



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the IUCN UK ExCo 65 Meeting held on the 7th January 2011

WWF-UK, Godalming, Surrey

10.00-14.30

Present: Chris Mahon (Chair), Stuart Brooks (John Muir Trust/Scottish Environment Link), Mark Wright (WWF UK), Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo), Nigel Dudley (WCPA), Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF) Martin Spray (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust), Trevor Salmon (Defra)

Secretariat: Rob Thomas (RZSS), Jennifer Cocker (RZSS)

1. Chair's Welcome

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mark Wright for hosting the meeting at WWF-UK offices. CM introduced Martin Spray, Chief Executive of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) who had previously been an IUCN UK ExCo member. Martin is keen to take up a place again on the committee, and is co-opted until election at the 2011 AGM.

Attendees were warmly welcomed by David Nussbaum CEO at WWF UK. Bryan Carroll joined the meeting at 11.30.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members: Ed Edwards from Wildscreen, (replacing Harriet Nimmo on the Executive Board) and Clifton Bain (IUCN UK Peatland Programme).

3. The proposed IUCN Charity in the UK: response to IUCN Legal and discussions on moving forward

CM had consolidated the IUCN Charity proposal discussions into a document which was circulated to ExCo prior to the meeting. There needed to be a response made from ExCo to Giuseppe Zaccagnini, the IUCN Legal Counsel in Gland. The group had a detailed discussion about the implications of the proposed charity including the following key points:

- The group were highly concerned that IUCN UK members had not been informed of the proposed IUCN charity. There was a worry that members may have to compete with the new charity for funding opportunities
- The group felt betrayed by IUCN HQ and questioned why IUCN would not consider a single legal entity with all 3 IUCN UK organisations: the IUCN Executive Committee, The Sibthorp Trust and the new IUCN UK charity.
- The fact that IUCN's Jane Smart had not consulted ExCo was felt to be very disappointing; especially as she was once Chair of the IUCN UK Executive Committee. It was felt she should understand some of the concerns ExCo had about the members and the implications for them.
- CM thought that Julia Marton- Lefevre, Director General of IUCN, was concerned that the whole process had not been handled well and was keen to resolve any issues. Responding to Giuseppe's letter is the first step. It was suggested that Julia Marton- Lefevre should be copied into the letter.
- ND suggested we communicate our concerns to other National Committees, without making it too much of an issue. It would be useful to get in touch with them to see if they have had any similar problems in dealing with IUCN HQ, and their communications. There was a worry that if a charity could pop up in the UK

and potentially take funding money away from UK organisations, then it could be duplicated in other countries.

- It was thought that the offer for a place on the charity's board for the IUCN UK ExCo Chair could provide a way into the organisation, although SB was concerned it may be seen as a 'conflict of interest'. It was thought by TS it will not be enough for just the Chair to be on the board, but maybe a sub-committee could exist with members of the charity and ExCo?
- CM confirmed the proposed charity is to change its suggested name from IUCN-UK, but the new name is not known yet.
- The group agreed that the next IUCN UK AGM would be the best platform to gather views from members on the charity, and communicate these to IUCN HQ. It was suggested to perhaps move the AGM for 2011 to an earlier date with an agenda and item on this issue circulated at the earliest opportunity
- SB reported he had looked into the new charity's Articles of Association, and they were quite broad. It was not clear as to what the new charity's priorities would be. The charity has opted to have the minimum of 3 trustees on the board, and as its clear IUCN HQ have the power to decide what the charity's aims are - they subsequently have full control. There is currently no linkage to the IUCN UK member organisations. SB suggested ExCo could put forward in its response the idea that IUCN look at the governance of the charity and be more open to its members.
- It was highlighted that if there were sufficient complaints from IUCN UK members to IUCN HQ, then there may be a chance IUCN HQ would consider not going ahead with the charity proposal. ExCo are concerned that action needs to be taken sooner rather than later before the charity is established.
- There was a discussion as to whether ExCo should see the charity proposal as an opportunity or a threat despite efforts to consolidate with the charity as a single entity being rebuffed by IUCN HQ. Overall ExCo agreed to see the proposal as an opportunity but remain highly concerned with their treatment from IUCN HQ regarding the issue. The group feels undermined, undervalued and ignored by IUCN HQ.
- The possibility of the IUCN UK National Committee becoming an independently separate charity was discussed but dismissed by the group on the grounds that it would create additional administrative burden for little practical benefit.
- It was agreed that ExCo would write to the UK members informing them of the proposed charity. It should be highlighted that IUCN HQ did not want ExCo to inform the members but that ExCo would be acting independently. The letter should have all signatures on from the ExCo members and the organisations they represent. It was thought the letter should be copied to Members of the Council of IUCN if the matter is not resolved early (Bryan Carroll enters the meeting at this point and is brought up to speed on the discussion)
- The group then worked on their response to Giuseppe Zaccagnini's email communication.
- BC suggested that he would make contact with the Chair of the Species Survival Commission, Simon Stuart, as he is on IUCN Council, although the group were unsure if he would be able to give any information.
- The IUCN UK Sibthorp Trust's application to become a member of IUCN was discussed, and it was wondered if they had had any problems registering the name: IUCN - The World Conservation Union - UK (The Sibthorp Trust). It was confirmed by CM that they had tried to change the name with the charity commission in the past, but they weren't allowed to. There was a concern that IUCN HQ may think that the Sibthorp Trust may provide funding to the Executive Committee and it was suggested that a letter be sent to IUCN HQ stating that the Sibthorp Trust are separate to the Executive Committee.

