



SOUTH ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE HELD IN STANLEY – SAERI OFFICE ON THURSDAY THE 29TH OF JUNE 2017 AT 2PM

PRESENT:

Dr. Paul Brickle
Dr. Marina Costa
Mr. Paul Brewin
Mr. Andrew Stanworth
Mr. Grant Munro
Dr. Sonja Heinrich on Skype

Chaired by Dr. Paul Brickle

1. WELCOME

Paul Brickle welcomed all attendees.

2. CONSTITUTION

There being a quorum present, the Chairperson declared the meeting duly constituted and informed that Maria Garcia and Scott Baker sent their apologies as they could not attend the meeting.

3. MINUTES

3.1 MoU signature

The MoU discussed and approved in the past months was presented to the parties for their signature. Sonja H. asked to correct the name of the University of St Andrews. The correct document was signed by Paul Brickle, Paul Brewin, Andrew Stanworth and Grant Munro at the end of the meeting.

The correct document was sent by email to Scott B. and Sonja H. requesting a confirming email; the emails will be printed and attached to the signed MoU as proof.

3.3 Darwin Plus Annual Report Update and Review

The reviewer (a person external to D+ and unknown) suggested to include in the next D+ Report an extra outcome and to increase training and the involvement of local volunteers. The two issues were discussed.

1. The first request was to add an extra outcome explaining the process that will be undertaken to renew the species action plan.
 - a. We agreed to develop a workflow document explaining the steps after the results of the genetic results on Commerson's and Peale's dolphins.
 - b. Sonja asked to contact the IUCN reviewer who is working on the *Cephalorhynchus* genus and informing him that the project will deliver news information in few months but not in time for the new assessment planned for July 2017. Marina will contact Scott, Eli Poulin to coordinate and share information.
2. **Action: MC to develop a workflow document as outlined in 1a.**
3. **Action: MC to contact Scott et al as outlined in 1b**
4. The second request was to increase effort to include local volunteers and deliver training.
 - a. Marina C. explained that we are developing an app to record sightings using mobile phones. The app will be available for both local people and tourists. MC informed the parties that volunteers could not join the past fieldwork due to restrictions in act being SAERI part of the FIG (a work VISA is required, including a fee and long time to process). This issue will be solved from the 1st of July 2017 when SAERI becomes independent from FIG. Training course will be hold in summer for local volunteers.
 - b. Paul Brickle added that iLaria Marengo with her colleague Giovanni developed a free app (on Android) that is going to be tested soon.
 - c. Sonja H. expressed her concerns about the mass of work that the maintenance of the app, the gathering, and the analyses of the data might require.
 - d. Grant M. and Sonja H. suggested including volunteers without extra effort.
 - e. Paul Brewin suggested including the training done to the FIGAS pilot, Steve Cartwright and other people that supported the project in the next report.

3.4 Update on current and future project activities

Marina presented the updates of the project.

1. Aerial survey:
 - a. The Logger database have been cleaned, data have plotted and transferred to an excel sheet, ready for analyses.
 - b. The detection probability for the species observed will be estimated for the end of July 2017.
 - c. Analyses of abundance estimate will begin in September after Marina's holiday.
 - d. A drone will be used from land to estimate the availability bias of Peale's and Commerson's dolphins.
 - e. The abundance paper will be hopefully ready for submission at the end of December 2017.
 - f. Grant M. raised the issue of using/sharing the data collected by the Best funded Sei Whale project carried out by FC.
 - g. Andy S. proposed to have a meeting with Caroline Weir to discuss conditions for data sharing, future cooperation, and publication.
 - h. Paul Brickle and Andy S. will discuss the terms of the cooperation between FC and SAERI.
2. **Action: PB to and AS to discuss SAERI/FC co-operation**
3. Focal survey:
 - a. Data cleaning and photo-id from the first focal survey in Nov-Dec 2016 are done for area A and B. Results will be presented in the Focal survey report, currently

