



UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust
for the Support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science
Eleventh Meeting of the Steering Committee

28 February 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris
Room 5.041

Minutes

The 14th meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNESCO/Flanders Trust Fund for the support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science (FUST) took place on 28 February 2008 at UNESCO Paris. The list of participants is enclosed as Annex 1.

I. Introduction and general policy discussion.

Mr. Arata officially opened the meeting by thanking Dr. Rudy 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 findings and recommendations of the 2007 FUST evaluation report and perspectives for new FUST phase 2008-2012

As a first point of the agenda, the members of the Steering Committee discussed the findings and recommendations of the FUST evaluation finalized by two external evaluators and the perspectives of future cooperation under FUST, in particular the process to be launched for the renewal of the agreement.

Dr. Rudy Herman confirmed that the evaluation report was welcomed by the Flemish cabinet. On the basis of the positive outcomes highlighted by the report a note was submitted to the attention of the Flemish Government in order to obtain the mandate to negotiate, during 2008, the next phase of FUST. The decision of the Flemish Government on the "negotiation mandate" is expected by the 21st of March 2008. Then, negotiations can immediately start in April in order to finalize a first draft of the new agreement by July 2008. After approval of the Flemish cabinet in July as well as by the concerned UNESCO services, the agreed draft agreement will be submitted to the Flemish Government for a final decision to be taken in September 2008. In parallel, a call for projects could be also jointly launched in order to receive new project proposals by September 2008. In this regard, all participants to the Steering Committee agreed that both the negotiation of the new agreement and the launching of the call for proposals will take into account the UNESCO ongoing planning exercise of extrabudgetary activities, which will result in the consolidation of an extrabudgetary UNESCO "additional programme to be presented to the funding partners at the end of March 2008. The Steering Committee members recognized the coherence and importance of such

new planning approach launched by UNESCO but also emphasized the importance of keeping the right level of flexibility in implementing the future FUST cooperation. Such flexibility has by large contributed to the success and high impact of this very specific UNESCO / Flanders cooperation during the past years.

Finally, it was proposed that IOC, MAB and IHP representative should provide their reactions to the recommendations made by the evaluators in the evaluation report, particularly how they intent to implement them and the links to what they have planned in the framework of their priorities and activities included in the C4 and C5. These responses to the report's recommendations are included as Annex 2 of the present Minutes.

II. Review of on-going activities

- *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 December 2007 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\$ 1,037,539.35
ii). Funds available for new project	US\$ 880,092.36
iii). Funds available for Small-Scale Projects	US\$ 157,446.99

This amount does not include the following SSA already approved but not accounted in the Financial Statement of 31 December 2007:

- Maintenance/levelling assistance for Odin Africa installed sea level gauges" 33,000 USD ;
- 4th Global Conference on Ocean, Coast and Islands: Advancing Ecosystem Management and integrated coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 in the context of Climate change" (Hanoi, Vietnam), USD 33,000
- "Coping with Multihazards and risk in Coastal areas: a contribution to the IOC/UNESCO experts group on Mainstreaming awareness and mitigation of marine related hazard and risk in integrated coastal area management", USD 11,000
- "Biodiversity and distribution of megafaunal assemblages in the abyssal nodule province of the eastern equatorial pacific: management of impacts of deep seabed mining", USD 16,500

Net available funds for new SSA: US \$ 63,946.99

iv). Cash due for committed projects:	US\$ 1,573,103.64
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513INT2001	US \$	40,097
513RAB2003	US \$	416,800
513RAF2004	US \$	2,532.27
513RAF2008	US \$	200,000
513RAS2000	US \$	294.37
513RLA2000	US \$	281,980
513SAF2000	US \$	631,400

v). Expected 2008 cash contribution

US\$ 2,149,408 (equivalent to 1,453,000 Euros at February 2008 exchange rate of 0.676; representing 2008 contribution)

- Reporting of on-going projects

Progress reports for the following projects were discussed and approved by the Steering Committee:

Projects under IOC responsibility:

- 513GLO2002 : project on track, the project will be completed by the 31 October 2008
- 513RAF2003: project on track, but Mr. Peter Pissierssens, project officer, explained that due to the fluctuation of the €/US\$ exchange rate the organization of the next meeting to be organized in Mozambique or in Mauritius might encounter some difficulties. Supplementary funds to overcome this problem would be needed to duly implement the planned activities of the project. To this regard, Dr. Rudy Herman proposed the submission of a duly justified budget revision including the supplementary financial resources needed for the implementation of the planned activities. This budget revision will be submitted to the Flemish Government in order to request the authorization to use part of the available unspent balance in the FUST general Fund to cover the exchange losses.
- 513RAF2005: no-cost extension approved **until 31 December 2008**
- 513RAF2007: no-cost extension approved **until 31 October 2008**
- 513RAF2008: project on track, Dr. Rudy Herman attended the last training meeting organized within the project activities.

