



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the IUCN UK ExCo 66 Meeting held on the 11th August 2011 at Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Edinburgh
12.00-16.00

Present: Chris Mahon (Chair), Stuart Brooks (John Muir Trust/Scottish Environment Link), Bryan Carroll (Bristol Zoo), Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF), Glyn Davies (WWF-UK), Jonny Hughes (SWT), Susan Davies (SNH), Clifton Bain (IUCN UK National Committee Peatland Programme) and Mark Baxter (Defra) – by V/C

Secretariat: Rob Thomas (RZSS), Jennifer Cocker (RZSS)

1. Chair's Welcome

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the offices of Scottish Natural Heritage, Edinburgh. The meeting was hosted by the new Statutory Agencies representative Susan Davies, and thanks were given for providing the venue. Mike Pienkowski was running late to the meeting due to flooding of the railway east of Edinburgh.

While offering a warm welcome to everyone CM proposed that the meeting was used to take a cold, hard look at the direction and next steps for the UK National Committee. This reflection should include our achievements in the last few years, the niche that we hold, our position in the IUCN family, the repercussions of the IUCN charity in the UK issue, our fragile financial position in the current financial climate, the completion of the Chair's term in 2012 and the potential for useful future activities.

CM introduced the newest members of the group; Susan Davies; Director of Policy & Advice and Chief Scientist at Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Glyn Davies; Director of Programmes at WWF-UK (replacement for Mark Wright who had stepped down from his role) and Jonny Hughes; Director of Conservation at Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Martin Spray (WWT), Richard Edwards (Wildscreen), Nigel Dudley (WCPA) and Sue Stolton (WCPA)

(Mike Pienkowski arrives)

3. Approval of minutes of ExCo 65 and update on actions

The draft minutes of ExCo were sent around the group previously for corrections, a few minor amendments came back from CM, BC and MP. These points will be corrected and therefore the minutes were approved. CM talked through the list of action points and the following action points were signed off as complete or no longer relevant; 65.3.1; 65.3.2; 65.3.3; 65.3.4; 65.3.5; 65.3.6; 65.6.8; 65.9.10; 65.9.11

Action point 65.5.7 for Rob Thomas of the Secretariat will be rolled onto the next ExCo meeting.

4. Post EGM/AGM discussion and way forward

Approval of EGM transcript of meeting

The Minutes of Meeting had been circulated to the committee via email and received minor corrections. It was thought that the term 'transcript' was a better description of the document. Jane Smart of IUCN has a copy and had sent onto Julia Marton-Lefevre at IUCN HQ.

The group decided they were happy with the EGM transcript; this should be sent out to the IUCN UK members along with the fuller AGM report, also with an update on any action points from the pre-EGM meeting from Jane Smart.

Results of the EGM and way forward for IUCN-UK

Following the EGM the question the committee were faced with was 'what do we *want* to do, and what *can* we do with the limited resources we have?' The group decided the charity could provide good opportunity for engagement with IUCN, and that will give better sustainability for the committee's future. SB suggested ExCo would benefit from seeing the 2009-2012 strategy again, if the secretariat can re-send round to the group post-meeting. **Action Secretariat**

The group had a very in-depth discussion on this matter, these are some of the points discussed:-

- It would be a good idea to showcase what IUCN UK has done so far in terms of meeting the 2009-2012 strategy, and to send out this information to the members and to ExCo (very useful for the new ExCo members)
- It was decided that promotion of the committee through newsletters, website updates etc, is to be improved on for the future.
- The group were keen to find the niche of IUCN UK National Committee, why should members join? What can we offer them that would be useful?
- The use of the IUCN branding attached to projects, (eg the IUCN UK National Committee Peatland Programme), is a service we could offer, and one that has proven successful. This could give a project better chance of reaching UK Government and higher platforms by using the IUCN name.

