



## **UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust**

**for the Support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science**

**13th Meeting of the Steering Committee**

**25 September 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris**

### **Minutes (Draft of 3 October 2007)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the UNESCO/Flanders Trust Fund for the support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science (FUST) took place on 25 September 2007 at UNESCO Paris. The Agenda and list of participants is enclosed as Annex 1

#### **I. Introduction and general policy discussion.**

Mr. Arata officially opened the meeting thanking Dr. Herman, the Flemish representative, for the unique and stimulating support provided by Flanders to the activities of UNESCO in the field of science, for which the organization is very grateful, as well as for the important and active cooperation in the implementation of the FUST Trust Fund.

#### **Exchange of views on the draft evaluation report**

As a first point of the policy discussion, the members of the Steering Committee exchanged their first impressions on the two preliminary evaluation draft reports transmitted the same morning by the two evaluators.

The member of the SC agreed that beyond the single assessment on each project activity, the final report should provide a global evaluation of the FUST programme, highlighting the specific and positive impact of its regional approach. It would also be important to underline the involvement of other regional/international Organizations and donors in the implementation of the activities supported by FUST. Visibility of Flanders also needs to be assessed and mentioned in the report, in particular with regard to the expertise and networks that Flemish Organizations (Institutes, Universities) have brought into the programme.

A second important issue that the evaluators should assess in the final version of the evaluation report is the relevance of FUST to help UNESCO contribute to a wider UN development approach in the field of scientific cooperation. While through the new UN reform the country approach seems to be the main priority, the added value and impact of FUST projects demonstrates that regional and international cooperation activities are also capital to address global challenges, particularly in the field of scientific cooperation and research. In this framework the multi-country approach adopted by FUST should highly contribute to addressing these global issues.

The global assessment of the FUST, the eventual strength of the programme and the evaluator's recommendations should be summarized in the executive summary at the

beginning of the report (including the major findings, lessons learned and recommendations). This will provide the Flemish authorities concerned (at the political level) with the necessary elements to assess the relevance and impact of the programme activities in order to decide on its renewal.

The final report absolutely needs to be officially submitted to the Flemish authorities by 17 October 2007. Therefore, evaluators should submit the final consolidated version by 10 October 2007.

Dr. Herman reminded that the renewal of the FUST will be decided by the Flemish authorities taking into account the major findings of the FUST evaluation. The decision by the Flemish Government to give the mandate to the Minister to start negotiations on the renewal with UNESCO should be taken by the end of 2007. The negotiations should therefore start in 2008 and the amount will be decided during the negotiations. To reach a final agreement on the renewal by April 2008 should be the common objective of both parties. At the same time, requests for new projects can be launched from April to July 2008.

### **Perspectives for future cooperation.**

Dr. Herman confirmed that Flanders priorities will still be in Africa but new countries can come in like India, China, Viet Nam, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile. Flanders shall also look for greater synergy with an international university programme (multi long-term cooperation with other universities) and reinforce the multi-agency activities to be supported within the FUST programme.

Mr. Arata explained the new UNESCO Action Plan for extrabudgetary cooperation aiming to reinforce the programming of extrabudgetary activities and their complementarity with the UNESCO core programme (Regular Programme). This new approach will require a better programming of extrabudgetary activities. While preparing the work plans for the next C/5 UNESCO programme Sectors will define unfunded needs and potential project activities to be consolidated in a unique UNESCO extrabudgetary "additional programme". The "additional programme" will be submitted to UNESCO's donors during a donor's event to be organized after the General Conference. Individual meetings and negotiations with the interested donors will then be implemented by ERC/CFGS and the Sectors concerned. While agreeing with the coherence of this new extrabudgetary strategy, the colleagues from Science Sector underlined that the time schedule for the preparation of the additional programme seems to be quite short. The question of how to link the "additional programme" with future activities supported by FUST was raised. Representatives from ERC/CFS suggested that future works plans to be elaborated by the Sector should include the relevant Main Line of Actions (MLT) to which the future FUST potential activities can be linked.

Dr. Herman highlighted the importance to link such projected activities to the C/5 but also to the UNESCO strategies contained in the C/4.

As mentioned above, the finding of the on-going FUST evaluation will be crucial for the renewal of the FUST agreement for the period 2009-2013.

## II. Review of On-going projects

### Financial situation of the General Fund 513BEL9090

On the basis of the Financial Statements established by the UNESCO office of the Comptroller as at 31 August 2007 and a complementary financial table (attached to the present minutes) elaborated by the Administrative Officer of the UNESCO Science Sector, the following status of the General Fund has been acknowledged by the members of the Steering Committee:

i) Total Funds available as 31 August 2007	US\$ 1,015,163.75
ii) Funds available for new project	US\$ 880,092
of which funds available for Small-Scale Projects (this available amount does not include 1 SSA not yet created US\$ 15,059 and 1 SSA of US\$ 22,000 not included in the Financial Statement, both should be deducted)	US\$ 135,071.39
iii) Cash due for committed projects:	US\$ 1,570,277
- 513INT2001 US\$	40,097
- 513RAB2000 US\$	416,800
- 513RLA2000 US\$	281,980
- 513SAF2000 US\$	631,400
- 513RAF2008 US\$	200,000
iv) Expected 2008 cash contribution	about US\$ 1,826,482.35 (equivalent of 1,400,000 Euros representing 2008 contribution)

In addition to the above, the member of the Steering Committee also took note of the imminent financial closure of several terminated activities and the subsequent transfer of available balance in the General Account will increase the amount available for Small Scale activities.

