

IUCN UK Committee Members' Meeting

15th December 2005

**Defra
Foss House
King's Pool
Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX**

Contents

Preface	1
Chair's Welcome	2
A tribute to Richard Sandbrook by Adrian Philips	2
<i>Members' Meeting</i>	3
“Defining the Roadmap – the UK contribution to Countdown 2010”	
Progress Reports:	
• National Committee and Regional Committee Chairs meeting Andy Brown (English Nature)	3
• “Who Pays for Biodiversity?” Paul Morling (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)	3
• “IUCN protected area categories in the UK – next steps” Nigel Dudley (World Commission on Protected Areas)	4
“EU Biodiversity Communiqué – progress update” Clare Miller (Institute for European Environmental Policy)	4
“Countdown 2010 – progress report” Sebastián Winkler, IUCN Regional Office for Europe	5
“UK Overseas Territories” Mike Pienkowski (UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)	6
Countdown 2010 Workshop Session	7
Closing remarks	8

Preface

The IUCN UK National Committee Member's Meeting was held on December 15th 2005 at the Defra Foss House office, King's Pool, Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX.

The purpose of the Member's meeting was to address the topic of Countdown 2010 and how the UK could better engage with this initiative. The Members' meeting was chaired by Andy Brown, Chief Executive of English Nature and Chair of the IUCN UK National Committee.

This report was prepared by IUCN UK Committee Secretariat.

IUCN UK National Committee Members' Meeting

Chair's welcome

Andy Brown (English Nature), Chair of the IUCN UK Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Defra for use of the York venue.

Before the meeting commenced Andy invited Adrian Phillips to say a few words in tribute to Richard Sandbrook who died on Sunday December 11th 2005.

Richard Sandbrook – an appreciation for the UK Committee for IUCN

We have lost a good friend and much more.

I first met Richard when he was working with Graham Searle and others at FOE in the 1970s.

Our paths crossed several times since. In May of last year, I met him by chance on the quay at St Mawes – we were walking the Cornwall Coast Path, he was on a sailing holiday. Sailing and Cornwall were his loves. I met him last just over year ago at the IUCN congress in Bangkok.

But in between I was privileged, like many of you, to work with him in IUCN – here in this committee, wrestling with the complex problems of mining and the environment, but mostly in the Council of IUCN.

Richard and I were elected to the Council in Buenos Aires in 1994. I don't think anyone (and I include the two able Presidents that we served under) had more influence or was listened to with more respect than Richard. He led the re-design of the programme, which was an immense intellectual task. He helped re-energise IUCN Europe (just as he did this UK Committee). And he was always a source of good advice, innovative ideas and sound judgement in Council sessions. Trained as an accountant – yes that it is true, though a more improbable accountant it is hard to imagine – as well as a biologist, Richard was also no-one's fool when it came to the finances, IUCN's recurrent Achilles's heel.

When he stepped down from the IUCN Council five years ago, his departure was felt so strongly by other Councillors, including the President, Yolanda Kakabadse, that Richard was quickly co-opted to help review IUCN's governance structures. Just as he remained active in our own national committee so he remained engaged with IUCN, wishing it well and riding the many frustrations that the organisation threw at him.

If you have had the chance to look at the many tributes to Richard in the press you will know that IUCN was really quite a small part of his life: IIED, Plantlife, the Eden Project and many other organisations were enriched by his leadership and a fund of original intellectual contributions over the years. It was by any measure a life of extraordinary achievement in both the environmental and developmental fields.

But how little that formal summary really tells us about Richard as a person! What about his wicked humour, his impish - almost nervy – qualities? What about his improbable dress sense? What about his irreverence, which meant that he did not take himself too seriously. It meant too that he was quick to deflate pomposity in others (though always warm with concern for colleagues who faced personal or professional difficulties). Above all, it was his marvellous sense of fun that he brought to everything, that made Richard so special and loveable to his friends and colleagues.

I think it is for these personal qualities most of all that we will miss Richard Sandbrook. When he died, far too young, last Sunday, a most unusual and talented person was taken from us.

Adrian Phillips

The assembled Committee members then observed a one minute silence.

Members Meeting

“Defining the Roadmap the UK contribution to Countdown 2010”

Objectives for the meeting

It was intended that the York meeting provide an opportunity not only to update the assembled members on various issues of work, but to reflect on individual and collective contributions to Countdown 2010. It was hoped that the meeting would generate further ideas on how to raise the profile of C2010 and contribute to it still further. It was also an opportunity to look for significant messages to take to UK Government, statutory agencies and NGO's.

