

IUCN UK National Committee – Rolling Work Programme, 2017-2020

Context

The IUCN UK National Committee workplan aims to:

1. Reflect the Global and European Regional programmes
2. Include actions to benefit and support delivery by UK Members
3. Contribute to the delivery of relevant Resolutions
4. Have links to IUCN Commissions and Members, but also to new audiences
5. Contribute to wider objectives and initiatives such as SDGs and CBD Aichi Targets

It is acknowledged that a lot of activity will be taken forward by UK members independently of the National Committee (directly or indirectly) or by working with the IUCN Commissions and the Secretariat. The role of the National Committee in the UK family of delivery partners is to act as a convening body to add value to existing work and to establish new initiatives to contribute to the delivery of the IUCN Programme. This key purpose is bound by resource constraints. The activity of the National Committee is restricted to what can be achieved through the subscription fees of its Members and their volunteer time contributions. The annual unrestricted operating budget is approximately 17k. UK Committee projects are in addition to this and can be substantial in scope and scale. There are different delivery arrangements for projects but they all have governance embed in the UK National Committee.

Consequently the work programme consists of:

- Undertaking projects. The Peatland Programme will continue, as will Putting Nature on the Map . Phase 3 of the River Restoration and Biodiversity project is likely and there are to be additional launches of the report. The Committee will actively pursue development of a new NC led project in 2017 and be open to ideas put forward by members.
- Providing a platform for UK Members to raise awareness/promote ideas/advocate/share/discuss – using the unique convening power of the IUCN
- Attending meetings where the IUCN positions for UK Members can be put across

- Convening conferences, seminars, expert workshops – especially on UK relevant issues where stakeholders include governments and NGOs
- Helping UK Members engage with the Secretariat, Commissions etc.
- Contributing the National and Regional Development at regional and global levels.

Over this four year period the National Committee UK aims to increase its membership and encourage organisations to join IUCN and individuals to join the Commissions.

The IUCN Programme 2017-2020

All IUCN work is guided by the priorities set out in its Programme, agreed by its members at the World Conservation Congress. The Programme has three priority areas;

1. **Valuing and conserving nature** enhances IUCN’s heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both tangible and intangible values of nature.
2. **Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources** consolidates IUCN’s work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.
3. **Deploying nature-based solutions to societal challenges** expands IUCN’s work on nature’s contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.



National Committee Projects

In addition to its convening, advocacy and membership support objectives the UK National Committee undertakes projects to help deliver the IUCN Programme. The UK National Committee currently has three projects. Ambition is to develop at least one new project in 2017.

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org was set up in 2009 to promote peatland restoration in the UK. The Programme advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice. The work of the Peatland Programme is overseen by a coalition of environmental bodies including John Muir Trust, Moors for the Future Partnership, Natural England, North Pennines AONB Partnership, RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust, University of East London and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The Programme is currently hosted by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. A major financing framework initiative of the Peatland Programme is the Peatland Code www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code. The project is mainly funded by the [Peter De Haan Charitable Trust](#). The Programme involves IUCN UK State and NGO members and the Commission on Ecosystem Management.

Putting Nature on the Map was established by the UK Committee in 2011 to make the first assessment of existing UK protected areas against the IUCN's guidelines on protected area management categories. This culminated in a report of findings and recommendations http://www.iucn-uk.org/portals/0/PNOTM_2014_full_report.pdf. The project is now in its fourth phase and is pressing ahead with implementing the recommendations from the 2014 report, with particular emphasis on: finalising accurate datasets from UK NGOs; a focus on marine protected areas; applying protected area categories to ecological networks; protected area management effectiveness; and exploring the values of private and community conserved protected areas. The project is currently being funded by WWF UK.

River Restoration Project was set up in 2013 to promote best practice in UK river restoration for supporting biodiversity, for enhancing ecosystem services, and for developing a more consistent approach to meeting the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Floods Directive. The project is led by Scottish Natural Heritage with support from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the River Restoration Centre and various organisations in the Republic of Ireland.

The project published its recommendations in 2016 <http://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/river-restoration> and is currently seeking support for a practical implementation phase.

