

FOS 8th AGM Minutes, 2009

University of Tübingen, Germany



Present: Kay VanDamme, Lisa Banfield, Hugh Morris, Miranda Morris, Peter DeGeest, Heidi Cark, Julyan Janson Van Rensburg, Ursula Eigel, Diccon Alexander, Rowan Salim,

The AGM was split into 2 days and the following were present for the first day: Viktor Cerny Johan Bockemuehl, Hans Werner Emrich, Simon Jones, Mike Thiv, Uwe Zajong, Lothar Stein, Eike Neubert),

Apologies: John Dixon, Sabina Keys, Leila Ingrams, Edoardo Zandri, John Farrar, Vladimir Agafonov, Dirk Vandorp, Isam El-Din, Dr. Sue Christie, Jeremy Roeygens.

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Issues pending from AGM 2008

The Minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved by all present

Quorum

Members voted to change the constitution so as to allow a meeting to be quorate such that 5% of the membership is present. This is due to the geographic spread of FoS membership making it difficult for a bigger percentage of members to be present at AGMs.

Participation of Yemeni Members

The EPA was invited on several occasions and by different members of the executive committee to send a participant to the AGM but this did not achieve a positive response.

Other

Condolences for Mr. Eagle were published in Tayf 6

Finance

- Hugh submitted a detailed financial report which is attached to the minutes.
- We are at the moment solvent and stable, this year we are in a position to commit £500 pounds to projects.
- Lisa Banfield has replaced Miranda Morris as a signatory for FoS' account.

Tayf

- Tayf costs were reduced this year as a result of using lighter paper, fewer colors, and separating the English and Arabic sections. Sue Christie also kindly allowed us to use her printer, economizing on costs. Copies to be sent to the World Heritage Committee
- Invite the SGBP to write an article in the next issue
- Hugh sent a batch of 50 Tayf 5s to Tony Milroy, the SCF representative in the UK but did not hear an acknowledgement of receipt. FoS did not send any Tayf 6s to SCF.
- As Gulf members and Yemenis will receive free membership, it was decided that Tayf will be distributed to schools, associations and communities on Socotra and in the Gulf for free. Tayfs could also be sent to Socotri teachers, sheikhs and mosques. This fulfils FoS' educational and information sharing remit. Individuals who remain paid members can pick up their individual copies at the Library in Socotra **(what happens to Gulf members who want to remain paying members? Is there a way for them to pay and receive their own copy?)**
- Miranda to compile a list of organizations to whom we should send free Tayfs to be agreed on by the committee. English and Arabic copies should be sent for educational purposes and language learning.
- It was agreed that 100+ free copies of Tayf should be sent to Socotra and the Gulf.
- Miranda has sent back issues of Tayf to the British Museum. Julian will produce a list of organizations and institutions which would be interested in back copies of Tayf. Once this is compiled a request can go out to Sue to print back copies.
- If one is submitting an article where photos need to be in color, this should be indicated at submission.
- Articles for Tayf should be in by the end of Dec 2009. Committee members will support Sue Christie in collecting articles for Tayf.
 - Rowan will chase up people from the lecture by the end of December.
 - Lisa and Miranda will look for other ideas for publication.

Distribution of Tayf 6

Sent out 21st – 27th July 2009

Region	Country	Tayf + letter	Only letter *
United Kingdom	England	43	5
	Scotland	13	2
	N Ireland	2	
	Wales	1	
Mainland Europe	Austria	1	
	Belgium	6	
	Czech rep.	4	1
	Denmark	1	
	France	2	1
	Germany	11	
	Ireland	1	1
	Italy	3	
	Netherlands	1	
	Sweden	1	
	Switzerland	2	
North America	USA	8	3
	Canada	1	
Middle East	Jordan	2	
	Saudi Arabia	1	
	UAE	1	
	Yemen	5	1
Other	Kenya	1	
	Australa		1
Total		110	15

*Where a member has not paid for their subscription for some time a letter of interest was sent out without an Issue of

- Discussion took place over the possibility of holding interviews to publish in Tayf. There was some concern over the risk involved in quoting people in interviews and the potential of being misrepresented and the possible repercussions of that. Nevertheless members are encouraged to hold interviews if deemed suitable taking due diligence in ensuring appropriate representation.
- All FoS visitors to Socotra are encouraged to write articles.
- Tayf needs a section on publications which cover Socotra as a regular section. Kay will compile this.
- Hugh will send a cover letter with the next tayf asking if people would prefer an email version of the newsletter.
- Tayf needs to be put up online once the next Tayf is published. Currently there are a few issues missing.