PROGRESS REPORTS

National and Regional Committee Chair's meeting – The Hague 13th-15th February 2006 Andy Brown (English Nature)

This is to be a global event enabling National and Regional Committees' to strengthen their roles regarding the governance and effectiveness of IUCN as an organisation. A discussion paper on Regional Governance has been made available via the UK Committee website. This includes a short questionnaire so that IUCN members can make their views known. Deadline for submission is December 31st, but this is not the only opportunity for members to present their views; general comments can be sent to the Secretariat, ExCo members or the Chair, who will be gathering and collating comments up to the date of the meeting. Please participate.

“Who Pays for Biodiversity?”

Paul Morling (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)

Paul provided a presentation on the progress and current position of the UK Committee's biodiversity audit project. The objectives of the project are to: estimate financial outlays for all UK support for biodiversity; to set actual spend in the context of estimated costs of achieving 2010 targets and recommend appropriate means of tracking spend

The rationale for the project is that achieving the 2010 targets is a policy target incorporated in the Public Service Agreement framework; that any such policy should allow for audit assessment and accountability, that the work would be an important means of communicating action, and it should be replicable to allow comparison over time and between countries. The work would involve all tiers of Government, NGO's, the private sector and cover spend domestically and internationally

Nevertheless, the project creates a number of challenges. Should it focus on narrow (conservation spend) or broad measures (environmental protection)? The broader – the harder. It needs to avoid double counting and to set spend in the broader policy context.

Outputs expected from May 2006 include a UK biodiversity spend estimate and biodiversity spend report (Structured as a proposed annual (?) review); replicable measure to initiate consistent time series compatible with EU and International standards; technical recommendations and policy recommendations

Discussion

This centred on the issue of how the private sector contribution would be assessed. This would relate to contributions from industry rather than from individuals, e.g. from bequests, and the costs relating to mitigation measures.

Andy Brown reiterated an invitation for all members to contribute to UK Committee projects.

[“IUCN protected area categories in the UK – next steps”](#)

Nigel Dudley (World Commission on Protected Areas)

Nigel provided a presentation on protected areas in the UK and how the IUCN categories may be applied to improve conservation efforts. The World Commission on Protected Areas has set up a task force to look at the categories, with the following main aims:

- Clarify the IUCN definition of a protected area
- Update the objectives and the parameters of the 6 existing categories (with respect to assignment, use, recording etc)
- Demonstrate how the categories can help plan and build a strong protected area system in line with the needs of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas
- Ensure that systems such as the World Database on Protected Areas are integrated with the categories
- Produce a new and expanded set of guidelines to the use of the categories

The Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas means that many governments are looking to develop and to define their protected area system. Issues that the IUCN UK Committee might want to consider include that the use of the categories in the UK is incomplete and probably out of date, we need to know more about the effectiveness of different categories, and there are issues of equity and questions of management effectiveness and standards

The Chair noted that this was an important issue as the current assignment of protected areas in the UK to IUCN categories was considered by many to be inadequate. He also noted that the current world database of protected areas did not properly reflect the UK's position and there were issues of both data quality and the need for protected area definitions to evolve in response to developments in conservation.

MAIN PRESENTATIONS

[“EU Biodiversity Communiqué – progress update”](#)

Clare Miller (Institute for European Environmental Policy)

Clare provided a presentation on the current status of the EU Biodiversity Communiqué.

In the communiqué, the Commission has rejected the option of proposing new legislation and the communication is based on a 'road-map' to 2010, with no legislative status. There is no proposal for a formal revision or update of the Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plans (which have legal significance through adoption by Council and Parliament). Some sections (or the whole) of the communiqué may be endorsed by the Council – without this, the Communication may have little political impetus

Overall, the communiqué confirms the EU Commission's intention to focus on implementation, it highlights the Member States' role in biodiversity conservation, it highlights issues of communication and coordination, gives high prominence to economic aspects of biodiversity & ecosystem services and stresses need to support 'outermost regions', especially where the Nature Directives do not apply

The Communication proposes the vision of '*A biodiverse EU assuring the flow of ecosystem services which underpin prosperity, competitiveness and quality of life; and an EU which contributes effectively to achieving a similar global vision*'. The Communication also states that the flow of ecosystem services is '*the single most important reason for conserving biodiversity*'.

