



Minutes of the meeting of IUCN NCUK ExCo71

Held on Tuesday 14th December 2012 at the offices of Earthwatch, (2nd Floor), Mayfield House, 256 Banbury Road, Oxford OX 2 7DE between 10:00 and 15:30.

Those present:

Stuart Brooks (SB), Scottish Environment Link, Chair,
Glyn Davies (GD) WWF UK,
Bryan Carroll (BC) Bristol Zoological Gardens,
Vin Fleming (VF) JNCC (substituting for Susan Davies),
Sue Stolton (SS) WCPA,
Mike Pienkowski (MP) UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum,
Chris Mahon (CM) IUCN NCUK CEO and Secretariat,
Jonathan Hughes (JH) The Wildlife Trusts,
Jane Smart (JS) IUCN,
Simon Stuart (SSt) IUCN,
Richard Jenkins (RJ) IUCN,

1. Chairs Welcome

SB welcomed ExCo Members and Co-optees to the meeting and in particular JS from the IUCN Secretariat and SSt from IUCN Council.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Davies (Scottish Natural Heritage), Tim Stowe (RSPB), Nigel Dudley (WCPA), Ed Edwards (Arkive), Clifton Bain (IUCN UK Peatland Programme), Dominic Whitmee (Defra), Michael Sigsworth (Defra)

3. Approval of minutes of ExCo 69 and update on actions

The Minutes of ExCo 70 were agreed as a correct record

Two outstanding actions were noted. CM 70.5.5 and CM 69.7.1 (see actions below)

Actions arising from the ExCo70 meeting

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date
69.5.5	Share UK Approach document	SD	ASAP Done
69.7.1	Process for response to external requests and press releases	CM	December 2012 Ongoing
70.2	Set up meeting with Dominic Whitmee	CM/SB/DM	ASAP Done
70.5.1	Produce a position statement with TS input	MP	October 2012 Drafted but Overtaken

70.5.4	Seek clarification on NC voting at WCC	CM/RJ	Beginning September Done
70.5.4	Produce spreadsheet of UK participants	CM	Beginning September Done
70.5.5	Work programme – green infrastructure	CM/JH	December 2012 Done
70.5.5	Work programme – migratory & freshwater fish	SB	December 2012 Removed
70.5.5	Work programme – pollinators and river restoration	SD	December 2012 Done
70.5.5	Work programme – peatland programme 2	JH/SB/CB	December 2012 Ongoing
70.5.5	Work programme in new format	CM	December 2012 Ongoing
70.8	Organise ExCo71 in Oxford in December	CM	October 2012 Done

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Feedback from WCC Jeju and the IUCN One Programme 2013-16

JH reported that he found the WCC worthwhile and spoke of his successful election as Regional Councillor for West Europe. He thought the theme of ‘nature-based solutions’ is a good message and a big idea that people get.

SSt thought the Forum element seemed to have a good focus but there was no UK caucus – he noted that Defra were very well prepared and had good input but an opportunity was lost because NCUK were not as well coordinated as some other national committees.

JS thought the Congress was very successful but the One Programme was not discussed as much as desirable. The Motions process is influential but she wondered whether that was that best use of time? Maybe better to prepare for CBD COP in Hyderabad in this space in the agenda.

VF expressed some frustrations with use of Government time especially with the resolutions process.

CM suggested that we should be reporting UK member activity in the implementation of the quadrennial strategies at future congresses.

JS, SB and JH agreed that if we linked everything we do to the One Programme, CBD Aichi Targets (‘in the DNA of the programme’) and the resolutions agreed at WCC we would have the focus that is sought. We should start to plan ahead now for the next WPC and WCC.

SB noted that we need to get a better relationship with Defra. SSt reported that he has had a useful meeting with Michael Sigsworth already. Also that he would support and encourage more NC activity in the delivery of the Programme.

GD would like WWF UK to support a couple of initiatives beyond the architecture of IUCN and would need to be clear that these resonate in the UK.

4.2 IUCN European issues and Copenhagen meeting, 10th January 2013.

JH, in his new capacity as elected IUCN Regional Councillor for West Europe, began by introducing some background to the changes proposed by IUCN in Europe, which included the letter sent on behalf of the NCUK to the IUCN Director General. He is particularly concerned about the lack of engagement of Regional Councillors in decision-making where HR issues affect programmatic issues.

SSt explained that the loss of the Dutch Government contribution has meant that 4 million Swiss Francs has disappeared from the budget and the immediate redundancies meant no time for consultation. The costs of this are to be picked up in 2012. A longer term policy on the role of Regional Councillors and the DG in such decision making is needed.

The post of Director of the Brussels Office has been advertised, the previous Regional Director is outgoing and the Manager of the Brussels Office has now left.

JS told that the Strategic Review of 2009 revealed that the Regional Office for Europe was not operating to its full potential in funding and policy. The Copenhagen meeting will be followed by a meeting of State Members also for the first time. The NCUK was encouraged to channel their recent concerns through these meetings.

JH was thanked for his work on this by SB. NCUK has an ambition to work better and more collaboratively with NCs Members in Europe and the IUCN Council.

