



UK Protected Area Categories Club

Part of the IUCN NCUK Putting Nature On The Map (PNOTM) project

UK PACC launched at global Congress

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The UK PACC was formally launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea in September this year, by Roger Crofts, a key player in the field of protected area management and Chair of The Sibthorp Trust.



UK PACC is a communications initiative designed to aid and encourage protected area managers to apply the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to UK sites.

The event took place as one of the Congress's Conservation Campus events where the workshop, billed as, 'Understanding and

Implementing the IUCN Protected Area Guidelines' was organised by Bristol-based Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley from Equilibrium Research who, together with Peter Shadie from Australia, presented a wide range of issues relating to PA management to an audience of expert practitioners.

With a focus on the implementation of the IUCN Guidelines since 2008, the workshop discussed:
- the new supplementary guidance for using the categories in marine protected areas (see p 2)
- the development of guidance on governance assessment - with examples from Europe, South Korea and North and South America.

- developing guidance on assigning and reporting nationally.

The participants agreed that developing standards for category assignment as an additional benchmark against which to apply the 2008 guidelines would be useful. A peer review group has been established to follow this up.



The UK's Putting Nature on the Map project was one of the case studies presented here. Contact sue@equilibriumresearch.com for more on this



Categories experts Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley

Scottish PACC pilot completed

One of the first NGOs to undergo the application of the IUCN Categories is the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). With a 20000 ha holding of 120 wildlife reserves, some of which currently are not included in the reporting of the UK's total of protected areas, SWT are an important

example of what might be achieved if more NGO-managed nature reserves were included. SWT's is the latest 'Statement of Compliance' in the growing list that have now been prepared and can be found on the IUCN NCUK website. Good preparation meant the

assignment process was relatively straightforward and took only a day to carry out, allaying fears of this being a protracted job to undertake. Why don't you join SWT in undertaking the Category application process to land you manage? Help is at hand if you wish to



New guidelines for Marine PAs launched

Launched at the IUCN WCC in September, '**Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas**' aims to make clear what are the most significant and highest priorities in MPAs and will help countries more accurately detail their successes. The new guidance defines MPAs in accordance with the IUCN PA definition, thus helping prevent the trend of fishery advisory

bodies claiming that area mechanisms that exploit fish are MPAs. Also, pipeline areas and wind farms will not be considered MPAs unless they are set up following specific guidelines, with clear long-term objectives for nature conservation.

Dan Laffoley, Marine Vice-Chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas says, "*The guidance we are issuing aims to make clear the most important*

aspects of marine protected areas and will help countries more accurately detail their successes. Without this information it is difficult to hold the process of determining any marine PA accountable". What will this mean for MPAs in the UK and its Overseas Territories? If you are involved in MPA study or management we'd be interested in hearing your views on this issue.

<http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/>

CBD COP VI Hyderabad struggles for cash

The latest UN Conference seemed to have difficulty in getting commitments from countries to find the billions required to achieve the Aichi Targets agreed at the 2010 Nagoya COP, despite the view that 70% of this money would be an investment with a cash return in the future. For PAs, the most pertinent is Target 11: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water*

areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effective and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

The contribution we hope to make through the Putting Nature on the Map project, applying the IUCN PA management categories to UK sites, will not cost a great deal of money but will assist in achieving this most fundamental of targets by improving the baseline data, publicly accessible on ProtectedPlanet.net, for the existing nodes in the eco-networks of the future.



New leadership for WCPA

Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich from Mexico is the new Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). He was elected at the Congress in Jeju and replaces outgoing Chair, Nik Lopoukine. The new Deputy Chair will be the UK's Kathy MacKinnon.

Hoeflich believes, "*As a proven transformational leader in conservation, WCPA has the opportunity to innovate and reenergize its work. To do more, faster, better and larger, WCPA needs an expanded and more diverse membership and especially better*

integration with more members, expert members and secretariat all over the world to enable improvements in in law, governance, capacity building, institutional reform, economic valuation, effectiveness evaluation and conflict resolution".



Will PAs be the foundation for ecological networks?

This could be one question that might be answered at the upcoming National Ecological Networks conference which is planned for the 6th and 7th February 2013 in Edinburgh. This conference will explore the policy drivers for ecological networks, investigate the science behind networks and ecosystem restoration, consider the goods and services that flow from healthy ecosystems, and give examples of green infrastructure initiatives

from Europe and closer to home.