Ten key challenges

The Commission has identified ten key challenges for 2010:

1. Safeguarding priority sites and species
2. Conserving and restoring biodiversity in the wider countryside

3. Conserving and restoring biodiversity in the wider marine environment
4. Making development more user-friendly
5. Supporting biodiversity adaptation to climate change
6. Reducing the impact of invasive alien species
7. Integrating biodiversity concerns into policy-making
8. Strengthening support to biodiversity in EU economic and development assistance
9. Tackling the impact of trade on biodiversity
10. Strengthening international governance for biodiversity

These are supported by priority actions but few of these are SMART and it will be difficult to judge their success or failure. Many appear to lack ambition. **Underpinning these is an enabling framework with 5 key measures.** The Communication is expected to be finalised in April 2006 with the public internet consultation running until 6 February 06. The EU Biodiversity Expert Group has seen some sections of the Communication, and will get a 'revised roadmap' for comment. DG-Environment expect a final text for inter-service consultation by end-February

Discussion

In response to the question of how can the UK better engage with the issues raised by the Communiqué, it was suggested that the consultation process would be the appropriate method. It was noted that the main challenge was to get environmental concerns higher on the EU agenda. The Chair noted that he would be contacting Tamas Marghescu to determine whether it would be helpful for the UK Committee to comment on the draft Communiqué or respond to the finalised Communiqué when it is released in 2006.

Acting in his role as Chief Executive of English Nature, Andy Brown announced the launch of the £2M Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund, which would make grants available to English conservation projects. Application forms were now available (<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/countdown.htm>).

"Countdown 2010 – progress report"

Sebastián Winkler, IUCN Regional Office for Europe

Sebastián provided a presentation on the Countdown 2010 initiative, focusing on new developments.

What is Countdown 2010?

The aims of Countdown 2010 were summarised as being an IUCN instrument to raise the profile of the global 2010 commitments in the EU and pan-European context and to monitor progress towards implementing these commitments via highly visible actions. The initiative targets governments and other decision makers, civil society and consumers.

Targets identified for 2007-2010 include encouraging all regional, local, and national governments to undertake intensive 3-year programmes to comply with and enforce published 2010 targets and commitments., encouraging NGOs to continue monitoring and supporting National Biodiversity Action Plans and/or roadmaps and to regularly inform the European public of progress towards 2010

So far C2010 has been endorsed by the EU Council as a key tool to meet the 2010 target and has been recognized by PEBLDS, CBD, CMS as a important instrument to implement the 2010 commitment; In addition, each Presidency of the EU has put Countdown 2010 at the center of its biodiversity agenda and in Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom regional initiatives are working to save biodiversity at the local level.

In 2006 C2010 plans to launch initiatives in further countries and regions, including the Caucasus region, the upcoming presidencies in Austria and Finland and possibly Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands. Other activities include:

- a Ministerial Conference under the Finish Presidency on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Cooperation and a conference for all members to further develop the initiative and its activities towards reaching the 2010 biodiversity commitment
- A first prototype of a C2010 assessment framework or 'scorecard' will be tested in pilot countries and regions
- The European Green Week will focus on biodiversity and showcase C2010

The Chair noted that some of the major challenges to Countdown 2010 involved disseminating the message of the initiative to achieve effective engagement with government, local authorities and the private sector.

"UK Overseas Territories"

Mike Pienkowski, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Mike Pienkowski provided an overview of the importance of biodiversity in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs), of conservation issues there and of the work of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF; www.ukotcf.org).

The Forum acts as an umbrella organisation for all those NGOs with an interest in the UKOTs and therefore acts as a source of expert advice and support, whether supporting the capacity and strategic development of NGOs in the Territories or advising the UK Government. Liaison with the latter is through twice-yearly formal meetings but also through contributing to the development of policy (e.g. commissioned to review Ramsar sites in the OTs) and supporting development and implementation of the OT Environment Charters.

Nevertheless, there are major challenges in supporting conservation work in the OTs. There is little awareness and support for OT issues in most Government departments with dispersed responsibility and little Ministerial interest. Likewise, funding is limited and there is little public awareness in the UK of the OTs. For example, the UK Government spends about 4 orders of magnitude less per endemic species in its Overseas Territories than it does Great Britain & Northern Ireland. In the Territories themselves, there is often a perception of intensive development being good and the OTs typically have limited capacity and resources to address environmental issues.