The Work Programme

The work programme is organised by Priority Area, consistent with the Global and European Work Programmes. This is a rolling programme and priorities will be revisited on an on-going basis.

Key to work programme priority setting for the UK Committee; Green = priority for action, Amber = be open to opportunities if capacity/resources emerge, Red = unlikely to take action.

	European Area of work	2020 Targets	UK Action/Opportunities	Partners	NC Priority Action for 2017
	Programme Area 1				
1	IUCN European Red List of threatened species	Contribute to Red List expansion Number of species needed to be assessed known Contribute to Aichi & SDGs	Raise profile and increase awareness – briefing workshop/conference Minister/Env Audit Committee Red List assessment of island endemic species in the UK Overseas Territories	IUCN Cambridge Office IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Simon Stuart DEFRA and NGOs Global Species Programme – Richard Jenkins, RSPB, UKOTCF, Kew Gardens	NC PROJECT Begin process of Red List assessment of island endemic species in the UK Overseas Territories – develop as a new UK NC project to conclude with publication in 2019. Requires funding
2	IUCN Red List of Ecosystems	By 2020 to have	Promote development	Universities	

		developed a Red List of Ecosystems for the UK to contribute to	of UK Red List of Ecosystems Workshop/conference Expert workshop	Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)	
3	Key Biodiversity Areas	By 2020 produce status report	Assess potential for KBAs in UK particularly freshwater Expert workshop		
4	Protected Areas in Europe	Recommendations for improvement in management effectiveness. By 2020 have some evidence of Green List implementation.	Continue PNOTM work on Categories and PA management effectiveness. Promote the Green List Standard with conference/workshop	PA practitioners NCUK PA working group World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	NC PROJECT PNoTM NCUK PA Working Group to consider a way forward
5	Supporting the achievements of international biodiversity targets	IUCN and Members views reflected in international and domestic policies and legislation	Mobilise UK conservation expertise to input to reporting on international conventions & agreements	DEFRA Scottish Government JNCC	
6	EU Biodiversity Strategy Implementation	Seek to influence the 25 year plans and devolved equivalents	Consider the DEFRA 25 year plans and input to the consultation on these and any devolved equivalents. Generate UK evidence for domestic use	IUCN Members in the UK	Conference – but devolution in this area means limited UK focus

			regardless of Brexit.		
7	Sustainable Development Goals	Better understanding of UK contribution to SDG delivery	Monitor, promote and assess UK activity in the implementation of the SDGs		Conference?
8	Invasive Alien Species	Reduce impact of invasive species on UK biodiversity		Environment Agency and devolved equivalents	High priority for number of UK members
Programme Area 2					
9	Agriculture	Contribute to the debate on agriculture and the environment with a view to improved position for biodiversity.	Consider the DEFRA 25 year Food and Farming plan and input to the consultation on this and any devolved equivalents. Generate UK evidence of impacts from agriculture for domestic and CAP use regardless of Brexit.		UK platforms limited
10	Marine Conservation	By 2020 provide report on the management effectiveness of the MPAs in UK	Continue PNOTM work on MPAs Find added value for NCUK in the plastic litter field of work	NCUK PA Working Group Helen Murray WWF, Marine Conservation Society et.al.	Conference?
11	The Arctic Region				

12	Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU Overseas	(See also Red List above)	Consider UK position in the 'EU Overseas' initiative post-Brexit Maintain interest and support initiatives in the UK Overseas Territories New Project - Red List assessment of island endemic species in the UK Overseas Territories	Global Species Programme – Richard Jenkins, RSPB, UKOTCF, Kew Gardens	NC PROJECT For development 2017
Programme Area 3					
13	Landscape Restoration: The Bonn Challenge		Strengthen the commitment to forest and peatland restoration in the UK as well as other ecosystems		NC PROJECT Peatland Programme
14	Mainstreaming nature-based solutions into EU policy		Mainstream nature-based solutions into UK and home nations policy eg. using River Restoration & Biodiversity report.	River Restoration and Biodiversity project steering group	NC PROJECT Re-launch report in London and Cardiff
15	Nature-based solutions for sustainable urban and sub national development	By 2018 contribute UK examples to a European platform for exchange of cases/examples and	Develop innovative partnerships to build the evidence base & facilitate sharing of knowledge & transfer of		

