

Action points arising from the 2nd GRASP Executive Committee Meeting

**20-21 July, 2006
UNESCO, Paris, France**

Attendance:

Members:

Moses Mapesa Wafula	Chair and Range State representative (Uganda)
Mamadou Dia	Range State representative (Guinea)
Adi Susmianto	Range State representative (Indonesia)
Eric Blencowe	Donor country representative (UK)
Claude-Anne Gauthier	Donor country representative (France)
Melanie Virtue	Secretariat (UNEP)
Natarajan Ishwaran	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Matthew Hatchwell	NGO representative (WCS)
Ashley Leiman	NGO representative (OFI)

Observers:

Mark Leighton	Co-chair, Scientific Commission
Christophe Boesch	Co-chair, Scientific Commission (Day one only)
Ian Redmond	Technical Support Team
Sabrina Krief	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (France)
Tom Okello	Range State observer (Uganda)
Stanley Johnson	Advisor on the GRASP IGM
Samy Mankoto	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Gifty Dlouhy	Secretariat (UNESCO)
Leonie Gordon	PhD student

Apologies:

Pascal Ngoy	Range State representative (DRC)
John Sellar	MEA representative (CITES)

1. Updates and plans from the Secretariat and TST

- Written updates were provided and are available separately
- Chair to visit the new UNEP Executive Director, Mr Steiner, as soon as possible (done, 7 September 06)
- Secretariat to present financial report and budgets to next meeting

2. The Scientific Commission

There was a lengthy discussion on both the on-going work of the Scientific Commission, particularly the priority population issue, and on the functioning of the Commission itself. These can be summarised into the following points

- (a) The composition of the Scientific Commission
 - There will be only one chair
 - Members will be selected according to the GRASP Rules
 - Positions will be voluntary, not paid
 - Only people with time and energy to contribute to GRASP should put themselves forward/ be considered.

- (b) The nature of the Scientific Commission
 - It is an advisory body, not a research body
 - It should bring the best scientific knowledge to GRASP, but within the constraints of time and politics.
 - Providing advice to the secretariat on priority projects and activities is a key priority
 - It serves a complementary role to the Section on Great Apes of the Primate Specialist Group.

- (c) The notion of partnership
 - Just as NGOs and governments provide their time and expertise to GRASP, so should Scientific Commission members

Elections

- UNESCO to organise the election process for the new Scientific Commission (*underway, 11.06*)
- Secretariat, with current co-chairs to draft a Terms of Reference for the new SC members (*still to be done, 12.06*)
- Meetings of the SC would be desirable, but subject to availability of funds. It may be possible to add such meetings to other scientific events, such as IPS.
- The existing Commission remains in operation until the new members are elected.

Workplan of the SC

- It was decided that the reports and draft workplan presented to the Executive committee had not been sufficiently discussed with all members of the SC.
- Co-chairs to circulate the workplan to the SC and get a consensus document by end September. (*not completed 12.06*)

3. Strengthening the Secretariat

- One of the added values of GRASP, as discussed at the IGM, is the possibility for high level political intervention. The current composition of the secretariat does not exploit this advantage.
- The previously discussed suggestion that the NGOs band together to fund an Executive Director position for GRASP was dropped as being too expensive.
- It was agreed to wait until the recruitment of a new Director for the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation at UNEP is completed (*Jan-Feb 07*), and see if the old “Rob Hepworth” role can be restored.

4. Implementing the Programme of Action and Partner reporting requirements

- Matthew Hatchwell introduced this item. When the Executive Committee approved the PoA at its last meeting, it did not address the issue of reporting requirements of the partners.
- We agreed that there needs to be a balance to ensure that the requirements are not too burdensome to the partners and that we have a clear idea of what we will do with the information collected.
- It was agreed that a small working group, headed by Matthew Hatchwell (NGO), and also including Adi Susmianto (Range State) Mark Leighton (Scientific Commission) and Matt Woods (Secretariat) would develop a draft reporting format by October, with a view to having a final version by 31 December.

5. The Next GRASP Council meeting/IGM

- Melanie Virtue provided an overview of the issues relating to the next meeting of the GRASP Council. These include the timing, location, focus and expected outcomes, funding and whether to combine an intergovernmental meeting and the council as was done last time.
- The GRASP Rules state that a council meeting should be held every two years with the Council determining the time and location of the meetings. However, this assumes that there is a budget for the meeting.
- Pushing the meeting to a later date would allow GRASP to increase donor participation, and to develop a clear focus or theme for the meeting.
- There was general agreement that 2008 would be a more suitable time to hold another Council meeting, given these issues and the expense of such a meeting.
- It was suggested that holding regional meetings/workshops in the intervening time could be a good idea.
- As a way forward, it was decided that the Executive Committee chair would approach the chair of the Council (Cameroon) to discuss with him the views of this committee and seek his agreement to postpone the council meeting until 2008. This would also necessitate extending the mandate of the present Executive Committee. It was suggested that Samy Mankoto might assist the chair in this task. *(no action yet, 12.06)*

Location

- Cameroon, Malaysia and Indonesia were suggested as possible venues, but it was decided not to limit selection to only three countries.
- Secretariat to seek additional expressions of interest nearer the time
- It was agreed that any country wishing to host should make a clear offer regarding the contribution they would be willing to make.
- Eric Blencowe was encouraged to request the UK Minister, in his upcoming trip to Malaysia, to determine whether Malaysia would be interested in hosting the meeting. *(done, M. did express interest)*

6. Admission of new partners

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was admitted as a new member of the GRASP partnership, under category D

7. Next meeting of the Executive Committee

- Committee agreed to Melanie Virtue's suggestion that UNEP HQ in Nairobi be the venue of the next committee meeting.
- Secretariat to determine suitable dates in early 2007 (*possibly March*).
- Secretariat to secure funding.

8. Any Other Business

- It was agreed that the Chair would send a letter to Mr Denis Gauer, French Ambassador for the Environment to find out if France would be interested in hosting a meeting of donors within the framework of "Kinshasa follow-up" (*done, August, awaiting response*).
- Ms Leonie Gordon, a PhD student presented a brief overview of her thesis, on the ethnography of GRASP. She will continue to attend relevant GRASP meetings as an observer.