

**World Seabird Union Transition Team Conference Call
2200 (GMT) Thursday (In UK), 7 July
and 14 July, 2011**

Name	Initials	July 7	July 14	Representing
Dave Irons, Chair	DI	A	A	Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird)
John Croxall, Vice-Chair	JC	R	R	
Liliana Ayala	LA			Peruvian Assoc for the Conservation of Nature
Kees Camphuysen	KC	R	R	Dutch Seabird Group
Nicholas Carlile	NC		A	Australasian Seabird Group
Steve Copley	SC			Royal Naval Birdwatching Society
Peter Dann	PD		A	Australasian Seabird Group
Stephan Garthe	SG			European Seabirds at Sea Group
Jessica Hardesty-Norris	JHN			American Bird Conservancy
Annette Henry	AH	A		Seabirds.net
Grant Humphries	GH		A	Seabirds.net Committee
Pat Jodice	PJ	R	R	Pacific Seabird Group
Ben Lascelles	BL			BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme
Matthieu Le Corre	MLC			Indian Ocean Seabird Group
Ron LeValley	RL	A		PSG Treasurer
Xavier Monbailliu	XM			Medmaravis
Norman Ratcliffe	NR			The Seabird Group
Melanie Steinkamp	MS			NW Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative
Ben Sullivan	BS			BirdLife International, Global Seabird Programme
Graeme Taylor	GT			Dept. of Conservation, New Zealand
George Wallace	GW			American Bird Conservancy
Ross Wanless	RW	R	R	African Seabird Group
Yutaka Watanuki	YW			Japanese Seabird Group
Jennifer Wheeler	JW	R	R	Waterbird Conservation of the Americas, Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
Pablo Yorio	PY	R	R	Argentine Seabird Group
Marischal De Armond	MD	A		Secretariat

A – Attended, R - Regrets

AGENDA/MINUTES

Call to Action

DI called the 07 July meeting to order at 9:08 am Pacific Daylight Time

DI called the 14 July meeting to order at 5:04 pm Pacific Daylight Time

Outstanding Action Items & New Business

1. Establishment of World Seabird Union

1.1 Constitutional aspects

ACTION: 07 April - JC & DI to ensure one member/one organization representation regarding membership and voting are clearly reflected in WSU's charter.

07 & 14 July – no updates

1.2 Legal aspects

ACTION: 14 April - MS to prepare a backgrounder on the specific requirements of establishing a stand-alone 501.c3.

ACTION: 14 April - GW to develop information package regarding international incorporation

07 July – DI indicated that the options have been narrowed to:

- operate under existing NGO
- establish new NGO

14 July – DI indicated a company exists in Anchorage to incubate/help organizations become an NGO – their goal is to help launch successful NGO's. GH indicated that the long term goal should be to become a stand-alone NGO

ACTION: 14 July – DI to circulate information on this NGO incubation company for discussion purposes and to hasten the decision on moving forward to construct WSU's legal framework

1.3 Financial aspects

ACTION: 07 April - DI and JC to prepare and circulate a draft contract in respect of the work of the WSUTT Secretariat.

07 July – RL confirmed that the GST refund has been submitted to the Canadian Revenue Agency as final action from WSC1. RL also noted that PSG ExCo interested in what's happening with the excess WSC1 funds and recommended that a decision be made quickly on how to manage the money.

14 July – General discussion indicated that it is advisable to move forward to establish the legal framework for the society with a goal to having the decision made by the next meeting.

ACTION: 14 July – DI to move forward on getting WSU's legal framework in place.

1.4 Representational aspects

ACTION: 07 April - MD to update DI's representation lists, circulate to members for confirmation of their respective contact details and then forward to Annette Henry to post to the seabirds.net site.

ACTION: 07 April - JW to search out potential representation from the Society for the Study & Conservation of Caribbean Birds.

07 & 14 July – no updates

1.5 Reports to Packard Foundation and Marisla

ACTION: 07 April - JC to provide RL with some additional suggestions to support the Packard report.

ACTION: 07 April - RL to forward draft reports to DI/JC who would approve before submission.

07 July – DI reported that this item has now been completed

2. World Seabird Conference

2.1 Establishment of "search committee" for WSC2

ACTION: 14 April – Search committee to develop EOI document and circulate to WSC community – no updates

2.2 Collation/editing of WSC1 Handbook on how to put on a WSC (to assist the next group that takes on the task)

07 & 14 July – no updates

ACTION: 14 July – MD to coordinate with PJ to advance this development

2.2 Collation/editing of WSC1 Handbook on how to put on a WSC

ACTION: 13 Jan - DI to review JW's suggested draft for a handbook and develop a plan for how to move forward on this initiative. **IN PROGRESS:** 07 April - MD suggested this might be an appropriate activity for the search committee to undertake. 14 April – Search Committee recognizes this is something that generally fits within their scope of work and will poll the full committee for their input.

ACTION: 14 April - MD to poll Search Committee to determine their ability to coordinate the development of the Conference Planning Handbook.

07 July – no updates

3. WSC Legacy developments

3.1 Seabirds.net

ACTION: 07 April - DI to invite Website Coordinator to participate in future WSUTT calls. 14 April – GH was in agreement that at this time there is no need for both he and the Website Coordinator to be on the call. It was agreed that as committee chair, GH would continue to be the representative from the committee on the call.