Actions decided by ExCo for response to the charity issues:

- **65.3.1: CM will draft a letter in response to Giuseppe Zaccagnini and will circulate to ExCo for amends/approval before sending.**
- **65.3. 2: A Letter to the IUCN UK members will be worked on by CM and sent out to ExCo for consideration. Care and attention is needed in regards to the language of the letter. Signatures from all ExCo members with their organisations will be required. The letter will inform the members of the plans for the proposed IUCN charity.**
- **65.3.3: CM is to phone Julia Marton- Lefevre to give some feedback on the issues ExCo are concerned with.**
- **65.3.4: ExCo and Secretariat-?- to look at possibility of contacting other National Committees to find out if they have had any similar situations happen in their own countries.**
- **65.3.5: Bryan Carroll is to talk to Simon Stuart, of the IUCN Council,.**
- **65.3.6: A letter is to be sent to IUCN HQ regarding The Sibthorp Trust's application for IUCN member status, and confirming that they do not give any funding support to IUCN Executive Committee, and the Committee are happy for them to become members**

4. Approval of minutes ExCo 64 and update on actions

CM asked the group for any amendments for the last minutes of meeting. Minor amendments were noted and Clifton Bain has raised a spelling mistake with his surname. CM went through the list of actions; Actions 63.3.1 64.4.1; 64.4.2; 64.4.3; 64.4.4; were signed off as complete. Action 64.4.5: it was confirmed that the Peatland Programme had yet to meet to finalise plans for the exit strategy; 64.4.6; 64.5.2; 64.6.1 were all signed off as complete. Action 64.4.7: CM confirmed he will be speaking with Joanna Robertson soon regarding next steps for the IUCN archive work. Action 64.46: the Secretariat confirmed they will add the information on the membership mapping tool onto the next edition of Synergy to the members.

The minutes of ExCo 64 with amendments approved

5. Strategy objective 3- Practical contribution to global and European strategies

5.1 IUCN UK Peatland Project update (Clifton Bain paper)

Clifton Bain had sent round an update paper on the IUCN UK Peatland Project work. The group were impressed with the turnout of the first conference. SB confirmed the IUCN branding attracted people to the conference. An exit strategy for the programme- due to end in 2012- is yet to be finalised. Congratulations from ExCo were to be passed on to Clifton Bain and the Peatland Programme team on the progress they have made to date.

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

There had been an update paper sent round from Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley on the Putting Nature on the Map work. Nigel talked the group through the paper. CM reported the project is a good example of an IUCN UK partnership project working successfully with a very limited budget.

5.3 IUCN UK Conference – The Economics of Nature

At the start of the meeting CM had presented a short film by Footprint TV on the latest IUCN conference 'The Economics of Nature', which took place in November 2010. CM produced a paper for the committee summarising the event. CM saw the conference as a great example for the 'niche' the IUCN National Committee has; bringing people together from different backgrounds including business, to talk about important environmental issues, as well as raising the IUCN profile in the UK.

5.4 IUCN UK Energy Conference 2011 (Rob Thomas verbal report)

RT questioned the idea of the next conference on the broad subject of energy. He proposed that there could be a couple of ways to view the next conference: there is the option of looking at the 'niche' of the committee and using the conference as another event to forge a link between business and nature? Or to tackle an issue in the energy field? The Peatland Programme has already identified extensive cross-over with renewable energy issues. Identifying a niche within the broad energy sector is challenging, and as there are many conferences already taking place looking at the different aspects of the energy sector, there is a fear the IUCN UK Conference could be 'lost' within the energy 'landscape'.

