



IUCN at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree, Rinkaby, Sweden

Scouting for Biodiversity and Environmental Rights of the Child

Rodney Abson

August 2011



©WOSM

Introduction

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is the world's largest youth movement, with over 30 million members (girls, boys, women and men) in 162 member countries. An invitation was extended from the World Scout Bureau, based in Geneva, Switzerland, to Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), to join the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby, Sweden from the 25th of July to 8th of August, 2011.

The World Scout Jamboree brought together around 40,000 Scouts (approximately 10,000 of which are adult volunteers) from 146 countries for two weeks. The programme in Sweden was based on the theme of Simply Scouting – Meetings, Nature and Solidarity. A further 30,000 day visitors also came to the Jamboree during the two weeks.

The primary focus of IUCN's involvement would be as part of the Global Development Village, where Scouts aged 14 – 17 would engage in workshops to learn about some of the most important development challenges facing the world today. The Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) took up the lead in preparing and sponsoring an IUCN delegation to the World Scout Jamboree, headed up by Rod Abson, Knowledge Management Officer and Focal Point for the CEC.

The objectives for IUCN's involvement with the 22nd World Scout Jamboree were to:

- Develop and deliver 24 workshops as part of the Global Development Village, exploring topics relevant to the IUCN Programme.
- Promote IUCN's involvement with the Jamboree to IUCN constituency and potential new audiences.
- Gather information from the global representation of young people on their thoughts on environmental subjects.
- Consider the potential for a more in-depth relationship between IUCN and WOSM.

Several meetings took place between IUCN and the World Scout Bureau and representatives of the World Scout Jamboree planning team to prepare for the Jamboree, scoping out options and answering questions.

An invitation to participate was extended to the Young Professionals Leadership Team of the CEC to identify people who could join the IUCN team to the Jamboree. A planning team was created consisting of Rod Abson, Ivana Savić (CEC Member) and Andres Morales (CEC Member). Several meetings were held over Skype and in person to scope out potential topics for the workshops, the activities and equipment required. Two subjects were agreed on:

Celebrating Biodiversity: Explore the diversity of life on Earth, the connections between species and their ecosystems and the role that people play in interacting with biodiversity.

Environmental Rights of the Child: Explore the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child from an environmental perspective and help Scouts to see what are their rights and opportunities in their society to live in a healthy environment.

The Jamboree also offered opportunities to have 'Thinking Points', which are A3 signs positioned around the campsite to help Scouts reflect on some of the world's challenges. We prepared eight of these Thinking Points, with eight being displayed around the campsite, eight inside the workshop tent and another eight outside the tent for people passing by to see.

Discussions were held with the Global Communications Unit to identify potential communication opportunities associated with the Jamboree, equipment and promotional materials needed.

500 Scouts, 27 nationalities, 24 Workshops, 1,000 person-hours of environmental education

The Scouts participate in a variety of activities as part of the Jamboree programme, with one module being the Global Development Village. Here the Scouts participate in 2 hour workshops on topics ranging from human rights, health, information communications technology, and peace to environment and sustainability. The workshops were delivered simultaneously twice per day on six days of the Jamboree. We were provided with two adult volunteer Scout Leaders, as International Service Team (IST). Anna Barfod from Sweden and Mike Walters from the UK were a great help in refining the workshop programmes and delivering them.



The IUCN GDV team: Mike Walters, Ivana Savić, Rod Abson and Anna Barfod

The Scouts arrive to the workshops in mixed patrols, which help the Scouts to learn from each other and understand different cultures and the situation in different societies. It also presents some challenges in delivering the programmes, so they need to be adapted to suit the language ability of the group and weather conditions (we had everything from heavy rain showers to hot direct sunshine whilst delivering the workshops).

A total of 500 Scouts from twenty-seven nationalities participated in the IUCN workshops. The countries were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America.

Celebrating Biodiversity

The aim of this workshop was to: Explore the diversity of life on Earth, the connections with other species and their ecosystems and the role that people play in interacting with biodiversity. The overview of the programme is provided below and more information is available on request.