On the French NC proposal – two of their main ideas were discussed – the European Congress and the Regional Committee. SSt suggested that a good discussion is needed on members leading the projects as an Alliance, and considered that it would be useful to have a summary of what NCs in Europe are doing.

SB suggested that an empty work programme shell or template should be created by the IUCN Secretariat which could be populated with One Programme-relevant projects and this concept was broadly supported.

JS agreed that we should take the strong National Committee and Member message to the Copenhagen meeting SB UK platform is a valuable role for NCUK.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 NCUK position on IUCN in Europe

Concerns were expressed over the proposal in the paper from the French NC to establish a European Congress. It was thought better to keep the European Forum and have a European Regional Committee with a light touch, not too bureaucratic or costly.

CM and JH to write a draft UK position statement and circulate to Members before 10th January.

Action CM and JH

5.2 IUCN NCUK Work Programme 2013-16

SB introduced the idea previously discussed about achieving outcomes from projects – the objective being conservation rather than process. A migratory & freshwater fish proposal has not been pursued.

Applying IUCN Protected Area Management Categories and Governance types in the UK

SS gave a presentation on the importance of the work currently being undertaken by the IUCN NCUK Putting Nature On The Map project (PNOTM). The IUCN Protected Area Management Categories are on a par with the IUCN SSC Red Lists and link well with earlier discussions today on the One Programme and Aichi target foci. The UK is a great place to test the process as it has site richness and large datasets but there is a mess on the WDPA and the data is not comprehensive. SS could only find 5 from 120 SWT sites that match sites on the WDPA, for example. Correct data is vital for IUCN globally, and SS reported on her China and Japan experience where she has been using the UK example. This matters particularly as The Categories are the Standard for the Millennium Development Goals and Aichi targets. Currently, reporting is inaccurate and we don't have a good map and data. Need to prepare for the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014 where we hope to report progress. The project needs at least £25k over the next 2 years to achieve this.

GD asked whether this includes marine sites? SS affirmed this and also that there is new guidance published for marine protected areas. GD offered £15k from WWF UK and encouraged others to bring forward the remaining £10k. This was warmly welcomed by all.

Action GD/SS/CM

MP noted that an even wider range of types would have been included had it been possible to include UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. He, SS and others had explored the potential for this at the start of the project but had reluctantly concluded that inclusion would be impossible with the resources available.

JS was concerned by the reported limitations to the UK data held on the WDPA. It may be possible to establish a partnership with the Australian Government in advance of the World Parks Congress to pursue some additional funding.

Action JS

SiSt thought this issue sounded like a strategic point for WCPA Board consideration and that it would be useful to discuss parallels with Red List compilation.

SB reiterated that IUCN NCUK was committed to a 2014 conference on Protected Areas, previously agreed. He also reported that, SNH is looking to improve information on National Scenic Areas which would improve the fit with IUCN protected areas definitions.

Green Infrastructure

CM presented the paper and spoke of his experience of the various 'camps' of green infrastructure, ecosystem services and ecological networks not working effectively together, causing confusion and reducing the potential for implementation of landscape restoration. He thought a targeted policy brief produced by NCUK might help in clarification and assist in cohesion.

The proposal was policy focused – but practical application may be possible. There exists an IUCN definition that can be used.

Agricultural Pollinators

CM read out the supportive comments for this proposal from Tim Stowe. There exists a joint CEM/Species Survival Commission task force which could be linked to – a link to be circulated by SSt.

Action SSt

This proposal ticks the box of 'championed by many and owned by none' and may be timely as the Insect Pollinators Initiative is coming to an end. A Commission of Inquiry approach (similar to the peatland programme) would be suitable and it fits with the Natural Solutions theme. Its multi-stakeholder nature fits with the IUCN-convening niche.

River Restoration

VF stated that there was lots of work going on for Water Framework Directive implementation. As many are interested in this field, a workshop would be good idea perhaps in Belfast with links to Eire.

GD thought Blueprint for Water might be a good framework for a UK platform where added value could be gained. Figures in proposal may be a bit low. WWF may be able to chip in a chalk stream case study.

JS considered that this proposal hits Aichi Target 15 and Habitats Directive. She offered her congratulations to the statutory agencies on their work to date.

Q. Who's the lead? A. Phil Boon at JNCC

Q. where's the £30k coming from? A. Currently doesn't exist.

Peatland Programme 2

£100k has been found to carry on for another year. The key output for 2013 calendar year will be the 'Million Hectare Challenge' to map and cost up 1m ha of peatlands throughout the UK which require urgent restoration.

Conserving Wild Plant Resources

SB is excited by this UK member organisation proposal and with the potential to take this forward with other countries overseas/Europe wide dimension. SSt suggested that this needs to dovetail with Wild Crop Relatives Specialist Group and other initiatives in IUCN. It was thought that this would be owned by Plantlife rather than by all. SB wondered if NCUK could provide a small budget for a meeting to show willing? It was agreed that this proposal should be worked up a bit more for further consideration although Plantlife may be best approaching other networks/groups first.