Attention was drawn to the agreement between the UKOTCF and IUCN UK Committee to work more closely together and for the Forum to represent the interests of the UK Committee with respect to initiatives on the OTs. The recent initiative from the IUCN European office to raise the profile of all the EC OTs was a positive recent example.

In conclusion, Mike Pienkowski noted the importance of biodiversity in the OTs, the need for funding of major conservation projects allied to the recognition that the OTs are part of the UK, and for those involved in the OTs to build long-term relationships with partners in the Territories.

Discussion

The Chair noted that engagement on OTs was a major issue if the UK Government were to meet its C2010 targets. The twin challenges were to raise awareness on OTs at a ministerial level and to determine appropriate sources of funding.

Discussion focused on the opportunities for funding of conservation work in the OTs and, whilst some government support was available, other types of funding were constrained by the Environmental Protection Act (1990) – though if this were the case some felt that this should be changed.

It was also noted in discussion that climate change was an overwhelming issue affecting all aspects of the IUCN's conservation 'auditing' efforts. A 'statement of concern' directed at government was proposed.

COUNTDOWN 2010 WORKSHOP SESSION

The Chair set the working groups the task of producing a small number of strategic actions to contribute to achieving Countdown 2010 targets and that could be directed at specific organisations or individuals, such as UK government, IUCN, or the IUCN UK Committee.

What follows is the output from the working groups as presented to the closing plenary session.

Key Outcomes from “Species Conservation” and “Education and Communication” group

- Produce a list of relevant targets by AGM meeting in May - this will build on the European-level list already available from the Countdown 2010 Secretariat
- Develop a more positive image for Countdown 2010
- BBC Breathing Space programmes: IUCN UK Committee should contact the BBC on incorporating C2010 messages into appropriate television and radio programmes
- Encourage members of IUCN to use the logo and start communicating the message

Key Outcomes from “Environmental Policy and Law” and “Protected Areas” group

- IUCN-UK Committee should write to the UK Biodiversity Partnership regarding integrating C2010 targets into Local BAPs
- IUCN-UK Committee letter to UK Government Ministers: integrate C2010 targets into Natura 2000 and possibly into the definition of Favourable Conservation Status (latter to be picked up by UK WCPA network)
- IUCN-UK Committee should take forward the assignment to IUCN PA categories of protected areas in the UK and its Overseas Territories – thus helping to develop a paradigm for global application
- EU Marine Thematic Strategy: IUCN-UK Committee to push for development of a definition of the scope of the Strategy
- UKOTCF (on behalf of the IUCN-UK Committee): push for removal of bureaucratic blockages to both protection and budget mechanisms for conservation in the UK Overseas Territories
- EU Biodiversity Communiqué: a role for UK Committee members in responding to the stakeholder consultation (http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/rohs_4_consult.htm)
- Countdown 2010 ‘scorecard’ (being modelled by C2010 Secretariat): use as a mechanism for ‘scoring’ the UK Government’s activities relating to C2010, e.g. the removal of perverse funding incentives; integration into policy
- IUCN-UK Committee letter to Sustainable Development Committee: encourage corporate engagement with C2010 regarding best practice and corporate social responsibility
- Climate Change: IUCN-UK Committee letter to WCPA to encourage a possible working group on climate change

Discussion

It was clarified that the WCPA working group, though not yet in place, may be a collaborative effort with the IUCN SSC and would look at both climate change and adaptation.

With regard to the ‘scorecard’, being developed by the C2010 Secretariat and tested by the Danish National Committee, the UK Committee could engage with this process to ensure that any measures the UK Committee might want are included. Also the UK Committee needs to engage the UK government in the development process and get agreement to being party to its future use.

The scorecard would provide a useful influencing tool and could be integrated with the other targets suggested. Though the UK Committee may not on its own possess the capacity to achieve all of these targets, the IUCN community as a whole should be involved to generate the

momentum needed to raise awareness of C2010, with the UK Committee acting to co-ordinate effort in the UK.

Closing remarks

Andy Brown closed the meeting by expressing the Committee's thanks to the contributors for the range of presentations and to the participants for their active involvement. Thanks were also given to Defra for hosting the event, and to the UK Committee Secretariat for organising it.