Activity	Description
Introduction to IUCN and the workshop	Explain IUCN and overview of the workshop content
Favorite animal species and introductions	Warm up activity to introduce participants and begin with some fun
Threatened species card games	20 threatened species profile cards which the Scouts group into different categories
Linking species to ecosystems	Scouts identify which ecosystems the species belong to and why some species are adapted to certain environments
Energiser song/game e.g. Evolution	Animal game or song to energise the Scouts
Create a new species	Draw a new species
Animal quiz	Game to explore facts about different species and test the Scouts knowledge
Web of life	Game to show the connectivity of life, how connections can be destroyed and enhanced
Closing, thank you	Thank the participants, reminder about IUCN for more information

The Scouts actively participated in these workshops and were clearly interested in the diversity of species presented to them. Many of them were species the Scouts had not seen before and the discussions were able to explore why there is such diversity of life, the threatened species classifications system and why some species may be threatened. One of the tasks for the Scouts was to group the species into different categories and they chose a wide variety of approaches including: places where the species live, species type (e.g. amphibian, mammal, and reptile etc.), threatened classification, and 'attractive' and 'not attractive'.

The Scouts were very creative in drawing their new species. Some went into great detail to describe the habitats, food preferences and other information about their species, which is a good indication they have taken on board the information presented to them in the earlier parts of the workshop. Pictures of the new species are available upon request.



Scouts discover some of the threatened species in the biodiversity workshop



Scouts create a new species in the biodiversity workshop

Environmental Rights of the Child

The aim of this workshop was to: Explore the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child from an environmental perspective and help Scouts to see what are their rights and opportunities in their society to live in a healthy environment. The overview of the programme is provided below and more information is available on request.

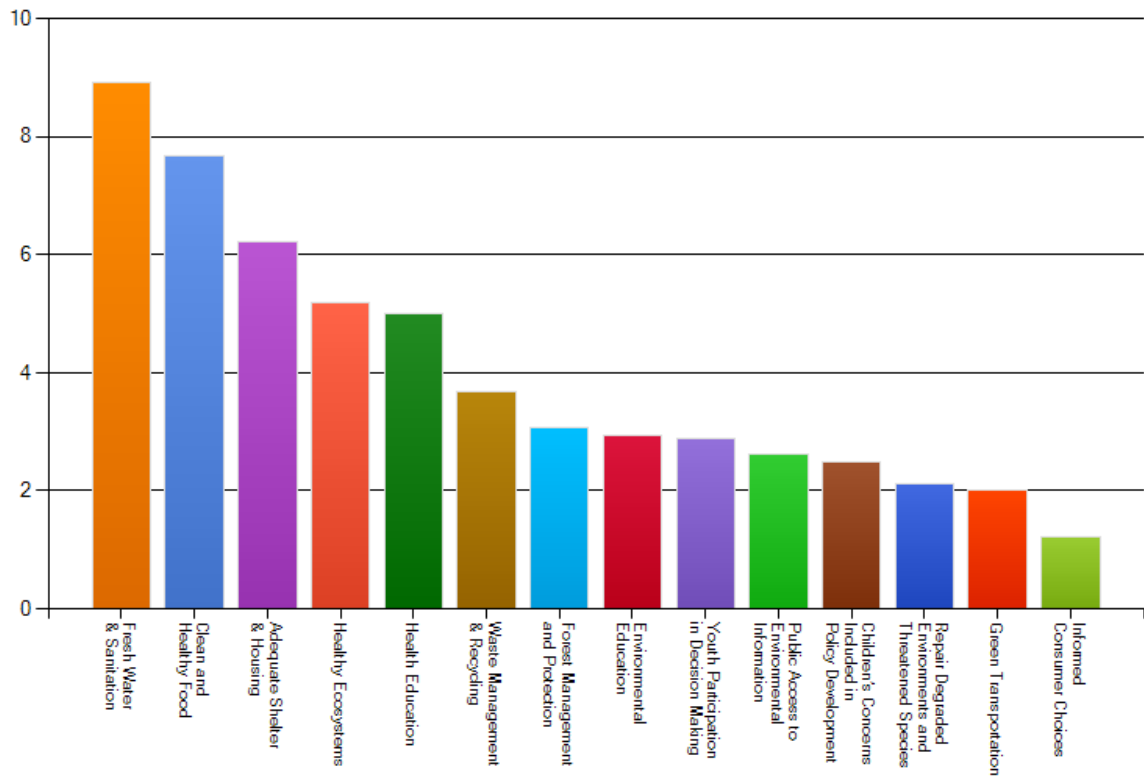
Activity	Description
Introduction to IUCN and the workshop	Explain IUCN and overview of the workshop content
Favorite animal species and introductions	Warm up activity to introduce participants and begin with some fun
Rights of the Child overview	Short discussion about the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Web of life	Game to show the connectivity of life, how connections can be destroyed and enhanced
Energiser song/game e.g. Evolution	Animal game or song to energise the Scouts
Creating a new country	Scouts create a new country, draw a map of the country and on sticky notes answer the question 'As a child in my country I should have...'
Rights, Needs, Wants	Scouts present their new countries and then position their sticky notes into three columns of 'rights', 'needs' and 'wants' and discuss their decisions
Energiser song/game e.g. Singing in the Rain	Game or song to energise the Scouts
Diamond Ranking Environmental Rights of the Child	In small groups Scouts choose 9 out of 14 cards that present environmental rights of a child. Rank the cards in highest to lowest priority
Recommendation for their society	Scouts choose one topic and write a recommendation to improve that aspect of their society
Closing, thank you	Thank the participants, reminder about IUCN for more information