Website and other communication

- Members are invited to send relevant and verifiable news items on Socotra to Lisa. Lisa will collate the news and a bulletin will be sent out to members every three months.
- The website forum is not currently used efficiently as messages are often left unanswered. Messages left on the website forum will be forwarded to all committee members. Anyone answering a message should inform the rest of the committee so as not to duplicate responses.
- The Socotra bibliography on the website needs to be updated. Members are asked to forward their bibliographies together with category listings to Kay who will collate them and send them to John. Kay will finalize new categories to be used. The new bibliography will be merged with the existing RBGE bibliography ensuring that sources are acknowledged.
- Copies of all of FoS' publications including the leaflet, newsletter and others should be kept at the nursery.
- Rowan will check with John the possibility of forming a new email address for all FoS correspondence. This should ideally be info@friendsofsocotra.org. This would mean that the aol address will be replaced. Rowan will check with Sue about this.
- Lisa will update the leaflet and ensure that the versions on the website are correct. The email address on the leaflet should be changed and replaced with info@friendsofsocotra.org if and once this is formed. The Yemen and Socotra reps on the leaflet need to be changed. The numbers of members on the leaflet should be removed, and only their geographic distribution should be mentioned. All statistics on Yemen should be removed.
- FoS leaflets should be available at the airport in Socotra.
- Some minor changes were suggested for the website.
 - The front page needs to outline more clearly what FoS is and what we do.
 - The section titles overlap and could benefit from modification.
 - Kay will collect ideas about changes to the website to share with John who is happy to make any changes.
 - Lisa can share guidance for charity websites.
 - A discussion took place on whether to request donations on the front page. If FoS is to do this, we need to determine specific projects for people to donate to rather than having an open request.
 - A website steering group was formed consisting Kay, Lisa, Peter, Diccon, (John?).

Projects and Issues updates

Bees

FoS received an anonymous email with Socotra news. One news item was a complaint about the taking of 8 queen bees from Socotra by the 2 French beekeepers Camille and Thierry Sergent. The French Embassy wrote back sharing their version of events as did Thierry Sergent who asked to share his response at the AGM. This was done. It turns out that EPA insisted that the French beekeepers return the bees even though this was a concern for ecological reasons. Kay wrote to the beekeepers and the French Embassy with FoS' response.

Darwin Project

15 chapters of the environmental education book are complete, checked, seen and approved by the Minister for Water and the Environment, Mr. Abdull Rahman Al-Iryani. The Yemeni translator of the book was dropped in favour of Isam Al-Din. The President, Ali Abdullah Salih may sign the forward to the book. The forwards and acknowledgements need to be rewritten. The process has been supported by Len Pierce from the English School in Hadibo. The books will be distributed for free in October. Photo copyrights need to be in place and email permission from the photographers is needed. We need to check whether free copyright applies to education books. The book includes hitting figures on global warming.

Library

Miranda visited the library and Fahd gave her a form with the number of school visits and activities conducted. Sa'ad Qadami wants to move the library to the new hospital as there will be no rent there and reduced costs. Miranda has said that FoS will not support the library any more until the committee proves that they are taking their own initiative. Running costs are 20,000YR/month. There is an idea of linking up the library with the culture and historical association.

FoS still interested in supporting the library but needs to see that the library committee is using their own initiative. Miranda will update the committee following her next visit to Socotra.

Glasses

Hugh had been asked to look into providing free reading glasses to Socotra. The cheapest glasses online were £3.5 each. There is a common distribution spread for the strength of prescription glasses. The glasses would be given out without medical advice as they are non-prescription. People can pick up glasses during visits to the library and a set of glasses can remain at the library for use there.

It was agreed that £150 would be spent to pilot this project including getting an Arabic script eyesight test sheet.

Adeeb's Garden

\$50 were requested by Dana for a water ring for the Boswelia cuttings at Adeeb's garden. This will be donated by FoS

Greeting Cards

The idea of producing greeting cards from the paintings done by Diccon for the GEF was resurrected. The greeting cards would be used to:

- Encourage membership
- Fundraise
- Donate to associations of choice for income generation
- Raise awareness of Socotra species

It was agreed that the paintings rather than the photographs should be used. Diccon will identify the 5 top sellers from previous exhibition. FoS has not yet committed to this initiative pending an identification of costs which Diccon volunteered to do.