- under internal revision.
- b. Data processing for area C is on-going due to the unexpected large mass of material collected.
 - c. The extra data collected during Scott B. fieldwork have been processed for areas A and B and are on-going for area C.
 - d. The winter field work, planned for June-July, has been carried out for area A and will be carried out for areas B and C as soon as Steve Cartwright will be back from the Commonwealth games.
 - e. During the fieldwork planned from the 9th to the 16th of July the C-POD will be serviced and the first data for the area will be available. Marina asked Sonja H. to have a master student involved in the analyses to speed up the process. Sonja was very positive and a meeting will be organized on the next September, when the new master students will be in St Andrews.
- 4. Action MC and SH to discuss Masters student to support analysis**
5. Extra winter observation from land, for southern right whale presence in Port Williams.
 - a. Marina informed that she would like to carry out land observation for southern right whale presence in Port Williams.
 - b. Andy S. informed that data have been collected by Caroline in the past months and that data collection should be coordinate with FC.
 - c. Paul Brickle and Andy S. agreed to discuss and coordinate the cetacean works for the future.
- 6. Action: PB to and AS to discuss SAERI/FC co-operation**
7. Outcome
 - a. Marina informed that protocols, reports, fin catalogues and other material is available on the new SAERI website.
 8. Clarification of the sentence at pag. 15 of the DOKE proposal.
 - a. Marina asked to clarify what was the expected output from: *“The project partnership has already facilitated networking, technical support and capacity building that will only be strengthened, especially in a regional management context with collaborations in the SW Atlantic on population identification”*.
 - b. Grant M. and Paul Brickle suggested the network created with other researchers within the genetic work, the IUCN, and Sonja work in Chile.
 9. Earthwatch. Marina informed that a proposal to the Earthwatch Institute was submitted to carry on field work in long terms. The proposal did not passed the first step. A feedback was asked. The answer arrived on the 30th of June “Due to logistical reasons, Earthwatch is unable to support work in the Falkland Islands at this time”.
 10. Cetacean Awareness Day. Marina informed that on the 29th of July, the event will be held involving children and families in activities oriented to a better knowledge of the cetacean species in the FI. Paul Brickle asked if FC was involved. Marina informed that the event was planned under the guidance of Liz Milston from FC.

3.5 Partner Updates

Andy S. summarized the work done by Caroline informing that more work will be carried out in the future.

Marina in Scott B. behalf, summarized the work done in January-March and informed that Commerson’s dolphins results will be ***available likely at the end of July***.

Sonja summarized the work done with the 2014 pilot survey data by one of her master student, Filippo. She also informed that interesting results have been obtained for the habitat modeling and asked permission to use Cc and La sighting data from the aerial survey. Paul Brickle agreed to the data use, preferably after the publication of the abundance paper, and encouraged the cooperation with the University of St Andrews. Sonja explained that the data will not be used to estimate abundance but only to verify the model obtained with the pilot survey data.

Paul Brewin informed that the support of SMSG will continue and that Steve Cartwright develop cetacean experience very useful in the future projects.

Grant M. explained the work done with the C-POD anchoring system and the support in the data analyses.

4. MATTERS ARISING

ACTION

4.1 Cooperation between FC and SAERI

Paul Brickle and Andy S. will meet to discuss the terms of future cooperation and coordination between SARI and FC.

5. NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES PROJECT

ACTION

5.1 Data collection: Focal surveys will be undertaken in July 2017 in areas B and C. The C-PODs will be serviced and data downloaded.

Marina C. and Maria G. with the possible support of a volunteer

5.2 DOKE will present some results to the farmer week on the 2-4 of July 2017.

5.3 The Cetacean Awareness Day will be organized on the 29th of July.

5.4 Data analysis: Photo-matching will go on; the detection function will be estimated for the end of July.

5.5 Marina C. will be in holiday from the 8th of August to the 13th of September

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 4th of October 2017.

7. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Signed as a correct record



Chairman