

## **UK COMMITTEE FOR IUCN-UK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

Via Teleconference

0900-1030hrs

**Present:** Andy Brown (Chair), Mark Huxham, Mike Pienkowski, Joanna Robertson.

**In attendance:** Vin Fleming, John Henson Webb (Secretariat).

### **1. Chair's welcome**

AB welcomed participants to the teleconference.

### **2. Apologies**

Formal apologies were received from Eric Blencowe, Alistair Gammell, Chris Mahon and Martin Spray.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of ExCo 48 were adopted with minor amendments requested by MP.

**Action 49.3.1 Secretariat to put amended ExCo 48 minutes on IUCN-UK website**

### **4. Biodiversity Targets after 2010**

MHx suggested that consideration should be given now to developing biodiversity indicators for post-2010. He noted three areas of concern and asked whether the UK Committee could commission research on the current situation:

- Connectivity/ecosystem integrity.
- Marine (especially trophic indices).
- Public engagement.

Ideally the research would focus on three objectives:

1. Update information on current indicators for 2010.
2. What indices would be desirable regarding post-2010 (e.g. what about landscape / ecosystem scale indices?).
3. How do we pursue these issues to influence indicators post-2010.

In discussion it was recognised that this was a difficult area to track unless one was directly engaged in the work, with indicators at UK, EC and devolved administration level, but was worth investigation. Defra and JNCC could be contacted to determine the current situation in the UK, with the EC Biodiversity Communication and the European Environment Agency (EEA) both a source for European information.

**Action 49.4.1 Secretariat to contact Paul Rose and James Williams (JNCC) and Andy Stott (Defra) regarding current status of biodiversity indicator work and report back on UK and EU perspective at ExCo 50**

The UK Committee can then look to address any gaps (such as Overseas Territories) or other areas that they might address.

### **5. Discussion on business topics**

#### ***Countdown 2010 UK Parliamentary seminar***

This has been mentioned to a number of parliamentarians, but there needs to be engagement with the Minister. It was suggested that ExCo contact representatives who deal with parliamentary issues in the country agencies and larger NGOs, to seek advice on the best way forward to promote this seminar and to find the right lever.

**Action 49.5.1 Secretariat to contact Alison Barnes (Natural England) and others for advice on progressing Countdown 2010 seminar and report back at ExCo 50**

#### ***Protected Areas meeting***

JR reported that the meeting had taken place, with the participation of a number of eminent people, both from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and various other organisations including the country agencies. There was good discussion on the integration of biodiversity and landscape issues. There was not, however, any clear consensus on a possible role for the UK

Committee, nor a perceived need for further meetings. MP noted that though there was no strong commitment to further work, those participating were encouraged to contribute views, by passing comment to Roger Crofts which would go toward informing discussion at the IUCN Global Categories Summit being held in May. It was suggested that the UK Committee might wish to put forward a number of recommendations for action on the Categories, which could be submitted to the Summit through Roger Crofts.

**Action 49.5.2 JR to draft ten recommendations and circulate to ExCo for comments to be collated by the Secretariat and passed to Roger Crofts (appended to these minutes)**

## **6. UK Overseas Territories**

MP began by noting that the IUCN 'alliance' of organisations concerned with the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the European Community had now adopted the name "Biooverseas" to avoid earlier difficulties of terminology. Their current focus was in progressing the issue of EU funding to the OTs looking to secure an increase in funds for environmental projects, through a small grants process for example. The IUCN are hosting a climate change and biodiversity meeting in Reunion in April 2008. Not related to this, Reunion has got EC support for a project, Net Biome, to look at research needs in the EC OCTs. This project was originally envisaged for the French outermost regions only but, thanks to Reunion, was extended to include all EC OCTS with a number of partner organisations, including the UKOTCF.

On a separate issue, MP noted that the Chief Executive for the Heritage Lottery Fund had indicated that while OTs were not banned from receiving Lottery funding, the HLF chose not to do so. There appeared to be a fundamental misunderstanding regarding OTs, which were perceived by HLF as foreign countries rather as part of the wider UK. The UKOTCF are preparing an explanatory paper for the HLF.

VF noted that the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB) were meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> and would consider a paper on OTs.

**Action 49.6.1 VF to provide briefing on IDMGB meeting and advise AB and MP on possible follow-up to IUCN UK Committee letter to Barry Gardiner**

## **7. Who Pays? Project**

ExCo were grateful to Paul Morling for his efforts in producing the draft final report. In discussion it was recognised that the report would need a good executive summary and that issues such as perverse incentives needed to be addressed. Concerns were raised about Paul's intended timetable and the feasibility of attempting to rush a final draft. When publishing was discussed it was concluded that both a full report and a 'glossy' version (in the style of the "Wealth from the Wild" publication) would be wanted. It was also suggested that the launch of the report could be tied to the Parliamentary seminar as a link to the 2010 process.

