

Chairman: Dr M W Pienkowski, 102 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 4DG, UK. +44 7778841233 m@pienkowski.org

To whom it may concern

29th August 2025

Letter of support: Craig Bennett for IUCN Councillor for the West Europe region

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) is pleased to endorse the candidacy of Craig Bennett as an IUCN Councillor for the West Europe region, at the elections taking place at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2025.

For several years, UKOTCF has worked alongside Craig on the Executive Committee of the IUCN UK National Committee (on which UKOTCF sits by agreement, to link IUCN-UK with all the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, including several which are also IUCN members). Craig has shown himself to be a determined, dynamic and creative leader of The Wildlife Trusts, a formidable orator, extremely international in his thinking, and to have strong empathy with local people. He is a great collaborator and a strong, considered and passionate champion for nature conservation and restoration.

In addition to the two existing wildlife trusts in the Crown Dependencies of Alderney and the Isle of Man (which are also UKOTCF members), The Wildlife Trusts are now actively looking to support the existing conservation organisations based in the UKOTs. UKOTCF Trustees and senior staff met with Craig and The Wildlife Trusts recently and were delighted to hear from Craig the importance that he puts on the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and Crown Dependencies, as well as the small-island nation-states globally in respect of the internationally important habitats and biodiversity they contain.

UKOTCF believes that Craig would be a strong addition to the IUCN Council. Craig is highly experienced and knowledgeable, and he has a strong understanding of the global issues around biodiversity, climate and people, and how they relate to small-island nations. He would be a strong voice and supporter for island-states and the overseas territories of all nations in this role. We are confident Craig would add much to IUCN Council, and we encourage all to vote for him at the World Conservation Congress.



Dr M.W. Pienkowski

Chairman of Council, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum