National Committee, our members and the wide range of supporters who have helped us to achieve something positive for nature in the last year. It's only right that from time to time we stop and take stock of the things we have achieved as well as the challenges that lie ahead. Ultimately though we are here to make progress and help deliver the ambitions of the IUCN in the United Kingdom. The mantra for the National Committee is that we exist to 'do' not to 'be'. Please get in touch if you wish to join us and get involved.



Stuart Brooks

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IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom - conferences

Work on the series of conferences organised by the National Committee continues in 2012 with the latest, *'Protected Areas - Natural Solutions'*, conference at Brockholes Nature Reserve and Conference Centre, near Preston, on 26th April 2012.

This follows two previous events which have helped translate the IUCN's thematic 'One Programme', *Shaping a Sustainable Future*, towards tangible UK conservation activity. 'Nature - What's in it For You?' held at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh in 2010, explored the IUCN theme of Ecosystem Management for Human Wellbeing. Over 100 people attended the conference, including the Scottish Government Environment Minister. The conference also facilitated a rare event – with three Chief Executives from Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage sharing a platform. A report from the conference can be found on our website at <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Portals/0/Conferences/Conference%20Report/Conference%20Report.pdf>

The second of our IUCN themed conferences; *'The Economics of Nature: taking stock, sharing action'* was held at City Point, London in partnership with Carbon Leapfrog. The conference looked at the issues of meeting the global challenges set out in recent TEEB¹ reports and was an exciting event that brought the issues of sustainability and the natural heritage into the world of business. A DVD of the conference can be accessed from our website at <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Home/TheEconomicsofNature/tabid/129/Default.aspx>

Delegates at the Nature - What's in it For You? conference, Edinburgh 2010



IUCN National Committee for United Kingdom - projects

Putting Nature on the Map: a project to assign IUCN Protected Area Management Categories and Governance Types to the UK's protected areas

Phase 1 of the project is now complete with the publication of the handbook *Putting Nature on the Map: identifying protected areas in the UK*. This explains how to apply IUCN's 2008 guidelines on protected area management categories and governance types within the UK and is available on the web site of the National Committee, see: <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Portals/0/PNOTM%20Final%20January.pdf>

A steering group of National Committee representatives and protected area specialists have overseen the project to date. As well as finalising the handbook they have met a number of the key data providers and managers, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust, Natural England, the Association of National Park Authorities and JNCC, to explain the significance of Putting Nature on the Map (PNOTM). There is much support for the project and difficult issues such as how to categorise the UK's Protected Landscapes are on their way to resolution, partly through agreement that Statements of Compliance should be prepared by the major data providers to show the alignment with the IUCN guidance as set out in the Handbook.

Phase 2 will be undertaken with the assistance of Chris Mahon as project co-ordinator. The principal purpose of this phase will be to oversee the data collection and data recording, and to secure outputs about the UK's protected areas using the IUCN system. Part of this work will be undertaken by a WCPA UK Categories Assessment Panel, which will review the data provided and the Statements of Compliance, and advise the data providers and JNCC (as the data collector for officially designated protected areas). A communications plan will be implemented to raise the profile of the project and to engage the key stakeholders and the project will be highlighted at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in South Korea this autumn. Some further fundraising will be sought for phase 2 activities.

IUCN Peatland Programme UK: an initiative to deliver large scale peatland restoration in the UK through building a partnership around science, policy and practitioners

In the past year, the Programme has continued to deliver a range of positive outcomes under the management of a small steering group chaired by Rob Stoneman, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The staffing for the programme included one full time and two part-time members of staff, hosted by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The original Business Strategy² for the programme set out three main aims:

1. Improved policy and funding mechanisms for peatlands with better coordination of public and private effort
2. Knowledge exchange and consensus on the scientific evidence around peatland functions and ecosystem services
3. Increased awareness about peatland benefits and heritage values

In taking forward these aims in the last 12 months, the focus has been on developing and publishing a Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands³. To achieve this, a high level advisory group was established involving public and private bodies as well as strong scientific representation. Considerable public engagement was achieved through an open inquiry event, seminars, field events and three annual conferences (Durham, Stirling and Bangor). This resulted in a thorough assessment, with broad consensus on the state of UK peatlands, the impacts of different activities on peatland ecosystems and the benefits of restoring and conserving them.

