



## 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the IUCN National Committee UK (NCUK) held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Living Planet Centre, Woking, Surrey between 1200 and 1300.

### PRELIMINARIES

#### 1. Welcome by Stuart Brooks, Chair of IUCN NCUK

SB welcomed those present at the AGM and explained some background to the National Committee's work, in particular that work which delivered projects, as follows:

##### National Committee Work Streams

- Undertake projects to help deliver the IUCN Programme
- Provide opportunities for IUCN UK members to engage with IUCN at all levels of governance and delivery
- Coordinate input from IUCN UK members to nature conservation issues in the UK and UK Overseas Territories

##### National Committee Project Criteria

- Relevant to IUCN Programme priorities
- Nature based positive action at policy and practical level
- Championed by many but 'owned' by none
- Project based – easily identified milestones
- Relevant across UK (devolved governments)
- Where IUCN can bring added value

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Stephen Grady, Dominic Whitmee, Michael Sigsworth, Tim Stowe, Mike Pienkowski, Sue Stolton, Nigel Dudley

#### 3. Adoption of minutes from the previous AGM of 2013

Robin Sharpe enquired where the minutes might be found and Chris Mahon explained that they had been distributed to attendees by email and were available on the IUCN NCUK website. There were no further comments and the draft minutes were adopted as a correct record.

#### 4. Matters arising from the previous AGM

There were no matters arising

## PRESENTATIONS

### 5. Review of 2013 A look forward to 2014/15 and beyond

Chris Mahon provided a summary of the highlights of the year.

2013 was the year after the September 2012 World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea, which had good representation from the UK. This was the occasion at which Jonny Hughes was elected to IUCN Council as Regional Councillor for West Europe and 2013 saw his first term of office. This included several meetings of Council and working groups and also his election as co-Chair of a new European policy advisory group, established to provide policy advice and guidance to the IUCN Brussels office. This office also welcomed its new Director, Luc Bas, in this year.

Early in 2013, at a meeting of European National Committees in Copenhagen, Chris Mahon agreed to Chair the new European National Committee Development Working Group for six months until it met in Rome in September 2013 to present its work and dissolve itself. This group did considerable research and analysis in that time to establish a new memorandum of agreement on cooperation between European National Committees which was signed by all the European National Committee Chairs. This has become known as the 'Rome Charter'. The working group has reincarnated as the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Development of All National Committees of the European Region (AWGDANCER) and, later in 2013, began work on a toolkit to assist the development of existing and emerging national committees.

Other European work included, in March 2013 presenting the work of the UK National Committee to IUCN Members in the South East European region, in Tirana, Albania, and later in the year demonstrating the progress being made in applying the IUCN protected area categories in the UK through the Putting Nature on the Map project (PNOTM), at a conference in Bratislava, Slovakia. PNOTM was also successful in attracting funding for Phase 3 of its work from Scottish Natural Heritage and WWF. This will enable the UK's protected area data to be analysed, reviewed and reports written in time for presentation at the World Park's Congress in November 2014.

Some time was spent on facilitating discussions between parties involved in the planning issues surrounding the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site and a golf resort proposal. Links with Northern Ireland were improved as a result.

Some Members of IUCN Commission on Education and Communication met in London to see if there were opportunities to pursue engagement in implementation of the IUCN Programme. There was enthusiasm for this but resource issues have prevented further development.

The IUCN NCUK Peatland Programme continued its work throughout 2013 with more well-attended conferences and the signing of an agreement on the importance of peatland conservation by all four UK country's environment ministers.

There were three ExCo meetings around the UK and the AGM was held at the London Wetland Centre, hosted by IUCN Member, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Looking forward to the future then, the next significant IUCN global event is the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, where it is hoped that the National Committee UK will have an input via reporting on its PNOTM project.

The date and venue of the next World Conservation Congress (WCC) has been announced as between 1-10 September 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, giving over two years to organise, coordinate and deliver assistance in the motions process.

In preparation for the WCC, there is a requirement for a European Regional Members Forum to take place and an expression of interest has been expressed to IUCN in hosting this in Belfast in June 2015.

There will be a River Restoration project expert workshop in early November 2014 at the University of Liverpool.

It is expected that there will be a meeting of European National Committee and Commission Chairs in September in Stockholm, Sweden where the regional forum will be discussed and the European National Committee toolkit launched.

The IUCN NCUK Peatland Programme will continue developing the Carbon Code and its next conference will be in Scotland in 2014.

The next NCUK conference meeting may be on the subject of decommissioning marine structures – the date and location is yet to be confirmed.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### 6. Financial Report

Stuart Brooks summarised the financial position and explained that the committee had had a frugal year of expenditure and had been successful in bringing in some project funding and additional membership subscriptions.

| <b>National Committee Summary</b> | <b>2013-14</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Income (unrestricted)             | £16,962        |
| Expenditure                       | £14,371        |
|                                   |                |
| Project Income                    | £23,000        |
| Project Expenditure               | £9,597         |
| Movement in Unrestricted Funds    | £2,592         |
|                                   |                |

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Unrestricted Reserve | £12,154 |
| Project Funds        | £26,509 |
|                      |         |

## 7. Election of Members to the Executive Committee

There were no elections to the Executive Committee, all elected positions being filled and the occupiers willing to continue. One change had taken place during the period, Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo) had been replaced by Kirsten Pullen (BIAZA) to maintain continuity in representation by the zoo community.

The ongoing ExCo is as follows:

### Chief Executive

Chris Mahon

### Elected

Stuart Brooks (Chair, Scottish Environment Link)

Glyn Davies (WWF-UK)

Jonathan Hughes (The Wildlife Trusts, IUCN Regional Councillor)

Tim Stowe (Royal Society for Protection of Birds)

Kirsten Pullen (BIAZA)

### Government Representatives

Dominic Whitmee, Michael Sigsworth (Defra)

Stephen Grady (JNCC)

### Co-opted

Mike Pienkowski (UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum)

Nigel Dudley,

Sue Stolton (World Commission on Protected Areas)

Simon Stuart (Chair Species Survival Commission)

Richard Jenkins (IUCN Secretariat, Global Species Programme)

Joanna Robertson (Hon. Archivist)

## 8. Open forum for questions

No questions were raised.

## 9. Any Other Business

There was none

## 10. Close of AGM

The meeting was duly closed.