



20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear IUCN Members in the UK, UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies,

**IUCN National Committee UK update summary and annual subscription request**

I hope this letter finds you well and that 2023 will be a good year for you. It certainly looks like it will be a busy one for the National Committee UK (NCUK) but, as always, this will depend upon your continued support through your annual subscription as our main source of funding. This will help us collectively deliver our work programme. NCUK continues to operate on an annual budget of less than £50k, though of course we are always looking for ways to improve on this.

Last year saw some significant advances in our work.

- The meetings of the NCUK Executive Committee (ExCo), enthusiastically chaired by Stephen Grady, continue to attract regular attendance from senior representatives of the UK's conservation community and the unique collaborative nature of the IUCN's membership, State and NGO, is reflected here. Consideration of how, collectively, NCUK can add value to delivering the goals and targets of the UN Global Biodiversity Framework is underway. ExCo contributed strong advice to IUCN towards a global policy on the impact of war on the environment in areas of conflict, with positive results in helping to guide IUCN's response. The milestone of 100 ExCo meetings was achieved this year.
- Our new expert working groups, supporting the work of the seven IUCN Commissions, are taking IUCN's global tools, guidance, standards and strategy and applying them in a UK context. These working groups have brought together 25 additional experienced colleagues, adding to those already active in guiding our National Committee through its ExCo. As a result, the number of responses to government consultations has considerably increased and collaborative interaction between government and non-government Members is improving, all due to increased expertise and coordination efforts. Evidence was recently provided to the House of Lords Environment and Climate Committee for example.
- Projects and programmes under the National Committee UK umbrella continue their success with great strides being made by the Peatland Programme and its Peatland Code, and the River Restoration and Biodiversity Programme, which launched its film on the values of restored rivers, on show at the CBD CoP15 in Montreal.
- Membership numbers increased to 51 organisation Members and the community of UK-based experts joining the IUCN Commissions continues to be an important international

resource of expertise of over 1000 individuals. All are welcome to join in an informal online conversation with the Chair and CEO at a fixed time every month.

- The National Committee UK website has been greatly improved, to include webpages for the working groups and there is a new aspiration for a sub-page for each UK Member, to demonstrate their IUCN engagement and interests.
- The international interface between UK Members and the rest of IUCN remains an important function of the NCUK. There is regular communication with the IUCN Secretariat at the highest levels, as well as with those elected to IUCN Council. Relationships with National Committee colleagues in Europe, North and Central Asia and across the world have never been stronger and have been maintained through UK leadership of IUCN Committees and contributions to advisory groups. Notable influences include progressing IUCN's global position on conflict and conservation, spatial data mapping via the Contributions for Nature platform, an editorial board position for IUCN's new digital magazine and taking forward plans for a regional Members Meeting in Armenia in October 2023 and the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in 2024.

On behalf of the NCUK Chair and Executive Committee, we look forward to informing you of the next in-person meeting of NCUK members in 2023, to seeing you there and at our online webinars.

Kind regards,



Chris Mahon  
Chief Executive  
IUCN National Committee UK