Danny Green/2020/VISION



Additional outputs from the Programme in the past year have included policy briefings, press and media activity, presentations at UK and international conferences, a short peatland film and a guide to *Sphagnum* identification. The work of the Programme has been supported by the UK and devolved governments with the Inquiry report having been presented in the Scottish Parliament, House of Lords and Northern Ireland Assembly. A strong policy commitment to taking forward the recommendations of the Inquiry has now been agreed across the UK governments.

The Programme is currently developing the next phase of work which will take forward activity to oversee delivery of peatland restoration through a consensus approach and monitoring progress against the Inquiry key recommendations. A Peatland Gateway is also being established to allow knowledge exchange, build consensus on scientific information and share good practice on peatland management. Opportunities for additional funding to maintain this activity are also being explored.

Norman Russell



The Programme also bid for and secured a workshop slot at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in South Korea in September, 2012. This workshop will share conclusions, recommendations and outcomes from the Peatland Programme and discuss with participants how these can be taken forward in countries and regions around the world. Specifically, the workshop is aiming to cover:

- the role of peatland restoration as a cost effective nature-based solution to climate change
- the role of peatlands in delivering multiple benefits - clean water, flood amelioration, recreation, biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage protection
- the importance of building resilience into peatland landscapes to protect these multiple benefits, and how this can be practically achieved
- recent decisions on peatland restoration and carbon accounting made at UNFCCC and the implications of these for IUCN members

We intend to share our findings (including new recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry findings) and facilitate exchange of key information between Congress participants as they also share their own research and experience of peatland restoration practice and policy.

UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

By agreement, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) takes the lead on UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies for the National Committee.

Highlights include progress on invasive species, perhaps the greatest threat to UKOT biodiversity. For example, non-native rodents present a huge problem for South Georgia as they kill the chicks of ground-nesting birds. Climate-change and glacial retreat are linking unglaciated "islands", making the units too big for rat elimination. The first phase of South Georgia Heritage Trust's South Georgia Restoration Project cleared rats from three ice-free "islands". The South Georgia Government, following wide consultation, decided to remove reindeer populations introduced 100 years ago which cause severe damage to natural vegetation communities.

The RSPB, an IUCN National Committee for United Kingdom member, have been active in leading the eradication of introduced Pacific rats from Henderson Island, in the Pitcairn group, to save the endemic Henderson Petrel and other species. Rat eradication also started on Dog Island, Anguilla, important for seabirds, turtles and endemic terrestrial reptiles. Work has been undertaken on control of feral cats and mongooses on Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands, and of feral livestock in Montserrat.

UKOTCF leads several major environmental education projects. Just completing its first phase is the Wonderful Water curriculum development project for upper primary and lower secondary, by UKOTCF and the Turks & Caicos Islands Education Department. Materials have been prepared on the themes of Wetland Ecosystems and Mangroves (as requested by schools), and workshops held to introduce teachers to draft materials so that they could trial them with students. The Education Department plan to use these materials in all schools in the new academic year. This project, enthusiasm in schools, and collaboration on the development and launching of bird-watching trails for residents and tourists, have led to a start to protection for the internationally important former salt-pans where normally shy waterbirds allow close approach – but which were being lost rapidly to piecemeal development.

Unfortunately the potential for future projects of all these types has been reduced drastically by Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DFID suspending their Overseas Territories Environmental Programme small grants scheme. A meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Overseas Territories, Biodiversity and Aquaria & Zoos expressed shock that UK government funding had been withdrawn.

Several years ago, UKOTCF and its French and Netherlands partners in the grouping *Bioverseas* indicated to the European Commission the need for support for conservation in Overseas Countries & Territories of European Union Member States. This evolved into the pilot BEST grant scheme. Sadly, procedures in the first round were flawed, with grants made only to French-led consortia or international bodies lacking on-the-ground involvement in territories. After much protest by NGOs and governments, better procedures are hoped for in the second round.