### Reporting of On-going projects

The member's of the Steering Committee reviewed the status of the projects presented in the table prepared by ERC/CFS and attached as annex 2 to the present minutes.

The status of each project was presented by the relative UNESCO members of the Steering Committee and the following decisions were taken :

#### ➤ Project extensions:

The following project extensions without financial implications were approved by the Steering Committee:

- 513GLO2002 extension approved until 31 October 2008 ;
- 513GLO2009 extension approved until 31 October 2007 ;
- 513INT2000 extension approved until 31 August 2008;
- 513INT2001 extension approved until 31 October 2008

- 513RAB2001 extension approved until 30 June 2008;
- 513RAF2003 extension approved until 31 October 2008;
- 513RAF2005 extension approved until 31 August 2008;
- 513RAF2007 extension approved until 30 June 2008

As far as the 513RAB2041 is concerned, the Steering Committee approved the extension until 31/03/2008 but only for the preparation of the final report and not the project activities, which have to be finalized by 31 December 2007.

➤ Final reports

The Final reports for the following projects have been presented to the Flemish representative and approved by the Steering Committee:

- 513GLO2007;
- 513GLO2002;
- 513MOR2000;
- 513RAB2042;
- 513RLA2001;
- 513SAF2040.

After liquidation of all related unliquidated obligations accounted in each project budget code, UNESCO's financial services will proceed with the financial closure of the project and transfer of the available balance to the General Fund.

Final Financial Statements for each closed project will be addressed to the Flemish authorities.

### **III. Discussion and approval of new project proposals**

#### **Small Scale Activities approved:**

- "Support to the Pacem in Maribus Conference 2007 to promote the participation of Youth and women in the promotion of sustainable use of marine resources and ocean governance", submitted by IOC. Approved amount 13,200 US\$ (including 10% support costs)

*[This SSA has been administratively created after the SC under the budget code 513GLO2010]*

- "Maintenance/levelling assistance for OdinAfrica installed sea level gauges", submitted by IOC. Approved amount 33,000 US\$ (including support costs)
- "Biodiversity and distribution of mega faunal assemblages in the abyssal nodule province of the eastern equatorial Pacific: management of the impacts of deep seabed mining", submitted by IOC. Revised approved amount 16,500 US\$ (including support costs). The project proposal has to be extensively rewritten by the project officer in order to duly reflect the increased total budget and the related supplementary activities (edition, publications and distribution). The reviewed project document will be submitted by e-mail to Rudy Herman via ERC/CFS, before the creation of the related budget code.
- "SUMAMAD-2 Planning workshop in Dana Biosphere reserve (Jordan), June 2008", submitted by MAB. Revised approved amount 27,500 US\$ (including support costs). The project proposal has to be rewritten by the project officer in order to duly reflect

the increased total budget and the related supplementary activities (ceremony event with the University of Gent). The reviewed project document will be submitted by e-mail to Rudy Herman via ERC/CFS, before the creation of the related budget code.

*[This proposal has already been reviewed after the SC and administratively created under the budget code 513INT2003]*

- "IOC/UNESCO experts group on Mainstreaming Awareness and Mitigation of Marine – related Hazards and Risk in Integrated Coastal Area Management", submitted by IOC. Revised approved amount 11,000 US\$ (including support costs). Supplementary financial resources to support this SSA have to be provided from IOC Project Office budget. SSA will have to be co-financed by ICAM. The project proposal has to be reviewed by the project officer in order to duly reflect the new budgetary situation and expressly include the ICAM co-financing. The reviewed project document will be submitted by e-mail to Rudy Herman via ERC/CFS, before the creation of the related budget code. The new suggested title of this SSA could be "Coping with Multihazards and Risk in Costal Areas" and keeping the above proposed title as a subtitle.

### **Other Small Scale activities**

- The member of the FUST Steering Committee also decided to consider a supplementary IOC SSA related to the Global Ocean Forum to be held in Hanoi in April 2008 (expected total costs 25,000 US\$). A project proposal will be finalized by the project officer and officially submitted to Rudy Herman via ERC/CFS.
- Concerning the SSA "Regional workshop for the implementation of strategies for implementation of pilot projects on rainwater harvesting in Latin America and Caribbean", submitted by UNESCO Montevideo, Rudy Herman will consult the relevant Flemish services and provide a response to UNESCO. The SSA was therefore not approved by the Steering Committee.
- Concerning the SSA related to the organization of an international workshop linked to UNESCO' s HELP and FETWATER, submitted by IHP, the Steering Committee recommended considering the support of this activity under the FEWATER II. The SSA was therefore not approved by the Steering Committee.
- The SSA "Development of Integrated geographic information system (GIS) for the northern coast of Tanzania" was not approved by the Steering Committee because FUST projects should benefit a region and not a single Member State. The Steering Committee recommended submitting the proposal to the Participation Programme.

### **Large Scale Activity**

The Steering Committee recommended considering the approval of the project proposal "Regional pilot project on Integrated coastal area Management in Latin America (LAC ICAM)", submitted by IOC. Total contribution requested 770.000 US\$. The project proposal needs to be finalized by the project officer by mid October and submitted officially to Rudy Herman via ERC/CFS. The official proposal should include letters of commitments by the participating countries as well as a detailed table of counterpart contribution.

### **IV. Others business**

The members of the Steering Committee suggested that the next meeting of the Steering Committee should take place around February 2008 in Ostende.