SB projected the 2009-2012 strategy up onto the screen and the committee went through each objective point and discussed what we have achieved so far, and what we have not. These were the points that were discussed:-

- It was noted that once the Putting Nature on the Map project, and the Peatland Programme finish in 2012, there will be a gap in our conservation output.
- The seminars and conferences have proven to be successful.
- Progress has been made by UKOTCF with partners in Territories in developing actions and targets
- Objective 3: 'For IUCN UK to make an effective contribution to delivery of UK, European and Global conservation action' was thought to be the most important one, and the one the committee wants to develop further for the future.
- Objective 4: 'Raise the profile of IUCN and improve communication at all levels between relevant parties, ensure members have access to information': communication with members still needs to be improved.
- It was noted that IUCN HQ do not have a reporting system on the Global Programme for all their National Committee's CM explained that at the last congress there were several motions agreed on strengthening the National Committee's, but he had not seen any evidence of this so far.

- The group debated whether it would be a good idea if they got the IUCN Commissions more involved in ExCo, asking the head of each Commission to join. This idea was rejected, as it was thought they would not want to be part of another committee. However, it may be a good idea to involve the commissions more in projects with common interests. CM made the point that connections with IUCN Commissions had been improved, with a new relationship with UK-based Chair of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), his own representation with the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), the co-option to ExCo of Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton from the World Commission on Protected areas (WCPA) and SB and JH's membership of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM). The two other Commissions are less active in the UK but representatives have taken part in the two recent conferences.
- JH put forward the following strengths of IUCN UK:
 1. The Peatland Programme - widespread consensus
 2. Brand recognition- good benefits
 3. It would be useful if we took The Peatland Programme forward – global dimension with UK delivery
 4. We must have an output target to work towards.
- It was thought best to concentrate on the last two points from JH, good idea to campaign around issues such as The Peatland Programme and use conferences to strengthen and develop these issues.
- The niche of putting IUCN UK branding to projects was discussed again, and how this could be used to support projects as a voice to push issues forward for them at a higher level than they could reach on their own.
- SB gave his summary on the points that had been discussed; the committee could wind itself up, but that's a negative output, he would rather see the committee go in a different direction. A modest contribution could still be made, through conferences and seminars and using the IUCN branding, as per the Peatland Programme. There are definite areas that would improve the business side of the committee, i.e. giving new/potential members reasons to sign up, and existing members maintain their subscriptions. Financially can we support enough activity to make a difference? With memberships down we now are on a knife's edge in terms of sustaining ourselves, which is a big worry. If our own organisations are unable to financially support us attending meetings etc. this would become a major concern.

The group were keen to think positively and came up with some ideas for a different direction:-

- JH suggested we could use the funds we have to support and market external projects, but it was thought we don't have the finances for this.
- GD highlighted that campaigning is a huge task, and we simply couldn't do the projects any justice with our limited resources, but we can offer scientific advice and knowledge.
- Thinking of ways to bring the scientific knowledge of the committee members together with the IUCN branding, can we offer this to external projects?
- CM suggested if we can offer nothing more than providing the IUCN branding and supporting a working group, without financing the project, this could be our output.
- CB suggested if the Peatland Programme could secure funding for 1-2 years post-2012, there is no reason why they could not pay something to IUCN UK and then the committee can push the project forwards.
- Membership: discussions were had again regarding the question 'why should members join IUCN UK'? What are the benefits? It was noted that Natural England had recently contacted the Secretariat about the possibility of reducing their 2k subscription [to the surprise of SD who agreed to investigate]. Four members have left IUCN UK recently, luckily they are not big subscribers, but if more subscribers like Natural England follow their lead then the sustainability of the committee will be threatened. The committee decided to skip to Agenda item No. 6.3: Financial Report as they needed to know the financial facts before continuing on with their discussion.

6.3: Financial Report

SB talked through the financial report to the committee. Some points were discussed:

- There will be 20k carried forward for the next financial year, 10k of this is allocated to a new website.
- We are a 16k business; our costs are 11k, so there is not much money left for the committee to spend on i.e. supporting projects etc.
- 5k has been made on the last conference and is allocated to the next one, which has yet to be spent.
- 3k allocated to supporting projects or meetings, what does the committee want to do with this money?
- The IUCN UK website was discussed and the 10k that has been allocated for it. One idea that came out of the discussion was that the website could be tied in with the Peatland Programme site, using the same design people, also Mary Church is trained up on how to use the site, she could work - if funded by the committee - to help set the new website up or possibly edit the site for the secretariat?
- The idea of a possible future conference was considered, but an idea of using the money (5k) to hire a venue and pay for speakers and use the day as a platform for a project, perhaps the Putting Nature on the Map project could do with a platform to showcase their work? They are working hard on a handbook; this could be given out at the conference. The committee also thought PNOTM should potentially receive some external funding for a conference. February/March 2012 was highlighted as a potential date, or perhaps link it with the IUCN UK AGM, and this may prove worthwhile in pulling in more members to attend the AGM.
- The idea of organising an event with UKOTCF was briefly discussed, MP expected UKOTCF to be keen but highlighted that any event requiring attendance from OT's requires additional external funding
- SD will communicate with Natural England regarding their wish to reduce their yearly IUCN UK subscription.
- JH suggested taking the Peatland Programme internationally to the next Pan-European meeting in Bonn, in September 2011; it was also discussed to take the material to the next World Congress 2012 in Jeju.