This year also saw the announcement by the Department of Culture, Media & Sport of a new UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, including three UKOT sites: Gorham's Cave Complex, Gibraltar; St Helena; and parts of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

In other news:

- UKOTCF are developing a skilled volunteer programme, while also seeking the limited funding needed for its coordination
- UKOTCF convened, in June 2011, a workshop to develop UKOT/CD biodiversity objectives, to complement UK Government's *UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy* which is actually an interdepartmental Memo of Understanding, rather than a strategy. See www.ukotcf.org/pdf/News/BiodivWorkshop1106.pdf
- Royal Botanic Gardens Kew has launched their online UKOTs herbarium.

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Richard Edwards (Chief executive of Wildscreen) is a co-opted member from the CEC. Wildscreen activities in support of IUCN actions are summarised as follows;

- Wildscreen were invited to attend the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Chairs meeting in Abu Dhabi in February 2012, and presented a session on Conservation Communications
- Wildscreen have also worked with John Francis of National Geographic to propose a session on Conservation Communications at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, and we understand this has been selected
- Wildscreen's ARKive project continues to audiovisually profile IUCN Red Listed species, prioritising those listed as CR - VU, and to this end are requesting images from SSC members, that can be used by ARKive, IUCN and SSC
- The ARKive team continue to contribute to IUCN's 'Amazing Species' on request. See <http://www.iucnredlist.org/amazing-species>
- The ARKive team are just about to undertake a new project with IUCN, SSC and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to source imagery on the world invertebrates as a contribution to a new ZSL report on the conservation status of the world invertebrates, to be launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju South Korea in September 2012, along with a possible photographic exhibition
- The ARKive team compiled a video news release for the IUCN Red List update November 2011
- ARKive imagery has been incorporated via an api into the new interactive species distribution maps on the IUCN Red List website.



IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Report

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Area's (WCPA) main link with the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom in 2011 and 2012 has been through development of the Putting Nature on the Map (PNOM) project and the UK Protected Areas - Natural Solutions Conference, both reported on elsewhere.

The PNOM project has also generated interest outside of the UK. WCPA were recently asked to make a presentation to both the Comité français de l'IUCN (the IUCN French Committee) and Metsähallitus (the Finnish agency responsible for protected areas) on the IUCN protected area management categories and PNOM. Lessons learned from PNOM are being incorporated into an IUCN-WCPA project developing additional guidance on using the IUCN definition of a protected area, assignment of categories and governance types, which will be the subject of a conservation campus session at IUCN's World Conservation Congress. WCPA also represents the IUCN UK National Committee on World Heritage related work. This involves taking part in the World Heritage Coordinators meetings organised by English Heritage and providing input into the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's work on revising the UK's tentative list of sites which may eventually develop full nomination documents for inclusion on the World Heritage list.

Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site



National Committee involvement in shaping IUCN European and global programmes

Chris Mahon and Jonathan Hughes attended the first IUCN European Regional Conservation Forum on behalf of the National Committee in Bonn in September 2011. Similar Regional Conservation Fora were organized in each IUCN Region in preparation for the World Conservation Congress. The aim of Regional Fora is to convene IUCN's constituency to discuss regional issues and provide regional input to the IUCN Global Programme to be adopted by the Members at the Congress.

Among the key recommendations that emerged from the discussions were:

- Reinforcing IUCN's role in bringing together different actors from across society to find solutions for biodiversity
- How the IUCN network in Europe can be better connected and mobilised
- Europe's important role in the global discourse and how IUCN Europe can lead by example
- Putting the restoration of degraded habitats at the core of IUCN's work
- How IUCN can help improve how biodiversity is communicated to policy makers and the general public
- How IUCN can be clearer and more impactful in its work with, and how it influences, the European Union
- Using IUCN's unique knowledge products to help promote nature-based solutions to a wider audience
- How IUCN can better help local authorities and cities play an essential role in managing natural resources
- Growing IUCN's work with business, making sure that the right approaches are used to maintain IUCN's independence and credibility.

