

# IUCN UK 2010 Conference

## Scottish Environment Minister opens first IUCN UK themed conference

Roseanna Cunningham MSP opened the IUCN UK conference “Nature - What’s in it For Me?” in Edinburgh in April 2010, followed by Paul Gray, Director General Environment for Scottish Government.



Paul Clarke (RSK)

Adopting the first of five themes in the IUCN Global Programme 2008-12 “Shaping a Sustainable Future”, the conference at ‘Our Dynamic Earth’ explored ‘ecosystem health for human well-being’ and the links between the environment and health, livelihoods and the economy.

## Joined up agencies - Conservation CEOs on stage together for the first time

In addition to a powerful list of speakers at the conference, the Chief Executives of the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage uniquely shared the stage in one of the conference sessions. The conservation agencies were important sponsors of the event as were WWF UK and RZSS.

## Joined up meetings - UK hosts CEC Global Steering Group in Scotland

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication held its Global Steering Group meeting in Aviemore, to overlap with the IUCN UK conference in Edinburgh. “It was a great pleasure to meet CEC colleagues from around the world and to welcome them to the UK” said IUCN UK Chair, Chris Mahon. Some attendees had their stay unavoidably extended as a result of volcanic activity in Iceland.

## Conference report hailed as ‘the best’



Chris Mahon

Feedback received from delegates included the need to keep messages simple and in the language of interested parties other than the usual suspects.

The conference report “Nature - What’s in it For You?” reflects this message and is hoped will be a useful tool in communicating with other sectors.

It is available as a pdf at [www.iucn-uk.org](http://www.iucn-uk.org) and a limited number of paper copies have been produced by Forest Stewardship Council-accredited Crewe Colour Printers costing less than £2 each.

Acclaim has been received from the highest levels of IUCN for its production.

### In this edition....

- ❖ [IUCN 2010 Conference](#)
- ❖ [IUCN and Rio Tinto focus on conservation](#)
- ❖ [Symposium on the Business of Biodiversity](#)
- ❖ [2020 Vision](#)
- ❖ [IUCN Protected Areas Assignment Project](#)
- ❖ [Crane reintroduction](#)
- ❖ [Most wanted - ARKive needs you!](#)

Clicking on the title of the article will take you to the appropriate page.

### Fight to save the Henderson Petrel



Alve Henricson

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, currently meeting in Brasilia (26 July - 3 August), is to discuss the state of conservation of one of the UK’s most remarkable natural World Heritage Sites - Henderson Island.

Remote and uninhabited, this island in the UK Overseas Territory of the Pitcairn Islands is internationally recognised as the last pristine limestone island of significant size in the world. Over 55 endemic species occur on this isolated outcrop, including four unique landbirds. Henderson is also a global stronghold of the gadfly petrel group, and the only known nesting site of the endangered Henderson petrel. The World Heritage Committee will consider the threat to this unique biodiversity presented by introduced Pacific rats.

To find out more contact [jonathan.hall@rspb.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.hall@rspb.org.uk)

## IUCN and Rio Tinto focus on conservation

On Monday 12th July 2010, IUCN and Rio Tinto signed a formal 3 year collaboration agreement at the Natural History Museum's Darwin Centre in London.

This agreement recognises that, to find sustainable solutions to environmental challenges, cross-sector engagement is critical. The new relationship will focus on biodiversity conservation as well as carbon, water and ecosystem services and will seek verification of Rio Tinto's "net positive impact" commitment.

The pact was signed by Rio Tinto's CEO Tom Albanese (pictured right) and IUCN DG Julia Marton Lefèvre (pictured left) at a reception attended by public, private and third sector representatives. At the signing ceremony, there was also a presentation from Pavan Sukdhev, Study Leader of "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB).



Rio Tinto's CEO Tom Albanese and IUCN DG Julia Marton Lefèvre signing the 3 year collaboration agreement.

Chris Mahon

## Symposium on the Business of Biodiversity

GBOB, the 1st Global Symposium on the Business of Biodiversity on 13th July 2010, attracted political and business leaders, private sector organisations and NGOs to the Excel complex in London's Docklands to see the launch of the much-heralded "TEEB for Business".



Secretary of State for Environment Caroline Spelman

Chris Mahon

with IUCN DG Julia Marton Lefèvre chairing a panel session. Julia also took this opportunity, with UK-based Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Simon Stuart, to meet with Richard Benyon, UK Minister for Biodiversity.

