

# World Wetland Network

## MINUTES

January 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - 15.00hrs US / 15.00 hrs Costa Rica / 21.00hrs UK / 21.00hrs Gambia (220)  
7748234 or 9946991 / 22.00hrs Netherlands / 23.00hrs Romania +40722459119 /  
Jan 19<sup>th</sup> - 6.00hrs Japan / 7.00hrs Australia

### Participants:

Chris Rostron (Chair)  
Minoru Kashiwagi (Asia Rep)  
Baboucarr Mbye (Africa Rep)  
Cassie Price (Oceania Rep)  
Peter Lengyel (Co-chair and Europe  
Rep) +40 722 459 119  
Luc Hoogenstein (Technical support)

Katie Beilfuss (outgoing North America  
Rep)  
Julie Langenberg, ICF (new North  
America Rep)

### Apologies:

Melissa Marin (Neotropics Rep)  
Esteban Biamonte (Secretary)

#### 1. World Wetland Awards

CR currently reporting back to the Biodiversity Foundation, including finances, technical report on achievements and publicity. Some information from regional reps outstanding, but on its way. Final regional rep payments being made and should be with reps by early next week.

Next steps with the FB – they are interested in supporting the next round of the Globes, and possible a meeting in Spain, face to face, for the committee members. Once we have reported back satisfactorily, we can make another bid. The next round is likely to be announced in March.

#### 2. WWN development

Regional project proposal between Africa and Neotropics – **BM will send information to MM.**

Planning meeting in Spain – to be arranged.

Sub representatives – we discussed the need for this – would make the network much more effective. Discussed with each regional rep how this could work – **all to progress this.** CR has discussed this with Gidon Bromberg, Middle East FOEME, for West Asia rep. He asked about groups by cross-cutting themes e.g. arid regions. This could be considered once the network is more active. He also asked for a ‘job description’ for a regional rep, to indicate what we want from the. **CR to create JD.**

Website development – what do we need? Possible help from Costa Rican colleague of MM and EB. Overall, need to make the website easier to use and simpler. Discussed:

- Make the home page more obvious straight away how the voting works.
- Map function is good, easy to use, keep this.
- Make registration easier, just e-mail address.

- Make voting for wetlands easier. Either more description on the voting form to explain it, or make the choice of two votes, good and bad. This could be symbols to get over the language barrier, e.g. happy face / sad face, which is recognised internationally. Some detail is lost, but this could be researched once the voting is finished. If we add an open field as well, then the voters can add more detail.

### 3. Ramsar

Preparation for the next round of Awards – event preparation in Romania

- PL said that the Romanian govt has allocated nearly 2m euros for the event, but nothing for NGO involvement. Likely to be end of May or early June.
- Pre-meet for the COP to take place this year? PL still keen on Danube Delta, but need to fund raise. **PL, CR, LH and MM to discuss this later this week.**
- We are not sure what is being planned through Ramsar Secretariat for NGOs, to discuss when we meet.
- What the IOP's are doing for the meeting and is there something we could cooperate on. **CR to contact the IOP's, except BirdLife which LH will talk to.**

Meeting with Ramsar – dates likely in mid-March, we are awaiting Nick Davidson's return from leave. Likely just to be a few hours meeting, so will be 2 or 3 of the WWN members attending.

Committee said that for the next Ramsar COP we would like:

- Early preparation before the COP. Check the Standing Committee meetings to see what is likely to come up.
- Clear idea of what the Ramsar contracting parties are planning to discuss as far in advance as possible.
- Goals linked to the Globe announcement.
- One or two key messages for NGOs to adopt and push at the meeting.
- Communications plan to ensure that we make the most of the meet. To include contact at the meeting, but also for those not attending e.g. regular, up to date webs postings.

### 4. Communication and membership

E-mail to new members and updating of lists – CR sent message to all 500 e-mail addresses on our lists, asking if they wanted to be removed. Only 25 bounced back, and around 5 asked to be taken off the list, but about 10 responded to say they wanted to stay on. Overall a positive result. **CR to send update list to EB.**

**LH to contact Eurosite**, to enrol new members.

### 5. AOB and date / time of next meeting

MB asked about regional pages – still need updates and information for these. **All to send CR updates** to put on the pages.

**15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> February at usual times.**