**Action 49.7.1 ExCo to send comments direct to Paul Morling by 18th May**

**Action 49.7.2 AB to contact Paul Morling regarding the proposed timetable**

**Action 49.7.3 Secretariat to assist Paul Morling with editing of draft report with the final version (especially the summary) to be signed-off by ExCo**

**Action 49.7.4 MP to contact Paul Morling regarding report sections detailing OTs**

**Action 49.7.5 AB to contact RSBP and ascertain if they can publish the Who Pays? report on behalf of the IUCN UK Committee**

**Action 49.7.6 Secretariat to determine how "Wealth from the Wild" was produced and the cost**

## **8. Follow-up from January AGM and Members' meeting**

ExCo reviewed the draft AGM/Members' meeting report. One amendment was received.

**Action 49.8.1 Secretariat to publish 'unadopted' report on website (DISCHARGED)**

**Action 49.8.2 Secretariat to contact Sarah Moon regarding Defra biodiversity valuation policy seminar and provide details to ExCo**

**Action 49.8.3 Secretariat to contact Wiebke Herding and offer to act as UK Focal Point for the Countdown 2010 initiative**

## **9. Proposal for use of a Discussion List by Lynn Raw**

After discussion on the risks and benefits of having an IUCN members email discussion forum, the decision was taken to address this issue at a future meeting and put the issue to the UK Committee

Members at the September meeting. However, the idea could be trialled by placing on the website the ExCo comments on PA categories and seeking members' comments.

**Action 49.9.1 Secretariat to post JR note regarding the Bangor Protected Areas on the website and invite Members to comment**

#### **10. September Members' meeting**

As Chester Zoo could not provide facilities on the original date of September 18<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed to pursue a meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, with ExCo 51 being held that morning. In discussion re-introductions was proposed as the theme for the meeting; this was considered timely as CCW are working with Chester Zoo on the re-introduction of dormice. The day will address existing IUCN policy and then present a series of case studies (planned and existing projects) of both successes and failures and also consider public perceptions. It is intended to have four or five presentations.

**Action 49.10.1 Secretariat to draft programme and canvass speakers for Members' meeting - to be discussed at ExCo 50**

#### **11. Vacancy for second Co-optee**

Whilst there was no need to fill the co-opted vacancy, ExCo agreed that it would be desirable to continue representation from Northern Ireland on the Committee.

**Action 49.11.1 Secretariat to contact Sue Christie regarding possible Northern Ireland co-optee**

#### **12. Actions and matters arising**

##### ***Overseas Territories***

Replacing action Action 48.5.1

**Action 49.12.1 Secretariat to contact AG / RSPB lawyers in regard to current HLF legislation**

##### ***Finance update***

JHW noted that, at the suggestion of the RSPB auditor, the finances would be adjusted by £10.80 at the end of the current financial year, to bring the book figure into line with the bank account figure.

#### **13. Secretariat report**

VF and JHW gave a verbal report on recent Secretariat activity.

#### **14.AoB**

In discussion, the following actions were agreed.

**Action 49.14.1 AB to contact Gland regarding proposal for Julia Marton-Lefevre to attend a future IUCN UK Committee meeting**

AB noted that a TILSEPA report was to be circulated around ExCo when published.

**Action 49.14.2 AB to contact TILSEPA regarding publication date of report**

**Action 49.14.3 AB to provide Secretariat with note of Sibthorp Trust meeting for circulation to ExCo**

It was noted that Roger Crofts is to provide thirty copies of the latest Sibthorp Trust Seminar proceedings to the IUCN UK Committee for distribution at the next Members' meeting.

#### **15. Date of future meetings**

The date for ExCo 51 and the Members' meeting is to be changed to September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**UK COMMITTEE FOR IUCN-UK**

**IUCN Protected Area Categories: RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That a revision of the guidelines on categories is needed and that new or further Guidelines must have a global outlook and avoid a European / North American focus.
2. It is important to acknowledge that the current system contains flaws, either in the definitions of particular Categories or in the prescriptive manner they are sometimes used
3. Avoid a total review of the Categories which might give scope for their current value as a global system to be degraded by organisations with an agenda at odds to the broader nature conservation agenda
4. That the Categories process should look beyond the boundaries of PAs, to take account of the CBD ecosystem approach and the linkages needed with wider landscape, as exemplified by PEBLDS/PEEN approach
5. Special attention should be given to cross-border PAs which might be subject to differing management regimes.
6. Provide guidance on integrating urban issues (50 % of the world population is now classified as being urban).
7. Integrate sustainable use into the Categories and set within the bigger picture of connectivity, people agendas and reflect the importance of the biodiversity agenda with links to CBD etc.
8. IN the UK, the Categories should encompass all designations, from Natura 2000 to local wildlife sites (A/SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves etc) in GB and NI, and those used in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Guidelines to demonstrate the benefits (also 'added value') of designation (include examples).
9. Commend the consideration of Governance structures (model using the 'matrix').
10. The IUCN UK Committee (<http://www.iucn-uk.org/>) wishes to assist the Task Force in disseminating information on further developments, and using its contacts to raise awareness among its Members and stakeholders (UK Government, NGOs, the public).

Joanna M Robertson  
22 March 2007