



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT Minutes of the IUCN UK ExCo 62 Meeting held on the 1st of April 2010
The London Wildlife Trust, London
0900-1400hrs

Present: Chris Mahon (Chair), Tom Tew, Stuart Brooks, Mark Wright, Sally Cunningham, Nigel Dudley (WCPA), Harriet Nimmo (CEC), Clifton Bains (IUCN UK Peatland Programme)

Secretariat: Sarah Robinson

1. Chair's Welcome

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members: Brian Carroll, Trevor Salmon James Robinson, Mike Pienkowski and Sue Stolton (WCPA). Rob Thomas (Secretariat) also sent apologies as severe weather had prevented him from travelling to London for the meeting.

3. Strategy Objective 3: Practical contribution to global and European strategies

3.1 IUCN UK Peatland Programme – Clifton Bains

The Programme has now been running for 7 months, the full complement of staff are now in place and two public launches have taken place deliberately bringing together academics, land owners and conservation practitioners. At the first launch in Scotland the Cabinet Secretary of the Environment attended, a good endorsement for the programme. Further endorsement was received from Land owners, **Professor Andrew Watkinson and Graham Wkinn** (*please verify*) and the media interest in peat rose. The Launches provided an opportunity to bring together a diversity of people working on peat to talk about a common focus.

Intended Outputs: 1. a satellite website has been set up (www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org) 2. Regular briefings will be produced 3. Good practice guidance is being given and a web based 'Best Practice' resource is being set up 4. Gathering the science – this is a challenge as there is conflicting science. Therefore the approach is to focus on the issues and a commission of inquiry has been set up. Review groups on each of the topics have been formed to produce an academic review, these will feed into a programme of work detailed on the website and including a conference in Durham in September. The aim is to provide authoritative briefing suggesting solutions to problems; this should be published in early 2011. An advisory committee will meet at points throughout the Commission of Enquiry and the programme aims to hold a public enquiry.

The Durham conference will hopefully be the first of a series of three conferences, the first will focus on climate change; the second at how to communicate the peatlands story and funding and financing peatland restoration; the third on the delivery of projects on the ground. It is intended to have one conference per year.

Advocacy – Meetings have been held with Nick Hubert (conservatives), Lord Drake (Liberal Democrats) and Labour will be approached after the election. Meetings have been held with public agencies and land policy makers. The programme is looking to draw in funding to develop the project beyond its current three year life span.

IUCN UK Brand – The programme has had to do some educating as there is a lack of understanding of IUCN particularly in Scotland; at the UK level it is known as an authority. Lobbying may be difficult under the IUCN banner. It would be good to be able to explain IUCN in a sentence.

Briefings will be provided to ExCo soon, wind farms are one issue on the horizon that will require a statement to be produced.

Questions and comments from the group:

TT It is critical to form a unified perspective.

Peatland vs. Grouse - CB There are problems with some landowners, the Chair of the commission of enquiries has dealt with this. EU money will demand returns but should interest those that are financially driven; there are gains to be made where finding is needed and/or wanted. Dealing with the issue is a slow process therefore not possible to take people on 'head on'.

Methane vs. Carbon – CB big funding is being lost as the popular view is that peatlands produce methane. Defra is reviewing the net impact of peatlands and the restoration of peatlands. Wetlands International has done some good work on peatlands and methane. The evidence needs to be gathered for the short and long term, restoration takes time. IUCN UK peatland programme has a role to play in bringing together the accepted line – restored peatlands are good for the environment.

The programme will not be tackling carbon trading in relation to peatlands; many NGO's are tackling the carbon trading topic. Money is available for biodiversity and carbon without it being an official offsetting scheme. Interesting facts.... 10% of the UK's CO₂ contribution comes from degraded peat bogs. Peatland restoration in Scotland could offset as much CO₂ as the transport sector produces.

SB Westminster vs. Holyrood, how to please Scotland with UK policy – voluntary measure?

Back count peatland restoration to 1990.

A 'top 10' actions are needed and agreement on ownership to take these forward. There is a need to keep pushing for Defra ecologist not just soil scientists to be involved in peatland work. It is hoped that the programme will kick start a standardisation process as concepts of peatland restoration are still confused. The production of a restoration manual is being considered.

SC Is the project placing a value on the benefit (ecosystem services)?

CB – The policy team is looking at this and the project is involved in reports Defra are producing.

ACTION 62.3.1 CB to send a briefing on the set up of the commission of enquiry.

3.2 WiiFM conference update

CM passed round a three page document updating the group on the conference preparation. The Science Festival talk by Julia Marton-Lefèvre preceding the conference has been cancelled, discussion followed about the profile of IUCN. The 'Business of Biodiversity' conference planned in July (www.businessofbiodiversity.co.uk) by Ten Alps, a multi-platform media and communication organisation, was discussed in relation to the proposed IUCN UK conference on the same topic in November.

Questions and suggestions from the group:

HN Thought the conference numbers were good given the issues faced. She also suggested paying for an individual to attend if they can provide great publicity.

MW What can we do for the last push?

Have environmental journalists been contacted?

What 'different' networks have been contacted?

