

Secretariat transfer to RZSS.

The IUCN UK Committee Secretariat is now based with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland at Edinburgh Zoo. Commencing from 1st April 2009, establishment here has included migration of the IUCN UK website, transfer of the archive and getting used to new functions and processes. All is now in place and six members of RZSS staff will contribute directly to servicing the Committee, led by Sarah Robinson supported by Neil Burns, Polly Philpot, Rob Thomas and Iain Valentine. RZSS are taking their role as Secretariat very seriously and have marked their new position with a new sign, took place in June. IUCN UK was honoured to have its welcome sign unveiled by RZSS Chairman, Donald Emslie.



Chris Mahon, Chair of the IUCN UK Committee, (right) is seen here with RZSS Chairman, Donald Emslie at the unveiling ceremony.

ExCo meeting at RZSS.

The 57th Executive Committee meeting took place on 3rd July 2009 at Edinburgh Zoo. ExCo elected members this year are Trevor Salmon and Sarah Cunningham from Defra, Joanna Robertson from the Countryside Council for Wales (representing the four country government agencies), Bryan Carroll from Bristol Zoo, James Robertson from RSPB Northern Ireland, Mark Wright from WWF, Stuart Brooks for Scottish Environment Link and Chris Mahon as IUCN UK Committee Chair. Co-opted to this group are Mike Pienkowski from the Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Harriet Nimmo from Wildscreen for the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton from Equilibrium for the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).



Members of the Executive Committee who met in July 2009 at Edinburgh Zoo

COMOS UK meetings.

ICOMOS is the International Commission on Monuments and Sites and it has interests in both cultural and natural sites as well as the built heritage. IUCN UK is forging stronger links with ICOMOS UK in order to help deliver better protection to existing sites and generate new protection for sites yet to be designated, including World Heritage Sites. Chris Mahon represented IUCN UK at a recent ICOMOS UK seminar in London on World Heritage and Science. In the short term, IUCN UK will provide the Secretariat for the ICOMOS UK Landscape Working Group through RZSS on an alternating basis.

www.icomos-uk.org



Wilderness Conference.

Invited by the new Czech Republic Presidency of the European Commission and the Wild Europe organization, Chris Mahon attended the Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Area Conference in Prague in May, on behalf of IUCN UK. This conference brought together 250 delegates interested in developing policy around wilderness protection and large natural area restoration. Opened by ex-President Vaclav Havel and EU environment minister, Ladislav Miko, the conference developed a “Poselstvi (message) from Prague”, which provides a way forward to implementation of wilderness protection and restoration. See www.wildeurope.org for more details.



The Keynote Speaker Panel at the Wilderness Conference in Prague in May 2009

Holcim IUCN International Advisory Panel visit.

Led by its Chair, Christoph Imboden, the Holcim IUCN International Advisory Panel paid a visit to the UK in early June to observe operational and restoration activities in several aggregate extraction sites operated by members of the Holcim group of companies. They provided opinion and advice to quarry operators, meeting with IUCN UK members from Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and received a presentation on the work of the IUCN UK Committee from Chris Mahon at the offices of their UK hosts, Aggregate Industries Ltd., near Leicester.

www.iucn.org/business



The IUCN Holcim Advisory Panel members survey quarrying activity in Yorkshire

(Photo credit: Delia Shannon)

JNCC MEA workshop on Global Environmental Mechanisms

Confused by Conventions? Muddled by MEAs? Baffled by biodiversity bureaucracy? The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) provided assistance at a conference in London which produced some very helpful briefing documents which provide basic and up to date information on a number of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements providing a sound basis for further investigation.

These are available on www.jncc.gov.uk



UK Members pilot on Google Earth

Several IUCN UK members have successfully established their details on the IUCN Google Earth layer provided by IUCN HQ in Gland, Switzerland as the UK tested the system as a pilot.

This is the first step towards greater member profile and better communication opportunities which we hope to trial here in the UK for the wider IUCN movement globally. So thanks to those member organizations who took time to test this out – you will hopefully benefit from it.



Overseas Territories – Cayman Island Conference Making the Connections

Key outcomes from this recent UK Overseas Territories (UKOT) conference in the Cayman Islands are as follows:

1. The 'environment' must be integrated into all sectors of learning and training.
2. Valuing ecosystem services, while challenging, can be a highly effective mechanism for habitat protection.
3. It makes financial sense to tackle invasive species issues sooner rather than later.
4. A positive and effective dialogue must be maintained with Her Majesty's Government (HMG).
5. The status of UKOTs within HMG needs to be enhanced, potentially through the nomination of a dedicated junior minister.
6. The mobilization of local volunteers is an effective means of resourcing, engaging and empowering people and biodiversity.
7. UKOT's are and should be encouraged to continue to tackle individually and collectively the effects of climate change.

For more information see:

www.ukotcf.org/pdf/2009Conf/FirstReport.pdf



Working with IUCN Commissions – co-optees from CEC and WCPA.

In May, WCPA held its annual steering committee (SC) meeting outside Quito, Ecuador. Nigel Dudley attended the meeting as the chair for Capacity Development issues within WCPA. Key outcomes included:

1. Input into the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) review on status and future of its Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). WCPA, in cooperation with other IUCN commissions, is planning a 'Futures' workshop in South Korea in September, to help to set the agenda for four regional POWPA review meetings in late 2009 (the CEE region workshop will be held on the Island of Vilm, Germany in late November). The workshop will review policy input to the next CBD SBSTTA meeting, which will in turn make recommendations on the future of PoWPA to the Conference of Parties in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.
2. One day of the SC meeting was held jointly with the CEC to plan how the two commissions could work more closely together, including identification of possible liaison regarding publicity and the development of courses
3. The SC also reviewed the work of the WCPA for 2009 and 2010, including development of an intergenerational programme to encourage more young professionals into the commission.

In cooperation with the WCPA Europe Regional Chair, Dr. Stig Johansson (stig.johansson@metsa.fi) and Chris Mahon, of the UK Committee, have agreed to be contact points for UK WCPA members. Would there be interest in holding a WCPA UK members' meeting in the autumn to input into the POWPA discussions

and other issues relevant to WCPA? The meeting would be self-funded but we would need a kind organisation to donate a venue and refreshments. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending, offering a venue and/or your thoughts on content, or on any other issues related to WCPA, by contacting Sue Stolten or Nigel Dudley.

Sue Stolton (sue@equilibriumresearch.com) and Nigel Dudley (nigel@equilibriumresearch.com)
Equilibrium Research – Bristol, England and Derwenlas, Wales

Signposting to

www.iucn-uk.org and www.iucn.org websites for:

- Global and European strategy links
- Agreed IUCN UK Strategy and work programme
- Members news – please take advantage of the IUCN UK website to promote your activities, plans and programmes.

Coming soon:

- IUCN UK Peatland Project
- 2010 message
- Joint initiative with Forestry Commission
- Communication strategy
- Business and Biodiversity