After a general discussion on future options and next steps:

- **Option 1:** A conference on the celebration and conclusion of the PA Assignment project: Putting Nature on the Map- expected 2012. This option was thought to be more fitting with the IUCN work programme.
 - **Option 2:** A conference focusing on the UK Overseas Territories and views on energy. It was decided to leave the subject matter open at present until MP discusses the option at his next opportunity. It was highlighted by MP there will need to be a long lead-time as it takes a huge amount of preparation to get everyone in the UKOT's involved, this could be a idea for a conference - in 2012/13.
 - **Option 3:** A workshop to identify the reasons for differences on energy policy amongst the NGO sector This would help Defra understand the difference of views and would prove useful for government.
- **Action 65.5.7: RT is to explore Option 3 and look at the range of policies from other environmental groups and identify why there is such a difference of views. RT will report his findings to ExCo at the next meeting.**

6. Strategy Objective 1- Organisational effectiveness

Co-opted reps reports:

6.1 UKOTCF Update (Mike Pienkowski)

MP went through his update paper to ExCo. There was an issue with IUCN HQ possibly publishing a report which was not approved by the UK Government and there would be serious implications if the report is to be published without the UK Government permission. It was suggested by the group to take the problems with IUCN HQ to the Pan-Europe Council members, and explain the dissatisfaction with the way the issue had been dealt with at IUCN HQ. MP will keep ExCo informed if the situation develops into anything more serious.

6.2 Secretariat Update

RT highlighted recent changes in the Secretariat team; Neil Burns-who was carrying out web developments, has left RZSS; Jennifer and Sarah were carrying on with the website work. Sarah Robinson has been on maternity leave since mid-December 2010 and will hopefully return towards the later part of the year. Rob Thomas will now head up the IUCN Secretariat. The Secretariat has been focusing a lot of their time on the implications of the IUCN new charity and dealt with various communications on this matter.

It was suggested to build up on the Dotmailer database to increase the newsletter traffic. There were reports developed looking at the website traffic, this highlighted the website is not as effective as perhaps it could be, leading to a discussion on the IUCN website and proposals for a revamped website.

Key points:

- Website is fine as it is at present, until the charity implications are clear the group are now unwilling to spend the previously allocated £10k on a website revamp.
- It was thought the website should be a 'shop window' for the Executive Committee, with minimal updates needed.
- The group were rather un-impressed with Eskimo's proposals for the website and the absence of any design within which to allocate text contributions. It was

suggested the website should look similar to the IUCN UK Peatland Programme's website and possibly follow on from it at the end of the project..

These are the action points that came out of the discussion:

- **Action 65.6.8: The Secretariat is to contact Clifton Bain for the contact details for the company that developed the Peatland Programme's website, for a quote when the website revamp is looked at again.**

6.3 Financial report

SB had reviewed the finances and gave the group a brief update. SB's forecast for the end of 2010 is as follows:

- Slightly down on restricted income due to a few non-paying subscriptions. The appeal for higher membership payments has brought in a couple of hundreds pounds more.
- There could be up to 5k for the year in restricted funding. Last year there was some money carried forward on the back of the April 2010 conference, the money was put aside to use for the November 2010 conference which has now more than covered its costs.
- There is a possibility of having 1-2k available for funding that can be used from January – April 2011, it was suggested that this money could be used for contingency in the , Putting Nature on the Map project but the option was not agreed on as yet.
- It was decided to use the extra money gained from the November conference for the next conference in 2011.

6.4 Invitation to help contribute to the organization of the next symposium on the Global Business of Biodiversity (GBOB), in September 2011 by John Brown, GBOB Director

CM reported to the group the IUCN Executive Committee had been approached by John Brown, GBOB Director to help organise and plan the event. CM advised the group he would contact John Brown to find out more and will inform ExCo by the next meeting.

- **Action 65.6.9: CM to report to ExCo at the next meeting on the discussions with John Brown, GBOB Director on the invitation to help organise the next GBOB symposium.**

7. Strategy Objective 2- membership matters

ICOMOS-UK update

CM reported he attended the last ICOMOS-UK Landscape Working Group meeting in October 2010. The biggest issue to report is the Secretariat function of the LWG will be handed back to ICOMOS UK at the next meeting on 17th February 2011, after RZSS on behalf of IUCN UK had completed two years service..

