



Summer 2013

WCC hosting in Belfast bid postponed

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016

Northern Ireland will be withdrawing from the IUCN selection process for hosting the World Conservation Congress in 2016. The City of Belfast had successfully joined the shortlist of locations in IUCN Member states that formally expressed interest in hosting this next great global conservation event. Colleagues at the Department of Environment Northern Ireland and Visit Belfast, with the backing of NI Environment Minister Alex Attwood and NI Environment Agency CEO Terry A'Hearn, visited IUCN HQ in Gland to progress the proposal but unfortunately time was against them in getting the full approval required from the Northern Ireland Executive. However, an early expression of interest in submitting a bid for the Congress in 2020 is expected and there are plans for hosting a major conservation and development conference in the interim. Watch this space!

New consultation on European Programme

The European Regional Conservation Forum held in Bonn, Germany in September 2011, endorsed the draft European Programme defining a roadmap for IUCN activities in the region. In January this year, the European National Committees launched the concept of a more participatory document, where Members and Committees could indicate their priorities and commit to their own contribution to the implementation of the IUCN Programme 2013-2016.

This model also reflects much better the new way of working being implemented in our region, by recognising the contribution of each component of the Union (Members and Committees, Commissions and Secretariat) to the Programme. You are invited to complete the consultation questionnaire which you can find [here](#).

AGM 2013, London

Held on the 10th April 2013 the AGM at the Wetlands Centre at Barnes in London, hosted by IUCN Member the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.



In addition to the governance business, Members heard the latest news from the Peatland Programme in a presentation by project Director, Clifton Bain.

Minister confirmed for Peatland Conference, York

Booking is now open for the IUCN UK Peatland Programme conference at York University on 10/11/12th September. Confirmed speakers headlining include UK Environment Minister Richard Benyon, new IUCN Director Luc Bas, Deputy Secretary Ramsar Convention Nick Davidson, Maria Nutinnen from UN FAO, Yorkshire Water's Director of Finance Liz Barber, Environment Agency's Robert Brotherton and many more.

You can register [here](#).



UK Environment Minister Richard Benyon

Funding support for PNOTM project



The next phase of 'Putting Nature on the Map', the IUCN NCUK project to apply IUCN Protected Area Categories to all UK sites that meet this global standard, is assured thanks to funding support from WWF UK and Scottish Natural Heritage. The aim is to have all UK sites on the World Database of Protected Areas in time for the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014.

European National Committees Development Working Group

Chaired by the NCUK's CEO and working with 12 NCs and the IUCN Secretariat, the ENCWDG has convened online 7 times since January. Established at a meeting of European NCs in Copenhagen at the start of the year, the group is looking at the way IUCN NCs work, opportunities for improved engagement and recommendations for establishing new NCs, particularly in East Europe and in West and Central Asia.

The ENCWDG is due to deliver its report to a meeting of European NCs in Rome in September, hosted by the Italian Government. Also at that meeting, a new Charter signifying greater cooperation between European NCs and the IUCN Secretariat will be signed.

New IUCN Brussels Office Director starts work

Welcome to Luc Bas, the new Director of the IUCN Brussels office! Luc brings to IUCN a wealth of experience from working for years with EU and UN institutions and high-level decision makers on sustainable development. His vast network, beyond nature-protection actors and including the wider business community, will be instrumental in achieving many of the goals of the IUCN Global Program 2013-2016 which focuses, among other things, on mainstreaming conservation in other sectors and policy fields.



*Luc Bas, newly appointed
Director of the IUCN Brussels office*

Protected Areas Conference, Perth

Advance notice is given of the National Parks John Muir Conference May 2014 at Perth Concert Hall, Scotland.

A partnership group of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Cairngorms National Park, Scottish Natural Heritage, National Trust for Scotland and John Muir Trust are organising a conference to explore the National Parks for the 21st Century, the future management of National Parks and protected areas appealing to conservation specialists, conservation professionals, managers of protected areas.

IUCN NCUK is expected to be a significant collaborator in this event.

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.

IUCN Member's Feature

Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project (GSPRP)



Terminal drain before restoration



Terminal drain after restoration

In December last year Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) received funding of £1.7 million for a 2 ½ year project to restore peatlands, with the aim of storing and sequestering carbon. The project is part of a Scottish Government Initiative to reduce carbon emissions to the atmosphere. Restoring peat-forming habitats that were drained or damaged helps ensure the peatlands remain long-term sinks rather than sources of greenhouse gases. The project will contribute to the objectives of Scotland's National Peatland Plan, currently being developed by SNH, Scottish Government, its Agencies and a wide group of stakeholders.

Project Scope

Given the extent of Scotland's peatlands (~2m ha) and the relatively poor condition of much of the resource, it is important that this funding is targeted at areas where it can make a significant and lasting difference. The primary aim of the GSPRP is to facilitate 'on the ground' peatland restoration, but funding is also available for demonstration events, improving innovation (testing new techniques), and raising awareness of peatland restoration.

Project progress

The first projects funded by the GSPRP started in January 2013, with restoration work completed at 11 sites across Scotland to date. Two further projects are underway prioritising and mapping ditches/dams in preparation for larger projects this year. A range of restoration work has been undertaken at these sites including:

- ❖ crushing of felled timber and damming
- ❖ scrub removal and ditch blocking on three lowland raised bogs
- ❖ fencing to enhance stock management and bog condition
- ❖ purchase of monitoring equipment
- ❖ formulation of an innovative restoration prioritisation method in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The total area which has undergone restoration work through the project since January 2013 is approximately 326 ha, but with a further c.188, 215 ha surveyed (by a combination of ground and remote techniques) to help identify priority restoration areas.

Future Projects

A recent (June 2013) tranche for new applications yielded submissions from a wide range of applicants including private landowners, non-governmental organisations and local authorities. Applications range from small scale operations to large scale survey and scoping in preparation for large scale restoration work. Such nation-wide interest from a wide range of applicants reflects growing interest and value placed on healthy peatlands in Scotland.

How to apply

A further call for applications for projects running up until March 2015 will be made this September, with a deadline for submissions on 4 October 2013. If you have any potential projects you would like to discuss with the project team, please get in touch via the project mailbox GSPRP@snh.gov.uk

For application forms and eligibility criteria, please visit our [project webpage](#).