

World Wetland Network

AGENDA

21/22 November 2011

21st November - 15.00hrs US / 15.00 hrs Costa Rica / 21.00hrs UK / 21.00hrs
Gambia (220) 7748234 or 9946991 / 22.00hrs Netherlands / 23.00hrs Romania
22nd November - 6.00hrs Japan / 7.00hrs Australia

Participants:

Chris Rostron (Chair)
Minoru Kashiwagi (Asia Rep)
Peter Lengyel (Co-chair and Ramsar
COP 11 technical expert Rep)
Melissa Marin (Neotropics Rep)
Luc Hoogenstein (Technical support)

Cassie Price (Oceania Rep)

Apologies:

Esteban Biamonte (Secretary)
Baboucarr Mbye (Africa Rep)
Julie Langenberg, ICF (N America Rep)

1. Matters arising from last meeting

Submitted a proposal for the IUCN congress, 'Engaging civil society in global conservation agreements through innovative network activities' with partners Pro-Natura, WWT and Mark Smith from the IUCN secretariat. Thanks to PL for last minute actions!

Luc H is due to move jobs early next year, to work on an internet-based public engagement project. This means he will step down from working with WWN but his successor may be interested in taking over. VBN have committed some time to WWN next year. CR thanked LH for his input to the WWN so far.

Ramsar COP11 is likely to be postponed until July 2012, due to the delay of Rio +20, which directly precedes it.

2. World Wetland Globe Awards

Success with Fundacion Biodiversidad award, but much less than we'd thought. See attached workplan. We received less than a third of what we'd asked for, and have submitted changes to the FB – we should know in a few weeks if they agree them. Focus is now on making the website more interactive, adding the IBA sites, offering the chance for NGO's to 'win' a trip to Romania, and some small funding to support the international NGO meeting in Romania. This means that WWN members will have to do some fund-raising too to support attendance at the COP, unless we can submit another proposal soon.

Hoping to have changes made to website by mid-December. All to publicise the globes, as voting is slow at the moment. Once we have made the changes, and the deadline is nearer, we should see much more action.

3. International NGO meeting

Success through SEO birdlife with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but again funding is much smaller than expected. This will fund the preparatory meeting of the international NGOs to include

the WWN committee, reps from the main IOPs, SEO Birdlife, Ramsar convention, Fundacion Biodiversidad, and some other Spanish NGOs. This will provide a useful forum to discuss the Ramsar COP and international NGO meeting, which resolutions to tackle and how, the wetland globes, and the future development of the WWN.

4. Other Ramsar Draft Resolutions and SC43

At SC43 much time was taken discussing the potential move of Ramsar host from IUCN to UNEP and the resolutions were not addressed in as much details as they should have been. No decision has been made on the move. All agreed that most people would not understand the implications of the move, and also have better things to worry about delivering their own work. This could be dangerous, as the move might be agreed and the results could be negative to NGO / civil society involvement, as well as to core Ramsar work as the move would take a lot of time and energy. This is why WWN needs to produce some guidance on this, to explain the situation in advance of the next discussion at COP11. PL pointed out that talking to the other IOPs would be useful to see what they think.

We await final documents from SC43. The Aichi target (CBD) was also discussed – this outlines the targets for all partners to achieve by 2020. An agreement between Ramsar and CBD has been drawn up. MK said that at the Asia Regional Ramsar Meet the question of sustainable tourism was also tackled. This needs to be something that is properly addressed at COP.

5. Sub-regional reps and regional work

Regional meeting in Oceania will take place in Palau. This might help with finding a rep for the pacific islands. Other networks are quite slow, but this we hope will improve once the COP gets nearer.

6. Ramsar and COP11

Given the delay in the date of the COP, there is now some confusion about the meeting logistics. PL has contacts in the Ministry of Environment and will keep in contact with them.

7. Date of next meeting and AOB

Next meeting: **6th / 7th December** at usual times.

PL again asked for more messages on the listserve, and for people to send him contacts to put on it.