Possibly a landmark event, it enabled a demonstration of current private sector activity in applying a value to nature and an encouragement to others to engage in "TEEBONOMICS" through the entire supply chain. "To TEEB or not to TEEB, that is the question", a quip often heard on the day but one which can only have one answer if this responsible way forward is to gain momentum become mainstream economic practice.



IUCN DG Julia Marton Lefèvre

Chris Mahon

## IUCN UK Peatland Programme



Following successful launches in Edinburgh and London the IUCN UK Peatland Programme is pleased to announce its Peatland Conference which will be held in Durham on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September.

See [www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org](http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org)

## New and recent Members

We welcome new members Blue Ventures Conservation, Forest Peoples Programme and Rainforest Concern to the UK National Committee.

All IUCN members are entitled to bear the IUCN Member logo on their websites, literature and publications.

This can be downloaded at [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

## World Heritage bid stumbles

News is coming through that the bid for World Heritage Site status for Down House and surrounds known as 'Darwin's Landscape Laboratory' may not be successful. Watch this space for further information.

[www.darwinslandscape.co.uk/](http://www.darwinslandscape.co.uk/)

## 2020 Vision

IUCN UK is supporting Britain's most exciting conservation visual media initiative designed to bring environmental messages to everyone in the UK through innovative use of the 20 best wildlife and landscape photographers around.

20 photographers - 20 assignments - 1 vision - to show the link between healthy ecosystems and healthy people.

[www.2020v.org](http://www.2020v.org)



## Job creation - IUCN Protected Areas Assignment Project



Thanks to cash contributions from:

- ❖ The IUCN UK Sibthorp Trust,
- ❖ Countryside Council for Wales,
- ❖ Natural England and
- ❖ The John Muir Trust,

the IUCN UK National Committee is able to proceed with recruiting a coordinator for the identification and assignment of UK protected areas to the IUCN categories approved at the Barcelona World Conservation Congress in 2008.

For project details and the coordinator job description go to:

[www.iucn-uk.org/Projects/ProtectedAreas/tabid/65/Default.aspx](http://www.iucn-uk.org/Projects/ProtectedAreas/tabid/65/Default.aspx)

## Private sector interests in IUCN UK AGM

Held at the London offices of Arup on the 24th June, the AGM proceedings were supported by great speakers - Tim Nevard, CEO of the Conservation Grade farming scheme, Deric Quaile from IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme and Susan Clairs from Arup.

Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Dr. Simon Stuart also gave feedback from the latest IUCN Council.



Minutes will soon be available at [www.iucn-uk.org](http://www.iucn-uk.org)

## Crane reintroduction



Crane at Slimbridge

IUCN Members the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and RSPB are all set to release 23 common crane to the Somerset Levels, in partnership with the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Viridor.

The Great Crane Project will re-introduce the birds in August after an absence of 400 years.

These young common crane were hatched from eggs laid in eastern Germany and will join the red kite and the sea eagle as birds recently reintroduced in the UK

[www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/slimbridge/crane-school-2010](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/slimbridge/crane-school-2010)

## IUCN UK Member's special feature....

### Most wanted - ARKive needs you!

ARKive ([www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org)) is on the hunt for the planet's most wanted. We have compiled a hit list of 17,000 plants and animals that are clinging precariously to their own particular branch in the tree of life. These species may be concealed in the canopy of a dwindling rainforest, marooned on a tiny tropical island, hidden in a coral reef or confined to a remote mountain peak, but they all have two things in common. Firstly, they are desperately in need of protection. Secondly, they are camera shy.

We know their names, we know where they live, but in most cases we don't have a decent photo of them let alone a film clip. The intriguingly named Miss Waldron's red colobus, for example, is a vanishingly rare monkey last seen 25 years ago. Our only visual records to date are artists' impressions, and that's a real problem.



We will only succeed in rescuing species from the brink of extinction if we raise public awareness of their plight. But without pictures and recordings we face an uphill struggle. We can't expect everyone out there to know their aasvogel from their bonobo. Wildlife documentaries and photographs are a vital weapon in our battle to conserve the rich panoply of plants and animals with which we share this planet.

### Biodiversity challenge - Your starter for 2010

In 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, we have set ourselves the ambitious task of tracking down images of 17,000 of the world's most endangered species, from the Addax to the Zebra.