The committee concluded their discussion with support for hosting a PNOTM event with the allocation of 5k, the 3k for supporting meetings/projects will stay unspent until they know what they wish to spend this money on, and CB is to look into possibilities of funding for IUCN UK to take the Peatland Programme material to the meetings in Bonn and Jeju.

- **Action: 66.4.1: The Secretariat to send out EGM minutes and AGM report out to members along with any updates on the IUCN UK Charity action points from the pre-EGM meeting.**
- **Action: 66.4.2: The Secretariat to re-send out the draft strategy for ExCo members**
- **Action 66.4.3: CB to find out if funding is available to enable IUCN UK to take the Peatland Programme material to the Pan-European meeting and the next World Congress**
- **Action 66.4.4: SD to discuss with Natural England their desire to reduce their yearly subscription fee to IUCN UK**

5. Strategy objective 3- Practical contribution to global and European strategies

5.1 IUCN UK National Committee Peatland Programme update (Clifton Bain)

CB talked through his update paper, sent round to the committee in June. He informed that some things had moved on since his update was written and gave a brief commentary:

- The Peatland Programme conference at Stirling in June attracted 160 attendees, partnerships working well and the issues are current enough to get attention from the right people.
- The final Commission of Inquiry report is being put together after a lengthy and detailed consultation; there are some recommendations that will come out of it. ExCo will be sent a copy once it's ready.
- The conclusion of the Stirling conference was that there is a need for a hub/network, to give out advice and information on the Peatlands. SD volunteered to look into a possibility of creating a working group and to get it funded. The website would still be used, and the idea of still using the IUCN branding was discussed, CB will make a formal request to ExCo in the future.
- CB was keen on the ideas previously discussed of reaching a European and International platform through IUCN UK and to get the information they have learnt out into the field.
- There will be a third conference in Bangor next year in collaboration with the British Ecological Society, this will be a celebration of all the projects and work during the programme's 3 year term.
- Funding for the Peatland Programme runs out in June 2012, but the team are keen to keep working and feel there is still work to be done, they will apply for further funding.

CM thanked CB for his update.

5.2 Protected Areas Assignment Project (Putting Nature on the Map)

Nigel Dudley circulated his update paper to the group in June, neither Sue Stolton or Nigel was present at the meeting so CM gave a brief update to the group:

- The project is going well, the contract ends in September 2011, there is a meeting at Defra in Bristol next week to finalise the final steps of the project with Helen Miller of Middelmarsh Environmental.
- The 12th - and hopefully final - rendition of the Protected Areas Handbook will be out soon.
- Marine Protected Areas - GD suggested Nigel Dudley should give him a call as WWF-UK is currently working on this.
- The group confirmed their enthusiasm for hosting an event to showcase the results of this project.

6.1: Co-opted reps reports

UKOT Update (Mike Pienkowski)

MP recommended, for the future, that UKOTCF reporting should really be under 'Objective 3: Practical contribution to global & European strategies'.

MP gave a brief update, following on from his update paper sent out in June:-

- The forum are disappointed that the anticipated 2012 UKOTCF conference has had to be cancelled or postponed due to an eventual decision by UK Government to discontinue financial support. This will break the 3 year cycle of conferences that was started in 2000.
- A 2013 conference is also challenging, although they are actively trying to secure funding, it's expensive as the costs have to cover costs for most UKOT personnel to attend.
- JH asked MP if the Environment White paper included UKOTCF? MP replied that, after a UKOTCF submission, the UK Overseas Territories did get a mention, and UKOTCF were happy to see them included.