ACTION: 07 April - GH to identify potential priority funding needs for further site development

07 July – DI referenced some issues that need to be resolved as a result of some work he and MD did in reviewing the site.

ACTION: 07 July - DI to circulate to GH a list of items that need to be reviewed to update/improve the site

14 July – GH updated current status and delays due to other work & personal commitments with team members. New website design expected by 18 July and the issues DI has provided will be addressed at this time. In the meantime the Seabirds.net team has been involved in developing some communication and promotion of the site through means such as conferences and other organizations. GH has met with Lloyd Kitt, World Peregrine Raptor to learn from them about issues related to developing and implanting their Raptor portal, especially related to security and account aspects. GH outlined their plan to implement a 3 level sign-up system as follows. These sign-ups will be incorporated through, but not limited to the Petrel database.

1. Enthusiasts - lowest level of access/engagement/up & downloading, targeting non-professional
2. Students – mid level of access, limited up & downloading
3. Professional – top level, unlimited access, up & downloading, this group will also be vital to vetting student applications to join

GH is looking into ways to automate the sign-up function to protect against possible downloads of infected data, phishing attacks et al.

GH further confirmed that Axiom currently controls/owns the Seabirds.net URL, has no commercial interest in it and is willing to transfer it to WSU once a structure exists to do so. Furthermore the site is hosted with Blue Host. It is believed that Blue Host can also provide some generic email accounts (ie data@seabirds.net) should we wish to set up a series of proxy emails to forward to appropriate contacts. DI confirmed he has had Axiom secure a variety of additional URL's (i.e., WorldSeabirdUnion.org et al) which should all be routed to the Seabirds.net site (appropriate sub-pages).

General conversation ensued regarding WSU being the main entity and that Seabirds.net and its databases & registries are one of its primary products. Other products include the WSC and “newsletters/updates”. As site key call to actions for people to engage with the site continue it is important to recognize that the WSU is more than Seabirds.net and present and accommodate these other aspects accordingly.

ACTION: 14 July – DI to forward a complete list of secured URLs to GH to have routed to the Seabirds.net site.

3.2 Seabird colony databases (Monitoring and Register)

ACTION: 07 April - DI to circulate info on existing portals; DI, JC, BL to circulate a brief proposal on how to move forward with a Global portal.

ACTION: 07 April - DI will circulate to WSUTT, the Circumpolar Seabird Group's concept paper on their Seabird Information Network. **COMPLETED**

07 July – DI circulated Circumpolar Group's SIN (Seabird Information Network) concept paper for input from people on whether WSUTT wishes to undertake the development of a World Seabird Colony Register along the lines of the Circumpolar Group's colony register including a productivity index and population trends.

ACTION: 07 July – DI to send out the data entry application to allow users to access the Circumpolar Group's registry portal to review and provide input on what a World Seabird Colony Register should include and what functionality (i.e. limits to what people can see, level of detail available to view, et al) should be included.

ACTION: 07 July - WSUTT to decide on how to move forward with a World Seabird Colony Register.

14 July – DI recommended with full support, that as a start the WSCR should be posted with the existing data from Status & Conservation of World Seabirds (Croxall, Evans, Schrieber) as a way of stimulating others to add data.

14 July – GH developing a tracking mechanism index to rank and promote highly downloaded data as a further means to encourage participation and interest in the

3.3 Seabird tracking databases

07 & 14 July – no update

3.4 Seabird-at-sea databases

ACTION: 13 Jan - RW participating in this initiative and offered to provide an update on this for the next call.

IN PROGRESS: 07 April - RW unable to participate in current round of calls; he had informed DI that he had been unable to get a response from the coordinators of this initiative and would follow up as feasible.

07 & 14 July – no update

3.5 Indicators of performance, productivity and population status

07 & 14 July – no update

3.6 Mortality events

ACTION: 13 Jan - DI to ask for a report from the mortality events committee. **DONE:** 07 April - (but no response to date)

07 July –DI planning to have a conversation with Jane Doliver

3.7 Other topics (e.g. habitat restoration, marine spatial planning)

07 & 14 July – no update

4. Other matters

ACTION: 13 Jan - DI to ask Axiom to look into incorporating a “sign-up” function linked to a communication tool on seabirds.net. **IN PROGRESS:** 07 April - DI confirmed that this work including the site management and hosting is now being handled by GH’s team, including Annette Henry, the acting Website Coordinator.

4.1 Database lists

07 July – DI indicated we need to clarify how we are communicating to people interested in WSU/WSC affairs vis-à-vis communications related to Seabirds.Net activities. RLV suggested incorporating a Listserv. MD suggested using the existing WSC1 database and providing a link on Seabirds.Net for people to add their names to this existing list.

ACTION: 07 Jul – DI to discuss options during his discussion with GH regarding Seabirds.net updates.

COMPLETED 14 Jul.

14 July – GH confirmed that he currently has a Seabirds.net database in excess of 640 individuals and that the WSC1 Database should continue to be used to encourage Seabirds.net sign-ups.

5. Next Conference Calls

- Pacific Region 2400 GMT, Thu Oct 6 in UK
- Atlantic Region 1600 GMT, Thu Oct 13 in UK

Please refer to the following online meeting tool to confirm the corresponding local time in the destination/time zone you will call in from. <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>

6. Adjournment

07 July – DI adjourned the meeting at 9:45 am Pacific Daylight Time

14 July – DI adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm Pacific Daylight Time