



## IUCN in Europe

Only weeks after meeting at the World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea, Members of the IUCN National Committees of Europe along with Regional Councillors for West and East Europe find themselves facing the possible closure of the Regional Office for Europe function in Brussels and the removal of the Regional Director post. Details are still sketchy but the National Committee for the United Kingdom (NCUK) is coordinating a European response to IUCN on these important changes which could potentially weaken IUCN nature conservation activity in the region.

## IUCN World Conservation Congress

Every four years IUCN holds its World Conservation Congress, a great global gathering of environmental experts (reported as 10,000 participants attended in September this year). Here are some short reports on some of the outcomes of UK interest.

### UK Candidate Wins Election

Jonathan Hughes (from IUCN Member The Wildlife Trusts) has been successful in his election campaign to become one of three IUCN Regional Councillors for West Europe and was duly elected at the World Conservation Congress. Other UK successes in the Members Assembly include Simon Stuart, re-elected to Chair of the Species Survival Commission, and Alistair Gammell (Pew Charitable Trust) appointed to the Governance Committee.

Stuart Brooks, Chair of the UK National Committee welcomed the appointment of Jonathon Hughes. *"Jonny will be an excellent advocate for European member organisations and his ideas, based on very sound ecological and strategic thinking will add real value to decision making within our Union"*



Jonathan Hughes

### UK Protected Area Categories Club Launched

Roger Crofts (IUCN Member, The Sibthorp Trust), co-funder of the Putting Nature on the Map project (PNOTM) and one of the NCUK Protected Area Working Group members, launched the UK Protected Area Categories Club, a communications initiative to assist in encouraging protected area managers to apply the IUCN Categories to UK sites as part of the PNOTM project.



The newsletter for the UK Protected Area Categories Club was launched by Roger Crofts

## UK Project highlighted in PA Workshop

One of the well-attended 'Conservation Campus' events was organised by UK consultants Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley (Equilibrium Research). With Peter Shadie, "*Understanding and Implementing the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories*" highlighted the useful work done by the IUCN NCUK Putting Nature on the Map project. New guidelines for applying the IUCN Categories to Marine Protected Areas were also launched at the Congress and are now available online.



The IUCN NCUK project Putting Nature on the Map featured in the Protected Areas Conservation Campus

## Peatland Programme Goes Global!

The IUCN NCUK Peatland Programme made great strides towards internationalizing its work at the Congress. In addition to hosting a successful workshop to showcase its work, interventions were successfully made to have peatland included in the IUCN One Programme 2013-16 and for a thematic group on peatland to be established within the Commission on Ecosystem Management. Project Director Clifton Bain (pictured) will continue to lead on this project, a great example of a 'natural solution' to a number of Significant environmental as well as socio-economic issues.



Clifton Bain presenting at the successful IUCN NCUK Peatland programme workshop at the Congress

## UK Government and NGO Members make a strong team

It was great to have a strong UK presence in Jeju, with Member NGOs sending senior representatives such as Tim Stowe from RSPB, Nigel Winsor from Earthwatch and Debbie Pain from WWT, working alongside UK Government colleagues Dominic Whitmee from Defra and Stephen Grady from JNCC (pictured). The unique combination of Governments and NGOs is one of the great strengths of the Union and one we should build upon at the national, regional and global levels to be more effective in our work..



UK Government was ably represented by Dominic Whitmee (Defra) and Stephen Grady (JNCC)

## National Committees meet at WCC

Several of the 17 National Committees (NCs) of Europe met at the Congress to discuss implementation of the One Programme and achievement of the CBD Aichi Targets. There is a desire to work more closely together but there are disparities in capacity available between us. In a separate meeting NCs from across the world gathered to work on a specific Motion for adoption later in the Members Assembly. This was to develop the capacity of Ncs, improve communication and find ways of providing input to the Union Development Plan projected for 2013.



European National Committees meet at the WCC

## IUCN National Committee UK

With the Congress now over we can move towards the implementation of the newly adopted IUCN One Programme while continuing to strengthen our UK and Overseas Territory activity and contributions to the IUCN Europe region. This in a difficult economic climate. Anyway, a good time to welcome a new IUCN Member in the UK - Biosphere Expeditions - based in Norfolk.

The next meeting of the IUCN NCUK Executive Committee will be on 14th December, hosted by Earthwatch in Oxford.



IUCN National Committee UK delegation led by Chris Mahon

### Would you like to receive a regular copy?

If you would like to receive an email copy of Synergy on a regular basis, please email Chris Mahon at the IUCN UK National Committee Secretariat at [mahon276@btinternet.com](mailto:mahon276@btinternet.com)

### Are you working on any new projects?

IUCN NCUK are actively looking to establish new projects. If you have an idea that fits our unique niche and adds value please do get in touch.

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