A few Scouts had heard about children's rights at the start of the workshop. When they began to draw the maps of their countries and identify what children should have, they were able to come up with a comprehensive list of rights, wants and needs. Over 500 of these notes were collected and analysed, with the graphic below presenting the words most frequently included in the countries. Some of the terms that regularly appeared include: education, healthcare, family, home, food, clothes, water, freedom of speech, love, friends and Scouting.



The diamond ranking exercise also gives an insight into the priority setting of Scouts. Below is a graph showing the ranking of the various environmental rights. A scale ranking was applied to the Scouts responses, with the first preference receiving 9 points, second preference 8 points, continuing until the 9th preference received 1 point. In the instances when Scouts ranked more than 9 subjects, the other subject cards all receive 0 points so as not to bias the results.

Select 9 of the 14 environmental rights of the child and rank them in order of highest priority to lowest priority.



The highest ranking results focus on basic survival needs, of fresh water and sanitation, clean and healthy food, adequate shelter and housing. The next most popular response was a healthy ecosystem, health education and other biodiversity related subjects. Other policy related subjects were lower rated. It shows that this age range identified that immediate needs have first priority and must be met before considering other factors.



Scouts play the 'Evolution' game as an energizer in the environmental rights of the child workshop



Scouts debate the highest priority environmental rights of the child

Promotion of IUCN's involvement with the Jamboree

There were several ways in which IUCN's involvement in the Jamboree was promoted. Having two people from IUCN at the Jamboree meant that we could act as promoters of the organisation. Whilst many people had not heard of IUCN directly, they were aware of IUCN initiatives such as the Red List, the establishment of WWF, and our work with World Heritage for example.

The people most strongly influenced by the IUCN team were the 500+ Scouts who participated in the workshops and got to learn more about IUCN and the type of issues we deal with.

The team of four people involved in the workshops wore IUCN t-shirts with the logo on the front and website at the back. This was a good presentation for the participants attending the workshop and promoted the organization at other times during the Jamboree. The tent was decorated inside with large IUCN and CEC posters, as well as Thinking Point posters inside and outside the tent.