SB Get the commissions to promote the conference.

Secretariat noted that RZSS had approached CM with an alternative venue when one month before it looked like the conference attendance was not going to reach a third of the intended 300 participants.

ACTION 62.3.2 CM to send HN draft feedback form

ACTION 62.3.3 CM to contact IEEM

ACTION 62.3.4 HN + MW to send CM environmental correspondent contacts

3.3 Protected Areas Assignment Workshop

ND reported on what had been happening;

- Last month 30 people were brought together to discuss the issue.
- It was a successful meeting which provided the green light to continue work on applying management categories to protected areas.
- A more detailed plan and proposal of work was put together and included employing a person; hosting 2 workshops, UK category 5 debate and methodology of how the process should run.
- 20K has been secured to make the work happen, Sibthorp, Natural England and SNH will assign someone to the project.

ACTION 62.3.5 ND to send name of SNH rep

- Working to a 2 year time scale with an interim report produced for September COP.
- Offers have come in to test policies.

ACTION 62.3.6 ND to seek advice on whom shall and how an individual will be employed.

Questions and Comments from the group:

SC Need to look at how it will apply to particular areas to demonstrate an understand how this will happen.

MW 2 years seems like a long time?

ND- 6 months to set up and 1 year to talk to all involved, not a huge job but it is easy to reach 2 years.

TT Recalls a Georgina Mace publication questioning the system, also what are the practical costs involved?

ND – Georgina Mace was responding to another published paper. WCPA and SSC have a joint working group looking at a different classification system – the publication by GM is not a show stopper.

CB If there is a need for a peatland case issue this could be provided.

4. Strategy Objective 1: Organisational effectiveness

Co-opted reports

ND – A note was sent on behalf of IUCN UK to the Norton Enquiry; WCPA meeting in Canada in June, an overview of IUCN UK work will be presented; Looking to make Europe work together with greater synergies between CBD, PA's and Natura 2000.

HN – Ed Edwards will attend the CEC meeting in Aviemore; Wildscreen's 'Most wanted' Campaign is providing great publicity for the red list; Wildscreen will become the IUCN official image bank; HN will be running a workshop for IUCN Gland.

Secretariat update

The committee was updated; no questions arose from the paper.

Financial report

The accounts were reviewed and it was noted that is good to be leaving the last financial year on a high. The budget for next year is still to be set and a report compiled for the forthcoming AGM.

5. Approval of ExCo 61 minutes and update on actions

The minutes of ExCo 61 were approved as a correct record. CM reviewed the action points identified at the previous meeting and invited updates from the relevant individuals.

ACTION 60 + 61: Outstanding and continued actions are included in the action summary at the end of this document.

6. Strategy Objective 2: Membership matters

AGM update

Location was discussed and the committee was asked for speaker suggestions.

ICOMOS UK update

The committee was informed of the UK Landscape Award 2010

7. Strategy Objective 4: Raising profile and improving communication

Website

The committee agreed this was an important and necessary tool for IUCN UK and suggested the following points for consideration in any redesign:

- Need to raise credibility of the group amongst stake holders, notably statutory agencies.
- Should not compete with members only ever complement them.
- Have a phased approach, initially focusing on members.
- Ensure effective delivery, therefore keep the site simple.

8. Any other business

Action 62.9.7 CM to send SC the contact for Kuoni travel company (www.kuoni.co.uk).

ACTION 62.9.8 CM to raise at the Brussels meeting IUCN commenting on UK matters without consultation

9. Next meeting

There was a preference from ExCo for the next meeting and AGM to be on the 24th of June.

The funding opportunities workshop was postponed as Rob Thomas was prevented from traveling to London. The meeting therefore closed at 1225.

Action Summary

Reference	Action	People involved	Intended date of completion	Status
Continued from ExCo 60				
60.4.6	The Peatland Programme to supply draft position statements to ExCo for sign off.	SB + Clifton Bains		On going
60.7.13	Work with the FCO on comments regarding Turks and Caicos Islands.	TS, MP with FCO	01/2010	TS to work with MP regarding the wording
Actions from ExCo 61				
61.2.1	The details of how IUCN UK intended to endorse the 2020VISION project will be determined	CM + PC	01/0	
61.5.9	Funding opportunities workshop to be added to the agenda for ExCo 62.	Secretariat		Postponed
Actions from ExCo 62				
61.3.1	CB to send a briefing on the set up of the commission of enquiry.	CB		
62.3.2	CM to send HN draft feedback form for the conference.	CM		
62.3.3	CM to contact IEEM about informing their membership about the conference.	CM		
62.3.4	HN + MW to send CM environmental correspondent contacts.	HN + MW		
62.3.5	ND to send name of SNH rep of the PAA working group.	ND		
62.3.6	ND to seek advice on whom shall and how an individual will be employed for the PAA working group.	ND		
62.9.7	CM to send SC the contact for Kuoni travel company (www.kuoni.co.uk).	CM		
62.9.8	CM to raise at the Brussels meeting IUCN commenting on UK matters without consultation	CM		
Ongoing	Suggest possible venues for meetings – particularly any free venue options.	ExCo		