Water Storage and Filtration

The idea was put forth of buying a drinking water tank or water filter for the secondary school in Hadiboh. Peter will look into filter and water harvesting option.

Socotra Maps

Diccon had purchased an RBGE's collection of Socotra maps a few years back and has kindly offered them to the FoS. FoS will cover the cost of laminating the maps and will donate them to the following organizations:

1. College of further education
2. Museum
3. Library
4. SGBP
5. Hadiboh school
6. Hadiboh Hospital
7. Adeeb's Nursery
8. Qalansiyah School
9. Socotra Ma3mour
10. Lothar Stein (Museum of Ethnography, Leipzig)

Educational Posters

The idea was put forth of producing educational posters about plant or animal species for distribution or for sale. Kay and Lisa will follow up and contact the committee for support.

Membership

- Ahmed Saeed, the Gulf Representative has had a powerful stroke. The members wish him a return to good health. This however makes it difficult for him to collect membership fees. It was decided that Yemeni and Socotri members would receive free membership (see section on Tayf for details of implications to newspaper distribution).
- No changes will be made to the subscription fees. Currency equivalence will be scrapped and subscriptions will remain £25, \$30 and €30.

Executive Committee

- The members of the existing executive committee were mandated to continue for one more year.
- Julian was voted in as a new volunteer member of the executive Committee
- Dana pietch replaced Wolfgang Wranik as the German representative of FoS
- Wolfgang Wranik has left the executive committee and wishes it good luck.

Other

- Suggestion of organizing a conference as a forum for researchers to meet. Rome or Yemen in 2011 were suggested.
- FoS should offer its formal support to the SGBP
- Discussion on having a Yemeni partner given the minimal contribution of SCF
- The committee offered its appreciation to
 - Sue Christie for her commitment to the publication of Tayf
 - John Farrar for this dedication to the website
 - Issam El-Din for his reliable translation
 - Hugh Morris for his contributions as treasurer and for following up on membership issues.

Next AGM

- Julian suggested holding the AGM in Exeter. He will look into the possibility and confirm.
- The AGM should be held outside the Ramadan period.

Action Points

Issue	Task	Committee Member	Suggested timeframe
Tayf	Invite SGBP to write an article for Tayf	Kay VanDamm	
	Compile a list of organizations to whom we should send free Tayfs	Miranda	
	produce a list of organizations and institutions which would be interested in back copies of Tayf	Julian	
	Follow up with people who presented at the AGM for articles.	Rowan	September 09
	Look for new ideas for publication, write visitor articles, hold interviews.	Lisa, Miranda, everyone	
	Compile a section on publications which cover Socotra as a regular section	Kay	
	Send a cover letter with the next tayf asking if people would prefer an email version of the newsletter	Hugh	
	Ensure that all past copies of Tayf are online	John	
Website and Communication	Collect and collate news items and send out a bulletin to members every three months	Lisa	
	Send relevant and verifiable news items on Socotra to Lisa.	Everyone	Ongoing
	Send bibliographies to Kay	Everyone	Ongoing
	Collect and collate bibliographies, determine categories, and forward to John	Kay	
	Deliver copies of the leaflet to the Nursery and the airport	Miranda? First person who goes to Socotra?	
	Look into possibility of forming new general enquiries email address	Rowan and John	September 09
	Update leaflet and ensure that online	Lisa	

	versions are correct		
	Website updates	Website steering committee: Lisa, Kay, Diccon, Peter, (John)	
Projects	Check on need to obtain copyright status for photographs used in the Darwin publication	???	
	Update the committee on status of the library	Miranda	
	Purchase £150 worth of reading glasses and deliver to Socotra via the library	Hugh and Miranda???	
	Donate \$50 for a watering ring for Adeeb's garden	Hugh and Dana	
	Identify costs of printing greeting cards	Diccon	
	Look into filtration and water harvesting options for Hadibo High School	Peter	
	Laminate and distribute maps on Socotra	???	
	Look into producing Educational Posters for distribution on the Island	Kay and Lisa with committee support	
Other	Look into possibility of holding next AGM in Exeter	Julian	
	FoS to send a letter of support to the SGBP	Kay	
	Look into holding a conference in 2011?	???	
	Look into alternative Yemeni partners organizations?	???	