All ideas, suggestions and input gathered at the meeting are currently being integrated in the new global IUCN Programme, and help define the action plan for IUCN in Europe for the years to come. The latest draft of the global programme can be viewed here http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_programme_2013_16_third_draft_january_2012.pdf

Suffice to say that the two representatives from the National Committee contributed positively and influentially during the Forum and have helped shape the IUCN priorities for both the European and global programmes in the coming years. One of the outcomes of the discussions was a simplification of the set of 5 original draft objectives (split into core and thematic), down to 3 core objectives (see diagram below). There was a recognition that sustainable management of ecosystems should be a key tool in climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also that the benefits which flow for nature's services should be shared equitably and governed appropriately. The third core theme of the framework is the more straightforward – that of the vital business of conserving nature, linked to developing a better understanding of the value of nature.

National Committee Financial Report

	BUDGET 2011-12	ACTUAL 2011-12	BUDGET 2012-13	
INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED				
Balance B/F from last year	10,909	10,909	11,023	
Bank Interest	45	32	30	
Member Subscriptions	16,000	15,892	16,800	Known increase from Wildlife Trusts
Grants & Donations	0	0	0	
RESTRICTED				
Putting Nature on the Map	6,666	3,908	2,500	Sibthorp contribution
Conference	5,000	8,000	5,000	Assumes £5k grants
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	26,954	26,833	27,853	
TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME	1,666	11,908	7,500	
TOTAL INCOME (i)	38,620	38,742	35,353	
EXPENDITURE				
UNRESTRICTED				
EXCO Costs				
EXCO Meetings	500	164	500	
EXCO Members Expenses	400	94	400	
Objective 1 - Effective Working				
Secretariat Costs	10,800	10,800	10,800	CEO contract
Meetings	2,300	2,871	5,000	£3k expenses plus £2k for WCC
Newsletter	400	665	400	
Objective 2 - Expand membership				
Meetings	400	27	200	
Objective 3 - Deliver Conservation				
Meetings	3,000	1,189	1,500	
Projects	0	0	2,500	PNOTM - ExCo contribution
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED	17,800	15,810	21,300	
RESTRICTED				
Objective 1 - Effective Working				
Projects Web	10,000	0	3,000	Revamp
Objective 3 - Deliver Conservation				
Putting Nature on the map	16,200	11,719	2,500	Sibthorp + £2500 from IUCN above
Conference	5,000	4,700	5,000	
TOTAL RESTRICTED	31,200	16,419	10,500	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	49,000	32,229	31,800	
BALANCE TOTAL				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	-10,380	6,513	3,553	
BALANCE ON UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	9,154	11,023	6,553	
YEAR END FUND BALANCES				
Conference	0	0	0	Assumes conf only covers costs
Website	0	10,000	7,000	
PNoM	0	0	0	
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	0	10,000	7,000	
MOVEMENT IN UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	1,755	-1,869	3,888	

The IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom

The National Committee represents IUCN members in the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. It also helps to represent the interests of its Members in the IUCN Pan European region.

The work of the National Committee is taken forward by an Executive Committee made up of elected members, government representatives and co-opted specialists. In 2011-12 the Executive Committee was represented by;

Elected

- **Chris Mahon** (Chair until Dec 2011)
- **Stuart Brooks** (Hon. Treasurer & acting Chair from Dec 2011-April 2012, Scottish Environment Link)
- **Martin Spray** (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust)
- **Glyn Davies** (WWF-UK)
- **Bryan Carroll** (Bristol Zoo)
- **Jonathan Hughes** (The Wildlife Trusts)

Government representatives

- **Trevor Salmon** (Defra)
- **Susan Davies** (Scottish Natural Heritage representing the UK statutory nature conservation agencies)

Co-opted

- **Mike Pienkowski** (UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)
- **Nigel Dudley** (World Commission on Protected Areas)
- **Sue Stolton** (World Commission on Protected Areas)
- **Richard Edwards** (Wildscreen Commission on Education and Communication)
- **Joanna Robertson** (Hon Archivist)

For more information on the work of the National Committee please visit our website www.iucn-uk.org

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Mark Hamblin/2020VISION