8. Strategy objective 4- Raising profile and improving communication

Update on issuing of IUCN UK website contract, progress, etc

Discussed under Secretariat report.

Stuart Brooks and Nigel Dudley had to leave the meeting at this point.

9. Any Other Business

- Glasgow and London requests for assistance with bids for hosting the World Conservation Congress, 2016

The group discussed the possibility of helping Glasgow and London with their bids. TS confirmed it is normal procedure for these bids to come to government, in this case - Defra- first. TS advised

the cost of hosting the event could be up to a million pounds, and in the present economical climate he did not think it likely the UK would end up hosting this event. CM confirmed he would get in contact with the companies with bids and ask them to contact Trevor Salmon directly.

- **Action 65.9.10: CM to contact the London and Glasgow bid companies and ask them to contact Trevor Salmon directly.**

- Replacement for Tom Tew; Country Agencies representation needed.

CM reported to the group with regret that Tom Tew was no longer with Natural England as the Chief Scientist role there no longer existed. It was confirmed the Agency Chief Scientists had not had a group meeting since this development, but they are aware that they could nominate a new representative to ExCo. CM agreed to contact the relevant person in JNCC to ensure this matter was on the next meeting agenda.

MW was interested to know from the group if they were hosting any events to celebrate the International Year of Forests (IYF) and was keen to start any collaborations with WWF UK. BC suggested some of the UK zoos may be hosting events.

The meeting drew to a close. The next meeting, ExCo66, is scheduled to be hosted by Arkive/Wildscreen in Bristol by Ed Edwards on 1st April 2011. The group was considering the possibility of hosting the AGM slightly earlier and tying this with ExCo 66. Mid-April could be an option, Stuart Brooks is to be asked if the accounts could be possibly ready for this date. It was highlighted that, if the events run together, it may be too much to hold them both on the same day, may be better to run over two days. In terms of venues, if Arkive/Wildscreen cannot host in Mid-April there are invitations from Earthwatch in Oxford, and Bristol Zoo. The Secretariat is to contact Arkive/Wildscreen to see if the date can be changed.

- **Action 65.9.11: The Secretariat to contact Arkive/Wildscreen to see if they can host the next ExCo meeting 66 and the AGM in mid-April, and ask Stuart Brooks if he thinks the financial accounts would be ready in time.**

The meeting ended at 14.26, CM thanked all those who attended and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Summary of Action Points:

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date of completion	Status
65.3.1:	CM will draft a letter in response to Giuseppe Zaccagnini at the IUCN Legal Counsel and will circulate to ExCo for amends/approval before sending it	Chris Mahon/ ExCo	ASAP	
65.3.2:	A Letter to the IUCN UK members will be worked on by CM and sent out to ExCo for consideration. Care and attention is needed in regards to the language of the letter. Signatures from all ExCo members with their organisations will be required. The letter will inform the members of the plans for the proposed IUCN UK charity.	Chris Mahon/ ExCo	ASAP	

65.3.3:	CM is to phone Julia Marton- Lefevre to give some feedback on the issues ExCo are concerned with.	Chris Mahon		
65.3.4:	Look at possibility of contacting other National Committees to find out if they have had any similar situations happen in their own countries.	ExCo		
65.3.5:	Brian Carroll is to talk to Simon Stuart, of the IUCN Council.	Brian Carroll		
65.3.6:.	A letter is to be sent to IUCN HQ regarding The Sibthorp Trust's application for IUCN member status, and confirming that they do not give any funding support to IUCN Executive Committee, and the Committee are happy for them to become members	ExCo		
65.5.7:	RT is to explore Option 3 and look at the range of policies from other environmental groups and identify why there is such a difference of views. RT will report his findings to ExCo at the next meeting.	Rob Thomas	Next ExCo meeting	
65.6.8:	The Secretariat is to contact Clifton Bain for the contact details for the company that developed the Peatland Programme's website, for a quote when the website revamp is looked at again.	The Secretariat		
65.9.10:	CM to contact the London and Glasgow bid companies and ask them to contact Trevor Salmon directly.	Chris Mahon		
65.9.11:	The Secretariat is to contact Arkive/Wildscreen to see if they can host the next ExCo meeting 66 and the AGM in mid- April, and ask Stuart Brooks if he thinks the financial accounts would be ready in time.	Secretariat	ASAP	