

**Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of Species 2000  
held at the European Commission (Room S1, DG INFSO, Rue Beaulieu 25),  
Brussels, Belgium  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010**

Present:

*Officers:* P H Schalk (In the Chair, Chairman of Directors & ETI), F A Bisby (Executive Director/ Company Secretary)

*Members and Representatives:* Ward Appeltans (SMEBD, plus proxy vote for EcoServe), Frank Bisby (Individual, plus proxy vote for Michael Guiry), Alex Hardisty (Cardiff University), Thierry Bourgoïn (MNHN, Paris), Soeren Duerr (proxy vote for Senckenberg), Liqiang Ji (proxy vote for CAS, Beijing), Paul Kirk (CABI), Chris Lyal (proxy vote for NHM), Alan Paton (RBG Kew), Yuri Roskov (proxy vote for Alastair Culham), Peter Schalk (Individual & ETI), Paul Schoolmeesters (Individual, plus proxy vote for TSJ BVBA), Jan Van Tol (UNESCO-IOC), Richard White (proxy vote for ILDIS).

*11 voters plus 7 proxi voters. 18 voters in total.*

*Guests and Observers:* Wouter Addink (ETI), Kristina Articus (EDIT), Estelle Balian (RBINS), Wieslaw Bogdanowicz (MIZPAS), Annie Carpenter (4D4Life Publicity & Project Manager), Guy Cochrane (EBI), Viktor Didziulis (CoL Systems Manager), Christina Flann (WU), David Frodin (RBG Kew), Jackie Van Goethem (RBINS), Andrew Jones (Cardiff University), Alexander Kroupa (MfN Berlin), Jiri Kvacek (NM Prague), Patricia Mergen (Royal Museum for Central Africa), Danny Mierde (Royal Museum for Central Africa), Sara Oldfield (BGCI), Thomas Pape (UCPH), Jurate De Prins (Royal Museum for Central Africa), Heimo Rainer (University of Vienna), David Remsen (GBIF), Vincent Robert (CBS KNAW), Mike Ruggiero (ITIS), Yves Samyn (RBINS), Hendrik Segers (RBINS), Bart Vanhoorne (VLIZ), Dominique Vanpée (Belgian Poison Centre)

*Apologies:* Norman Platnick (SpidCat), Michael Guiry (NUIG), Keping Ma (IBCAS), Dagmar Triebel (LIAS), Mark Costello (EcoServe), Nigel Robinson (Thomson Zoological)

The AGM took place after a guest lecture given by Dr Carlos Morais-Pires, DG INFSO.

1. The Chair was taken by Peter Schalk, the Chairman of Species 2000 Directors.
2. The Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Linnean Society, London, on 2nd June 2009 were approved.
3. Annual Report of the Directors and the Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 having been circulated. The Executive Director gave explanations to the Report.

The Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009, and the Report of the Directors thereon have been hereby approved and adopted by all members present at the meeting. *Votes: 18 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.*

4. The Executive Director gave a presentation "Contribution to Running Costs from the Rotating Fund" to illustrate the operation of the Rotating Fund under the Framework agreed at the 2008 AGM. In 2009 all monies in the Rotating Fund have been used as running costs of the company. In 2010-2011 some monies will be available for distribution among contributing GSDs and software partners through the Rotating Fund. As soon as the Rotating Fund will have a sum exceeding £80,500, the following formula for distribution will be applied: 80% monies will go to GSDs and software partners, and 20% will be used as an operational cost.
5. Species 2000 Directors appointed Prof. Keping Ma (IBCAS, Beijing) to the board of Directors in February 2010. The Chairman introduced Prof. Ma to the members and asked them to confirm Prof. Ma's appointment as a Director. Prof. Liqiang Ji submitted apology on behalf of Prof. Ma for his absence at the meeting. The Members adopted appointment of Prof. Ma. *Votes: 18 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.*
6. Proposal to allow the commercial licensing of the Catalogue of Life.

The Executive Director reminded the meeting of the proposal submitted to the previous AGM and issues of possible conflict of interests between Species 2000 and individual data suppliers raised by Alan Paton (RBG Kew).

The present rules, written in the Data Access Agreement/Licence, prohibit Directors to licence Catalogue of Life data to commercial organisations. As an exception, Directors had permission to have one trial run with Taylor and Francis in previous years. This trial was recognised as successful and appropriate changes in the Data Access documents were proposed.

Under the existing rules, if a user (whether commercial or not) requests particular sector(s) of the Catalogue which are supplied by a single GSD, this request should first be passed directly to the GSD custodian without the involvement of Species 2000.

The Directors now propose the following rules to deal with the more complex scenario raised by RBG Kew:

If data are requested in restricted taxonomic sectors, but that come from more than one supplier (e.g. Flowering Plants, Lepidoptera, Molluscs) Species 2000 Directors should notify the related GSD custodians about the request, and allow them 12-15 days for their statement of a conflict of interests created by their own prior discussions or arrangements. In the case of a conflict of interest, created by prior discussions or arrangements, the GSD can then stop Species 2000 activity in the area of conflict.

Latest version of wordings has been finalised in consultation with some members a day ago, but too late for circulation to all members. The Executive Director suggested adopting this rule "in principle". Final wordings will be discussed later.

*T Bourgoin:* What will happen, if for example, one “plant GSD” is against Species 2000 plans to provide all plant sectors to commercial user?

*F Bisby:* (a) this would become a matter for negotiation, in reality likely to be decided by the user, and (b) a general principle that Species 2000 is expected to assist its members and not to compete with them.

*T Bourgoin:* Let’s look at the case, where commercial user has a prior agreement with one GSD, then user decides to expand a sector of interests which includes now other GSDs as well.

*F Bisby:* Consultations between Species 2000 and all related GSDs should be taken. As before (a) matter of negotiation among the GSDs, and (b) that Species 2000 role is to assist not to compete. In such a case it also true that Species 2000 offers a level of integration and uniformity that may benefit all parties, but equally, it is possible for a user to receive some sectors from Species 2000 and others directly from GSDs. In general, users only come to Species 2000 if they do wish for the integration of sectors and the uniformity of structure that Species 2000 offers.

The Executive Director read proposed changes in Clause 1 of Data Access document, pages 2 and 3 which are attached as Appendix A.

The Chairman invited members to vote these changes. *Votes: 18 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.* Changes in Data Access documents have been adopted.

7. Frank Bisby announced the new i4Life EC funded project (2.4M Euro) which will start from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010. Initial Meeting will be held in Reading on 18-19 November 2010.
8. The Chairman introduced Species 2000 Directors plan to announce a call for hosting Species 2000 Secretariat. A call will be open for bids in November 2011. All necessary documents will be released at the beginning of October 2011. The Executive Director mentioned that, so far, six organisations expressed their preliminary interest to host the Secretariat in future. Quite likely, the University of Reading (Secretariat’s host at present) will be in the list of bidders.
9. The Chairman declared the meeting closed.