CM thanked MP for his update.

(Mark Baxter left the meeting by v/c @ 3.30pm)

6.2: Secretariat report (Rob Thomas)

RT talked through the secretariat report paper:

- The team were disappointed with the lack of members that attended the EGM/AGM this year.
- The meeting at ZSL pre-EGM proved most useful and worthwhile regarding the IUCN UK charity issues.
- The response from members on the IUCN UK Charity was overwhelming, and a great opportunity to hear what the members really thought of the charity's plans.
- The contract for ICOMOS came to an end in February 2011, and was handed over to Susan Denyer.
- The Secretariat contract for RZSS runs out in April 2012, a review will take place soon and ExCo will be informed by the end of September if RZSS wish to continue providing the service.

Action Secretariat

6.3: Financial Report

This agenda item was carried out earlier in the meeting.

7. Strategy objective 4- Raising profile and improving communication

Global Business of Biodiversity:2

The date is set for 28/29th November 2011, CM has been pushing IUCN HQ for speakers but not heard back from them as yet, he will chase this again with Hans Friederich. There is an opportunity for IUCN UK to take part as an open invitation, if any ExCo members feel they can see a role in the agenda or need any information, let CM know and he will put them in touch with John Brown.

PNOTM Post- September

This had already been discussed during the meeting.

CBD 2020 targets

This was something Jane Smart thought the committee could focus on, but it was decided it would take the committee in a different direction from where they would like to go.

Europe Regional Meeting in Bonn

CM and SB will have a discussion post-meeting to see if the finances will allow CM to attend on behalf of the committee.

Action 66.7.6: Cm and SB to work out if CM can attend the Pan-European meeting in Bonn in September 2011.

8. Any other Business

Operational guide for National & Regional Committees

CM proposed this guide from IUCN should go on the IUCN UK website, but did not require further discussion.

CM informed the group there is a new initiative that Hans Friederich is involved in; the Living North Sea Initiative, LiNSI. The initiative basically aims to develop and implement an integrated management plan for the North Sea. Information will be sent out to ExCo post meeting.

The strategy of appointing a new chair for 2012 was briefly discussed, SB suggested that CM stays on until after the World Congress, CM will have a think about this idea. The issue will be raised again at the next ExCo meeting in December.

The meeting drew to an end at 4.00pm; CM thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home.

The next meeting, ExCo 67 will be held on 7th/8th December at Bristol Zoo. The secretariat will communicate with ExCo and determine the best date for everyone.

Action 66.8.7: Secretariat to upload Operation guide for National & Regional Committees onto the IUCN UK website

Action 66.8.8: Secretariat to organise ExCo 67 for 7th or 8th December, hosted by Bryan Carroll at Bristol Zoo

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date of completion	Status
66.4.1:	The Secretariat to send out EGM minutes and AGM report out to members along with any updates on the IUCN UK Charity action points from the pre-EGM meeting.	Secretariat	ASAP	
66.4.2:	The Secretariat to re-send out the draft strategy for ExCo members	Secretariat	ASAP	
66.4.3:	CB to find out if funding is available to enable IUCN UK to take the Peatland Programme material to the Pan-European meeting and the next World Congress	Clifton Bain	ASAP	
66.4.4:	SD to discuss with Natural England their desire to reduce their yearly subscription fee to IUCN UK	Susan Davies	ASAP	
66.6.5	Secretariat to inform ExCo by the end of September if they wish to renew or terminate their contract (which runs out 2012)	Secretariat	By the end of September 2011	
66.8.6:	CM and SB to work out if CM can attend the Pan-European meeting in Bonn in September 2011.	Chris Mahon Stuart	ASAP	

		Brooks		
66.8.7:	Secretariat to upload Operation guide for National & Regional Committees onto the IUCN UK website	Secretariat	By the next ExCo meeting	
66.8.8:	Secretariat to organise ExCo 67 for 7th or 8th December, hosted by Bryan Carroll at Bristol Zoo	Secretariat	ASAP	
<u>From ExCo 66:</u> 65.5.7.	RT is to explore Option 3 and look at the range of policies from other environmental groups and identify why there is such a difference of views. RT will report his findings to ExCo at the next meeting.	Rob Thomas	ExCo 67	