

Fourteen reasons why the IUCN National Committee UK thinks the PNOTM work is important:

1. It will provide a more accurate picture of those nature and landscape conservation sites in the UK which meet international standards;
2. It will provide a common database for all protected areas in the UK, whether they are in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales; or whether they are owned or managed by official, private, NGO or community groups;
3. All this data will help to show how well the UK is meeting international commitments, for example in achieving relevant CBD Aichi Targets, notably Target 11¹;
4. It will provide better information on nature conservation for use in a wide range of development and conservation work undertaken by national and devolved administration bodies;
5. It will provide better information on nature conservation locally for use by planning authorities and in initiatives (like Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), and partnerships (like Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs));
6. It will make all this data easily available to the public in a reliable, accurate, comprehensible and mapped format;
7. It will raise the public profile of protected areas which meet international standards;
8. It will help to establish targets for other places that are not at present protected areas, to aspire to;
9. It will offer information that can be used by tourist interests seeking contact with nature and landscape;
10. The outcome of the project can be used to showcase UK nature conservation more effectively;
11. It will establish the foundation for an updateable system of protected area data that, over the long term, will help determine trends in protected area provision etc.;
12. The exercise can be used to strengthen nature conservation in protected landscapes and similar designations - indeed, as the Statements of Compliance for such areas demonstrate, this is already happening;
13. The database will allow the UK to compare itself with other countries because the IUCN protected area definition and related advice represent a global standard which is followed in all parts of the world;

¹ Aichi Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

14. The database will be useful in establishing how well different kinds of protected areas work, in conjunction with related work to evaluate management effectiveness and outcomes (eg. to compare how well Category V does as against Category IV in meeting biodiversity targets).