

**Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting
of Species 2000
held at the Historic Rooms
of the Linnean Society London, UK
on 2nd June 2009**

Present:

Officers : P H Schalk (In the Chair, Chairman of Directors & ETI), F A Bisby (Executive Director/ Company Secretary), V Perez Canhos (Director & CRIA), W A Gray (Director & Cardiff University) G Baillargeon (Director)

Representatives of Members : T Bourgoin (MNHN, Paris), P Kirk (CABI), J Van Tol (UNESCO-IOC), A Larizza (IRC, Bari proxy for C Saccone), C H C Lyal (NHM London, proxy for M Scoble), A Paton (RBG Kew), R J White (ILDIS, proxy for J Zarucchi), R Nash (EcoServe, proxy for M J Costello), N Robinson (Thomson Reuters Zoological Ltd), W Appeltans (SMEBD), M Seddon (NMGW – left before voting), D Schindel (CBOL), L Ji (CAS, proxy for K Ma), D Triebel (LIAS), R Vignes-Lebbe (CIPA Group), C Miller (MOBOT), N Bailly (FishBase)

Others : Y Roskov (Sp2000 Executive Editor), R Mann (Sp2000 Administrator), T Orrell (ITIS), M Ruggiero (ITIS), D Nicolson (ITIS), A Jones (Cardiff University), A R Hardisty (Cardiff University), R Allkin (RBG Kew), C Flann (Wageningen University), J Edwards (EoL), J Cooper (LandCare Research), D Gordon (NZOR), W Addink (ETI), F E Young (UoR), R Mills (UoR), A Anta (MNHN, Paris), R Froese (IFM-GEOMAR)

Apologies : P Uetz (TIGR Reptile Database), M J Costello (EcoServ), M Guiry (NUIG), N Platnick (SpidCat), J Zarucchi (ILDIS), K Wilson (Director & IOPI), S Lusa (RJB Madrid), P Schoolmeesters, M N Dadd, plus all other Members

The AGM took place after a Species 2000 Presentation on Phase II: Catalogue of Life Programme Presentation which was attended by 93 People.

1. The Chair was taken by Dr Schalk.
2. Before the Official Business of the AGM, an official note of thanks was given by the Chairman to M N Dadd, former Director and Company Secretary of Species 2000 for all of his work and contribution to the running of Species 2000. Unfortunately, M N Dadd provided his apologies and was unable to attend in person.
3. Members agreed to take the Notice convening the Meeting as read.
4. The Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held at The Natural History Museum, London, UK, on 14th May 2008, were approved.
5. The Report of the Directors and the Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2008 having been circulated, the Members agreed that the Report and the Accounts could be taken as read. The Executive Director apologised that the accounts circulated were not signed but confirmed signed copies of the accounts were now available.

6. The following Resolution was duly proposed and passed unanimously:

That the Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2008, and the Report of the Directors thereon, are hereby approved and adopted.

7. The Executive Director reminded Members of the discussion at previous AGMs about trial commercial usage, and as per the details provided in the Notice, asked for discussion on the Adoption of the Revised Framework for partitioning contributions to Running Costs between supplier databases and Species 2000 through the Rotating Fund.

The Executive Director circulated a consultation paper (see Appendix A). The paper outlined the proposed framework for partitioning contributions to running costs between supplier databases and Species 2000 through the rotating fund and circumstances under which a commercial usage licence might be appropriate.

C Lyal (NHM London) asked about the allocation of minimal costs definition. The Executive Director explained that the minimum amount would be used against Species 2000 salaries.

R J White (ILDIS) asked if this had been discussed previously. The Executive Director confirmed that this has been discussed at the last two previous AGMs (2007 and 2008) at which R J White only attended the 2007, but this was the first time it had been put up for formal adoption by the Members.

W Appeltans (SMEBD) advised that a Global Species Database (GSD) of 100 species is different to one with 100,000 species, and all over the world people have different needs and that they need some measure for considering understanding how best they can be used.

A Paton (RBG Kew) asked about the balance between Staff and GSD i.e. could a GSD be more important than a member of staff and that if needed this amount could create a whole database. Also, that it is Species 2000 responsibility for creating/increasing database participation.

R Allkin (RBG Kew) advised this might not be sufficient for all as each case must be measured against each other.

There were also additional comments and questions from R Nash (EcoServe) and N Bailly (FishBase).

8. The following Resolution was duly proposed and passed unanimously:

That the Revised Framework for partitioning contributions to Running Costs between supplier databases and Species 2000 through the Rotating Fund, is hereby approved and adopted.

R J White asked for Clarification that it was only this item that was being voted on and this was confirmed by the Chairman and Executive Director.

9. The Executive Director further reminded Members of the discussion at previous AGMs about the principles of access agreements, licences and permissions and circumstances under which a commercial usage licence might be appropriate and as per the details provided in the Notice, asked for discussion on the Adoption of the Alterations to the Access Agreement and Access Licence to enable licensing to commercial organisations under certain circumstances.

The Executive Director circulated a consultation paper (see Appendix B). The paper outlined the background of the previous decisions and provided the proposed revised wording for both the Access Agreement and Access Licence in relation to commercial usage.

A Paton (RBG Kew) advised that they (RBG Kew) would like to receive prior notification of organisations that Species 2000 was in discussion with when it concerned a licence for a user interested in the same taxonomic area (phylum etc) as they operated in.

C Lyal (NHM London) raised a similar concern to usage of particular taxonomic areas.

N Robinson (Thomson Reuters Zoological Ltd) advised that some approaches would be restricted by non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements – the prior notification would have to be in confidence.

W Appeltans (SMEBD) asked how this would work in relation to a list of all marine species, such as WoRMS. The Executive Director confirmed that this could be made subject to the same notification. The Executive Director also confirmed that if any request was received for the information from only one database that they would have to let the database custodian know and ask that they contact the owner.

C Lyal (NHM London) felt that a mountain out a molehill was being made and as no resolution or agreement to the discussion appeared to be being reached P Kirk (CABI) recommended that the decision on the Adoption to the alteration of Access Agreements and Access Licences be deferred to next year's AGM.

10. The following Resolution was duly proposed and passed:

That the decision on the Adoption of the Alterations to the Access Agreement and Access Licence to enable licensing to commercial organisations under certain circumstances, be deferred until the next AGM.

Voted for: N Robinson (Thomson Reuters Zoological Ltd), D Triebel (LIAS), L Ji (CAS), C Lyal (NHM London), A Paton (RBG Kew), W Appeltans (SMEBD), P Kirk (CABI), P Schalk (Individual & ETI, plus Proxy for M N Dadd), F Bisby (Individual & Proxy for M Guiry (NUIG)), A Larizza (IRC Bari)

Voted Against: T Bourgoïn (MNHN, Paris), J Van Tol (UNESCO-IOC), R Nash (EcoServe)

Abstention: N Bailly (FishBase), R J White (ILDIS), R Vignes Lebbe (CIPA Group)

11. The Chairman concluded by reminding those present that Species 2000 is controlled by its Members and invited those who had not already joined to do so, either through their institutions or as individuals.

12. The Chairman declared the meeting closed.