An article was prepared in the lead up to the Jamboree and publicized in the IUCN website on the CEC pages and CEC Newsletter. Please see 'CEC at the World Scout Jamboree': <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/cec/?7835/CEC-at-the-World-Scout-Jamboree>

An article was prepared for the IUCN website and promoted in multiple parts of the website, including the front page news spotlight. This will also appear in the CEC Newsletter. Please see 'Scouting for Biodiversity': <http://www.iucn.org/?uNewsID=7983>

The World Organization of the Scout Movement published a story on the front page news and environment news section of their website. Please see 'Scouting for Biodiversity and Children's Environmental Rights':

http://www.scout.org/information_events/events/world_scout_events/jamboree/22nd_world_scout_jamboree/jamboree_news/iucn_at_the_world_scout_jamboree

This was also translated into Spanish:

http://www.scout.org/es/information_events/events/eventos_mundiales/jamboree/22nd_world_scout_jamboree/jamboree_news/iucn_en_el_jamboree_scout_mundial

The Young Professionals Leadership Team of the CEC promoted IUCN's involvement with the Jamboree through their Wiki. Please see 'World Scout Jamboree':

<http://intergenerationalpartnership.wikispaces.com/IUCN+at+the+World+Scout+Jamboree%2C+Sweden+July-August+2011>

The World Scout Jamboree Global Development Village also listed IUCN as one of their partners. Please see 'Partners to the GDV': <http://www.worldscoutjamboree.se/2011/04/partners-to-the-gdv/>

These articles were further promoted through social media, with content going through Facebook and Twitter accounts of IUCN (general), IUCN-CEC, WOSM, and the World Scout Jamboree. The RSS feeds of these websites also links into other websites at a more local level. This social pollination multiplied the reach of these promotions.

The Thinking Points were potentially able to reach out to many participants, with one being positioned directly in front of the Jamboree Shop, however it is hard to measure the impact of these signs.



One of the IUCN 'Thinking Point' posters on display around the Jamboree site

Potential opportunities for collaboration between IUCN and WOSM

IUCN is the world's largest environment network and WOSM is the world's largest youth movement, both with similar scope in terms of their geographic coverage, local to global reach and complimentary ideals. Scouting has a long history of using nature as a basis for its non-formal educational programme, going back to its inception in 1907. Beyond recreation in natural areas, there have been many examples of Scouts actively working to protect the natural environment in ways appropriate to their society. These range from millions of trees being planted every year, clean up campaigns, awareness and advocacy on environmental issues, the uptake of renewable energy and sustainable practices, locally grown food, assisting the community in times of natural disasters, and other general environmental educational programmes. For more information please see: www.scout.org/environment

The door seems to be open between the two organisations to potentially collaborate in ways that can promote the mission and programmes of both organisations. IUCN has an expertise knowledge base which could be useful for advising Scouting on their environmental initiatives. Likewise, if IUCN is looking to reach out to wider audiences, and particularly to children and young adults, WOSM could be a good organization to collaborate with. IUCN-CEC is following up on the IUCN Congress Resolution 4.098 Intergenerational Partnerships, which includes calling on IUCN to engage in capacity-building activities focused on young persons and youth-oriented organizations, of which this event is a constructive response to this resolution.

One of the workshops adjacent to the IUCN tent at the GDV was ran by Scouts from the USA and Canada who were promoting the principles of 'Leave No Trace', which teaches people how to ensure they have minimal impact when visiting protected areas. They were interested to know more about IUCN's work in protected areas and whether their programme related to IUCN's work. For more information please see: <http://worldscoutingint.org/>

There were many examples of environmental education and management at the World Scout Jamboree, with a team established to look specifically at sustainability of the Jamboree. There were

recycling stations throughout the campsite, energy reduction techniques employed, water saving practices and virtually the entire campsite would be returned to a green-field site within a couple of weeks of the closure of the Jamboree.

Overall it was a rich and rewarding experience to be a part of the 22nd World Scout Jamboree, and by the closing ceremony 40,000 people from all over the world had been living together and learning from each other in peace and harmony.

For more information on the Jamboree as a whole please see: <http://www.worldscoutjamboree.se/>

Acknowledgements

IUCN's involvement with the Jamboree was with thanks to many people. In particular thanks to Ivana Savić, Andres Morales, Diogo Verissimo, Anna Barfod, Mike Walters, Cecilia Nizzola-Tabja, Nicole Gooderson, Keith Wheeler, Dominic Stucker, Kathryn Pintus, the IUCN Global Communications Unit, the World Scout Bureau, the World Scout Jamboree planning team and especially the 40,000 Scouts and IST that helped bring the Jamboree to life.



40,000 Scouts attended an international cultural day event at the 22nd World Scout Jamboree