Throughout the past decade, with the help of some of the world's best photographers, cinematographers and scientists, ARKive has been bringing together the definitive image-based guide to endangered wildlife.

We've already catalogued 8,000 species online, including many of our most charismatic and familiar animals: gorillas and lions, tigers and elephants. Now we're delving deeper into the weird and wonderful world of rodents, reptiles, bats and bugs to unmask the

mysterious life forms that hide behind names like the major black millipede, jeweled toad and Marley's golden mole.

By revealing what they actually look like, we hope to shine the spotlight on thousands of relatively obscure and largely neglected species, thereby raising their public profile and, ultimately, helping to ensure their conservation.

### ARKive needs you!

It's an enormous challenge, so we will need as much help as possible putting faces to names. This is where you come in. Whether you're an amateur or professional wildlife photographer, a naturalist, an explorer, a scientist or just someone with a keen eye for wildlife, you may have what we're looking for.



Have you had a close shave with a hairy babirusa? Or pouched a big pocket gopher? We'd put money on someone out there having a greenback stingaree photo. Dig out your old golden mole pictures. Check your safari holiday snaps for a secretary bird - it only takes a minute.

If you think you might have an image of a rare animal, we want to know about it. For details of all the missing species and how to upload images, visit our website at: [www.arkive.org/about/species-lists.html](http://www.arkive.org/about/species-lists.html)

## Notes

- ❖ ARKive is an initiative of the charity Wildscreen, working to promote conservation and an appreciation of biodiversity through wildlife imagery.

- ❖ Our focus is on the c. 17,000 species at most risk of extinction. We prioritise the emergency triage list - the world's most endangered plants and animals, as featured on the IUCN Red List. We are now formal IUCN Red List partners.



- ❖ Our mission is urgent. Species extinction is now occurring at a faster rate than at any time in Earth's history. We are urgently trying to profile the species at most risk of extinction. The Yangtze River dolphin is now thought extinct. Some fear the tiger & the orang-utan will be gone by 2025, only 600 mountain gorillas are left. One in four mammals, one in three amphibians are now threatened with extinction.

- ❖ Our access to the highest quality wildlife films and photos is unique. ARKive is an initiative of Wildscreen - placed at the heart of the international wildlife media industry. We have long standing relationships with the world's best media producers, meaning ARKive's media is of the highest quality.

- ❖ ARKive fulfils two objectives - we safely store and then actively disseminate. Our huge digital vault preserves master copies of media in one centralised repository - an audio-visual time capsule of life on Earth at the start of the 21st century.



Via [www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org) we get low resolution copies of this media out into the public domain free of charge to educate the masses.

- ❖ Our people are highly qualified and passionate about what we do. Wildscreen staff are scientifically and technically knowledgeable. As an organisation and as individuals we care about the environment. We want to inspire

greater understanding of the natural world, and threats it faces using the power of wildlife imagery.

- ❖ Our work is innovative. We are leaders in our field. Through the projects we run and the key strategic alliances we have cultivated with the world's best in technology, science, conservation and the media, Wildscreen is at the cutting edge of online multi-media communications. We have our finger on the digital pulse.

- ❖ International Year of Biodiversity. Our 2010 work is part of the world-wide celebrations of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. The diversity of life on earth is crucial for human well-being and now is the time to act to preserve it. For information on events, initiatives and exhibitions across the UK visit [www.biodiversityislife.net](http://www.biodiversityislife.net)

## Google Earth

The IUCN Members' layer on Google Earth can be viewed here:

[http://intranet.iucn.org/MemberLayer/IUCN\\_Members.kml](http://intranet.iucn.org/MemberLayer/IUCN_Members.kml)

To update your Google Earth data, please contact the nearest Membership Focal Point in your region:

[www.iucn.org/about/union/members/contacts/mfp/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/members/contacts/mfp/)

For technical questions, please email [mapping.members@ihostsharepoint.com](mailto:mapping.members@ihostsharepoint.com)



IUCN UK National  
Committee Secretariat  
c/o RZSS  
Edinburgh  
EH12 6TS  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44(0)131 314 0316  
Fax: +44(0)131 3140376  
[www.iucn-uk.org](http://www.iucn-uk.org)  
[IUCN@rzss.org.uk](mailto:IUCN@rzss.org.uk)