Against a well documented background of research and policy, from the Lawton Review to the National Ecosystem Assessment, it is now time to start joining up the dots towards a fully functioning ecological network, and where better to start than existing PAs? To do this effectively a comprehensive database of all sites (including non-statutory ones) is required, as advocated by the

PNOTM project. Speakers from three European entities, will present and join academics and other practitioners in the discussion around how to reconnect, restore and enrich fragmented and often species-poor landscapes.

Run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in conjunction with Scottish Government, to book a place contact Bruce Wilson on 0131 312 4706 or bwilson@swt.org.uk



Protected Areas in Europe - a new overview

The IUCN Protected Area Management Categories and Governance Types being promoted in the UK by the PNOTM Project, feature in this new publication by the European Environment Agency.

Protected areas in Europe cover a huge variety of natural environments, across eleven distinct biogeographic regions, from the

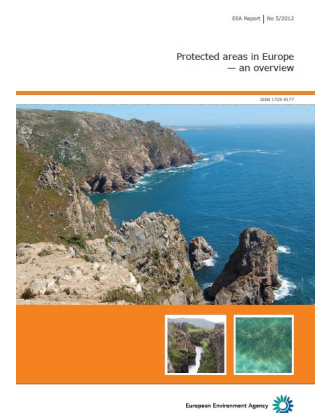
Arctic polar deserts and the boreal forests in the North to the arid or dense matorral shrubland in the south. In this new report from the EEA, we hear of Europe having a far-reaching network of protected areas which can provide refuge to some of the most threatened species.

“However, despite a huge growth in protected areas in recent years, many of

Europe’s species still face an uncertain future. Europe as a whole has seen more habitat fragmentation than any other continent. So we need to work harder to conserve species in the wider countryside.” EEA Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade said.

Copies of the report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu>



World Parks Congress venue announced

It's official! The IUCN World Parks Congress will be held in November 2014 at Sydney Olympic Park, New South Wales, Australia. The new WCPA Chair says *“the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia in 2014 will be a major focus of WCPA’s activities over the*

next four years, and we are very fortunate that Australia, with its progressive conservation community will be the host of this congress”. Today some 13 % of the planet’s land surface is dedicated as protected areas, and through the Convention on

Biological Diversity, nations are aiming for a target of 17 % by 2020. However, major gaps remain in the marine environment, with less than 2 % of our seas and oceans currently under protection. The Congress will be the premier gathering to address these gaps.



UK Winners at EUROPARC conference



At the EUROPARC Federation annual conference in Belgium in October 2012, the work of two UK protected landscapes was recognised at the award ceremony for the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The Shropshire Hills AONB was awarded the Charter for the first time, while the Brecon

Beacons National Park was awarded for a second time having undergone a successful re-evaluation earlier this year. The Brecon Beacons' work with tourism businesses was made as part of the Rural Alliance project. Thirteen UK protected landscapes are among the 107 Charter Parks, which

include parks from Latvia, Slovakia and the Azores. Dr Arthur Mitchell, of the Mourne Heritage Trust in Northern Ireland, was this year's recipient of the Alfred Toepfer Medal, recognising him as an outstanding contributor to the work of protected areas in Europe.

Scotland nets Europe's largest marine PA?



Five sea areas that in total are larger than the Scottish Highlands are on course to win special protection as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under plans for Europe's largest marine area of nature conservation in waters to the west of Scotland, protecting substantial areas of colourful bedrock, stony and coldwater coral reefs.

The areas have been submitted to the EU for consideration, but Scottish fishermen are challenging the boundaries of one. Officials are stressing that there will be no fishing ban, although there may have to be negotiated controls. The five proposed

SACs are between the 12-mile limit of UK territorial waters and the edge of the UK Continental Shelf designated area.

Marcus Yeo, Chief Executive of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the UK's statutory nature conservation body, said: "This landmark submission of marine SACs means that over a twelfth of UK seas are now within Marine Protected Areas, and is a major step forward in the conservation of our precious sea life".

Bertie Armstrong, Chief Executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation

(SFF), said the body supported the process of sensible protection and, as the principal stakeholder, would continue to engage in the process. "However, in some of the areas, particularly the East Rockall Bank, the boundaries are incorrect," he said. So, here are five new sites with which to test the new IUCN Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas described on page 2, and a management issue over boundaries which could benefit from the guidance the document contains.

Source: Herald Scotland



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