Projects under MAB responsibility:

- 513INT2000: project on track, a series of publications presented to Dr. Rudy Herman by Thomas Schaaf, project officer.
- 513INT2003: project on track, next workshop to be organized in Jordan. Dr. Rudy Herman proposed that representatives from the project FET-Water, notably the Project officer and the RDM-network coordinator, should also attend the workshop in order to create synergies between the two projects supported by FUST. To this end, it was requested to Mr. Thomas Schaaf, representatives of MAB, and Ms. Annukka Lipponen,

representative of IHP to prepare a SSAs proposal that will allow the coordinators of the above IHP projects to travel and be involved in the workshop.

- 513INT2001: project on track but Mr. Thomas Schaaf, project officer, explained that due to the fluctuation of the €/US\$ exchange rate, the funds available for the project will not be sufficient to duly implement all the project components. Two solutions were suggested by the project officer (a) to scale down project activities for the "mountains" kit, in particular to give up the translation into Arabic and even Spanish, foreseen in the original proposal; (b) to inject additional funding of about US\$ 62,000. AS for the project 513RAF2003, Dr. Rudy Herman proposed the submission of a duly justified budget revision including the supplementary financial resources needed for the implementation of the planned activities. This budget revision will be submitted to the Flemish Government in order to request the authorization to utilised part of the unspent balance available in the FUST general Fund to cover the exchange losses. This additional support to the project should allow the finalization of the "mountain kits" in 3 languages, English, French and Spanish.

Projects under IHP responsibility:

- 531RAB2001: on track
- 513RAB2041: after presentation of the case by Ms. Annukka Lipponen, the extension until **30 September 2008** was approved. This should allow the finalization of the proposal for the 3rd phase of the project as well as of the final report. However, Dr. Rudy Herman firmly confirmed that the 3rd phase will not be funded by FUST and other interested donors need to be solicited
- 513SAF2000: project on track
- 513RLA2000: project on track, after a brief presentation by Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Dr. Rudy Herman has reported on the visit of the Flemish Minister to CAZALAC, which was very positive. Flemish Government decided to provide on a bilateral basis additional financial support of 100,000 € to CAZALAC .
- 513EGY2000: project on track

- Terminated projects

The final reports for the following terminated projects were submitted and approved by the Steering Committee:

- 513RAS2000
- 513GLO2009
- 513GLO2010
- 513RLA2002
- 513INT2002

III. Discussion of new proposals, including large scale projects and SSA

- *Large-scale Projects*

The official decision of the Flemish Government concerning the support of the project proposal “**Southeast Pacific data and Information Network in support to Integrated Costal Area Management (SPICAM) (770,000 US\$)**” will also be taken on 21 of March 2008. Positive informal feedback has been so far received from the concerned Flemish Cabinet.

- *Small-scale Activities -approved-*

- “**Data Mining and Assimilation workshop for Caribbean Marine Atlas pilot project**”, **Caribbean Islands region, April 2008**, submitted by IOC. Approved amount 16,500 US\$ (including 10% support costs)
- “**VIII session of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on Law of the Sea**” **Paris, France 21-25 April 2008**, submitted by IOC. Approved amount 13,200 US\$ (including support costs)
- “**International Interdisciplinary Course: Children’s Rights in a Globalized World : From – Principles to Practice** “, submitted by MAB. Revised approved amount 22,779 US\$ (including support costs).
- “**Workshop on decision support tools for the costal Zone in Western Africa**” submitted by IOC. Approved amount 16,500 US\$ (including support costs).
- “**Support to the Ecohydrology Component of the FRIEND/NILE Project for Year 2008**”, submitted by UNESCO/Cairo. Revised approved amount 66,000 US\$ (including support costs) on the condition that the project proposal is revised for the organization of two workshops, one per year in 2008 and 2009. Ms. Annukka Lipponen will request the formulation of the revised proposal to be then submitted via ERC/CFS to Dr. Rudy Herman by e-mail for final approval.

Due to the limited resources available for new SSAs at the date of the 14th Steering Committee, it was decided that the two following approved SSAs: “**Data Mining and Assimilation workshop for Caribbean Marine Atlas pilot project**” and “**VIII session of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on Law of the Sea**” should be administratively created in priority and the related funds transferred from the general funds to the new budget codes. The three approved remaining SSAs can be created only after the Flemish Government will have officially authorized the utilization of the remaining balance on the FUST General Funds to support extra SSAs. This official decision should be taken by the Flemish Government on the 21 of March 2008.

VI. Any others business

The 15th meeting of the Steering Committee could take place at the end of June 2008, in order to discuss the future draft UNESCO/Flanders FUST agreement as well as the launching of the joint call for project.