		knowledge tools that highlight the economic, social and environmental benefits of nature based solutions.	practices on nature based solutions with a particular focus on 'non environmental decision makers'. Establish a working		
16	Nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation		Continue high level advocacy around peatlands and development of the Peatland Code		NC PROJECT Peatland Programme
17	Ecosystem based adaptation	Contribute UK examples to a European platform for exchange of cases/examples and knowledge tools that highlight the economic, social and environmental benefits of nature based solutions for flood protection and health			
	Outcomes of the World Conservation Congress				
18	Hawai'i Commitments Linking Spirituality, Religion, Culture and Conservation	Produce a joint report on Nature-Culture interrelationships in the UK's World	Work with World Heritage colleagues to improve the appreciation of Nature-	World Heritage UK WWF National Trust Natural England	Conference led by Arocha?

		Heritage Sites	Culture interrelationships in World Heritage Sites and beyond. Establish a working group Expert workshop	Arocha UK (Lisa Higgins)	
19	Engage and Empower Youth	Youth representation in National Committee activity	Engage with the IUCN Youth Coalition Establish a working group Expert workshop	Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and other Commissions	Conference?
20	Sustaining the Global Food Supply & Conserving Nature		See Agriculture above		
21	Preserving the Health of the Worlds Oceans		See Marine Conservation above		
22	Ending Wildlife Trafficking			DEFRA, JNCC, Traffic	Limited UK focus
23	Engaging with the Private Sector		See Natural Capital below		
24	The Challenge of Climate Change			High priority for number of IUCN members	
Motions/Resolutions					
25	002 Global Group for National and Regional Committee Development		Maintain UK leadership of Global and European working groups		Maintain UK leadership of Global and European working groups
26	010 Poisoning/wildlife crime		Potential for a	SSC	

			conference subject	Scottish Government RSPB	
27	014 Towards an IUCN standard classification of the impact of invasive alien species				
28	026 Protected areas and other areas important for biodiversity in relation to environmentally damaging industrial activities and infrastructure development				
29	028 Incorporating urban dimensions of conservation into the work of IUCN	See Programme Area 3 above		Wildlife Trusts	Engage with London National Park City – via AGM
30	034 Cultural and spiritual significance	(See Hawai'i Commitments above)	Potential conference subject	Arocha UK World Heritage UK IUCN - Tim Badman UNESCO WWF	Establish a working group Expert workshop
31	037 Supporting private protected areas		Ongoing work with Putting Nature on the Map project	WCPA	NC PROJECT PNoTM Ongoing
32	044 Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for safeguarding biodiversity				
33	046 Securing the future for global peatlands		UK project taking forward key recommendations	CEM	NC PROJECT Peatland Programme
34	049 Advancing conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity				

	in areas beyond national jurisdiction				
35	052 Promoting regional approaches to tackle global problem of marine debris		Join existing working group	Marine Conservation Society	
36	053 Increasing marine protected area coverage for effective marine biodiversity conservation				
37	059 IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement				
38	063 Natural Capital			J Hughes on working group. World Forum led by TWT	
39	064 IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets				
40	068 Integration of nature-based solutions into strategies to combat climate change				
41	069 Nature for health and well-being		Potential for report with funding and conference	CEESP	
42	070 Financing for biodiversity projects in the European Union's outermost regions and overseas countries and territories				
43	073 Strengthening business engagement in biodiversity preservation				
44	074 Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting				

45	077 Defining Nature-based Solutions				
46	082 Reinforcement of non-regression in environmental law and policy		Establish a working group Expert workshop	Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) UK Environmental Law Association	Embed principles within new UK legislation post Brexit?
47	090 A path forward to address concerns over the use of lead ammunition in hunting			Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust SSC	Potential for a UK report, advocacy or seminar
48	092 Environmental Education		Link to International Nature Pedagogy – potential for a joint conference	CEC	
49	Regional and Local Government Membership of IUCN			S Brooks on Task Force	
50	Engagement with UK Government and devolved country bodies to improve engagement				