Discussion on projects

- SSt suggested that it would be useful to have a set of criteria with which to mark the projects against. **Action SB**

- Green Infrastructure – felt to be too policy focused and without known support.

- Peatland Programme – seems to be self-supporting.

- River Restoration – Important to harness the existing interest of the statutory agencies.

Write back to Phil Boon at SNH offering support and help with workshop. **Action CM**

- Pollinators – Commission of Inquiry potential. ExCo are right behind this proposal. Make the originators aware of the Task Force meeting in April in Scotland. **Action CM**

A process to retain NCUK ownership is needed but first we need a meeting of minds in April in order to replicate the Peatland Project example. There is also a need to get the members together behind these initiatives to encourage them.

5.3 IUCN NCUK conference 2013

As above. Pollinators Task Force in Stirling in April 2013 so could coincide with this.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 CBD COPXI Hyderabad presentation

JS presented IUCN's work at CBD COPXI Hyderabad – the powerpoint presentation to be circulated by CM. **Action CM**

JS was commended by IUCN NCUK for her team's work at the COP.

6.2 Feedback from IUCN Charity meeting

RJ related that this was the second Trustees meeting, the first being in 2010. The Charity is not in existence yet. How it will link with IUCN staff and employment is still to be determined. There was general agreement amongst Trustees that there was a lot of potential synergy between it and the NC, for example, ways in the near future of tracking Aichi activity in the UK. Future meetings will be planned to be near to ExCo locations and meeting dates to enable some cross-attendance.

6.2 Chief Executive's report

'Some issues surrounding the Overseas Territories Roundtable were discussed. IUCN-Europe acts as the secretariat to this, funded by a BEST grant. Several organisations involved in the Roundtable were concerned that a recent draft "message" from the Roundtable secretariat to EU institutions was so formal that it seemed inappropriate for a loose grouping to be producing it. They were concerned also at some tendency of IUCN-Europe to try to seek input at too rapid a rate for the cultures and very limited staffing of overseas territories, stressing that this was not a criticism of IUCN personnel who had only recently taken over this role. It was noted that it was not clear whether IUCN-Europe was acting for IUCN or for the Roundtable. JS noted that there is a procedure for IUCN to make policy statements, and she would investigate how this related to the Roundtable secretariat role. **Action JS**

ExCo were pleased to hear of the new membership of Biosphere Expeditions.

CM to contact Frontier about their membership of IUCN

Action CM

6.3 Financial Report

SB reported his concern about funds and fears over ongoing sustainability. Trend is to losing members and vulnerable to large subscriber leaving or reducing their contribution.

However, for the time being there are some funds in the bank. Congress attendance budget was underspent, and the website update cost £2k rather than £10k so under budget leaving fund balance of £8k. £10k should be kept aside for potential wind-up leaving £4k that could be allocated.

Financial administration - CM reported that the Cooperative Bank forms for an updated bank account were currently being completed by signatories and the final copy ready for submission in the next quarter year.

SSt European role for NCs might excite Members enough to improve their donations.

6.4 Co-opted reps reports

6.5 IUCN UK Peatland Project update

The Peatland Programme was active at the WCC, providing a significant workshop. JS made the point that reference to peatland is now included in the IUCN One Programme. IUCN NCUK should consider having a motion on peatland at next WCC.

6.6 Putting Nature on the Map (PNOTM) update.

Covered by earlier presentation.

6.7 UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

An updating paper from UKOTCF had been circulated with documents before the meeting, and MP highlighted some points from this. Other points had been discussed at item 6.2 where they related to matters reported there.

7. Any Other Business (tabled in advance)

Thanks were offered to Earthwatch for hosting an excellent lunch and to Nigel Winsor for his welcome speech.

8. ExCo72, AGM and 2013 dates

These to be confirmed after consultation by Doodle
AGM to be on the back of any April conference.

Action CM**Actions arising from the ExCo70 meeting**

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date
ExCo 70	Work programme in new format	CM	December 2012 Ongoing
ExCo 70	Process for response to external requests and press releases	CM	December 2012 Ongoing
71.5.1	Write a draft UK position statement on IUCN IN Europe and circulate to Members before 10 th January.	CM and JH	10 th January 2013
71.5.2	Follow up on WWF offer of support for PNOTM project	GD/SS/CM	January 2013
71.5.2	Assist in setting up a partnership with Australian Government Minister Tony Burke to line up some partnership funding for PNOTM project	JS	January 2013
71.5.2	A link to be circulated to the joint CEM/Species Survival Commission Task Force	SSt	January 2013
71.5.2	Create a set of criteria with which to mark the projects against.	SB	March 2013
71.5.2	River Restoration project – write back to Phil Boon at SNH	CM	January 2013
71.5.2	Pollinators project – let originators know of Task Force meeting	CM	January 2013
71.6.1	CBD COPXI Hyderabad powerpoint presentation to be circulated	CM	January 2013
71.6.2	Contact Frontier about their membership of IUCN	CM	March 2013
71.8	ExCo72, AGM and 2013 dates to be confirmed after consultation by Doodle	CM	January 2013