

World Coastal Forum (WCF) Establishment Group Report of the 3rd Meeting, 29 September 2022

The Third Meeting of the informal World Coastal Forum Establishment Group (WCFEG) was held on 29 September 2022. A wide range of WCFEG members, observers, advisors and invited international observers from Singapore and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity participated in the meeting; a full list of participants is available in Annex 1. Apologies were received from some WCFEG members, observers and advisors.

The main purpose of this meeting was to review and agree on a fundamental document, the “Operation of the World Coastal Forum (WCF): Consensus Document” prepared by the Institutional Framework Task Team (TT1) and on plans for its dissemination and promotion ahead of the WCF launch, at which founding partners will sign up to the finalized document. The meeting was also updated on preparation of the draft “Indicative Programme of Work 2022-2024” prepared by the WCFEG Coordinators, Terms of Reference for the development of a “State of the World’s Coasts” and a “World Coastal Conservation Toolkit” prepared by the Science and Evidence Task Team (TT5). It also agreed on a proposal to hold a last meeting of the WCFEG at the end of October prior to Ramsar COP14.

Mr Zhang Xinsheng, the Chair of WCFEG and former President of IUCN, welcomed all to the Third Meeting of the WCFEG and greatly acknowledged the hard work and remarkable achievements of all WCFEG members, observers, advisors and task teams who have voluntarily dedicated themselves to the establishment of the World Coastal Forum since October 2021. Mr Zhang also encouraged all participants to keep on working hard inclusively, and collectively, as we approach the official launch of the World Coastal Forum at Ramsar COP14 on 8 November 2022. He also encouraged all to keep on inspiring more partners to join and support the work of the WCF to ensure that it will benefit all stakeholders around the world.

The major progress since the 2nd meeting of the WCFEG2 (EG2) and matters arising were summarized by Dr Taej Mundkur, Interim Coordinator, including (a) the report of EG2 on 17 May, (b) the Operation of the WCF: Consensus Document developed by TT1 and intensively discussed within the WCFEG steering group and advisors, (c) events to raise awareness about the WCF promoted by the International Engagement Task Team (TT2) in the United Nations Ocean Conference on 30 June and 8th Meeting of Parties of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement on 29 September, (d) engagement priorities and opportunities identified by Local Government and Subnational Engagement Task Team (TT3), (e) Terms of Reference for the “State of the World’s Coasts” and “World Coastal Conservation Toolkit” developed by TT5, (f) a draft indicative WCF Programme of Work 2022 to 2024, and (g) the preparation for the WCF launch at a side event at Ramsar COP14.

The draft Operation of the WCF: Consensus Document prepared by TT1 was reviewed. Mr Yinfeng Guo and Mr Tim Badman, co-leads of TT1 explained the participatory process and vision including what the WCF is and the mechanism by which WCF would operate. The main suggestions and proposals for improvements to the latest version of the Consensus Document based on feedback received from the EG members prior the meeting were presented.

A brief discussion served to clarify issues concluding that there were no financial contributions required of signing partners. Plans for dissemination of the WCF Consensus Document in the lead up to the WCF launch were also presented and discussed. Based on all these discussions, **the draft Consensus Document was approved by WCFEG representatives and the proposed plan for its dissemination were agreed.** Other forum administrative elements such as rules of procedure, decision-making

mechanisms, including appointment of a chair and a system for their rotation, invitation to advisors and a theory of change to guide further work would need to be developed after the WCF is launched. This work will be led by the interim secretariat in consultation with Partners.

Ms Nicola Crockford, Co-lead of International Engagement Task Team (TT2) reported that a side event for the official launch of WCF at the Ramsar COP14 on 8 November was successfully secured and details such as timetable and proposed programme will be circulated by email among EG members.

Prof Bill Sutherland, Co-lead of TT5 outlined the overall vision, methodology, working plan, challenges and opportunities in relation to the Terms of Reference for a “State of the World’s Coasts” and the “World Coastal Conservation Toolkit”. These two actions are seen as priority actions for the WCF and for which resources would be needed. A wide range of elements is proposed to be covered in the Toolkit, such as evidence gathering and guidance production on solutions to coastal ecosystem management and restoration.

Based on feedback, a coastal stakeholder analysis will be needed to ensure optimal collaboration with existing coastal ecosystem conservation initiatives, projects, research and stakeholders, to ensure inclusiveness, avoid fragmentation and duplication of effort and ensure stakeholders deliver at a scale that is more than the sum of their parts.

The draft WCF Indicative Programme of Work 2022-2024 was presented by Dr Mundkur and reviewed by the meeting. The overall purpose of this document is to guide the initial planning of action by the WCF and allow the partners to start working, without delay, following the WCF launch in November. The current draft comprises 7 components, including 1) Science and Evidence, 2) Coastal Ecosystem Protection, 3) Coastal Ecosystem Management, 4) Coastal Ecosystem Restoration, 5) Development of Communication, Education and Public Awareness-raising initiatives, 6) Training and Capacity Building, and 7) Fostering institutional development, operation and resource mobilisation of the WCF. The document is under development and feedback and inputs from all the EG members is invited to be submitted to the interim Secretariat following the meeting.

Mr Alex Zhang, the WCFEG Co-ordinator concluded that most items of work plan in the initiative document discussed on 10 January this year have been successfully completed, and all the members, Task Team colleagues, and sponsors have been working hard to prepare for the official WCF launch in November. He announced that the Paulson Institute (USA) had indicated that it was ready to sign the Consensus Document at the Ramsar COP14 launch event and several other members were going through internal consultation processes.

A proposal to hold a final EG meeting on 27 October or 28 October before the Ramsar COP14 was agreed and the Co-ordinators would shortly notify EG members of the agenda.

Finally, Mr Zhang repeated an request to all members, advisors and observers to promote the Consensus Document and invite other organisations and stakeholders to join who share a similar vision and mission on coastal conservation as founding partners of the WCF during the official launch at the Ramsar COP14. The WCFEG Coordinators welcomed any partners and other stakeholders and remain available to answer the queries on what the WCF is and how to join in. The updated Operation of the WCF: Consensus Document and related documents will be made available on the WCF website (www.worldcoastalforum.org) in early October.

Annex 1: List of Participants of the WCFEG3 Meeting, 29 September 2022

Institution	Name	Position
WCFEG Members		
WCFEG Chair	Mr Zhang Xinsheng	Former IUCN President
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat	Mr Doug Watkins	Chief Executive
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	Mr Jens Enemark (Former head of the Secretariat) on behalf of Mr Bernard Baerends, Executive Secretary	
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Mr Tim Badman	Head for Heritage, Culture and Youth (also TT1 Co-lead)
	Dr Janaka deSilva	Senior Programme Coordinator, Global Marine and Polar Programme
	Ms Eloïse Leguérinel	Service civique auprès de Maud Lelièvre, Présidente du comité français de l'IUCN
Future Earth Coasts	Dr Li Xiuzhen	co-Host International Project Office of FEC, State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, East China Normal University
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	Ms Ingrid Coetzee	Director for Biodiversity, Nature & Health, ICLEI Africa Secretariat & Global Cities Biodiversity Center (also TT3 Co-lead)
	Mr Zhu Shu	Regional Director & China Representative, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat (also TT3 Co-lead)
Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC	Mr Jiang Xiaohong	Division Director, Dept. of International Cooperation
The Nature Conservancy	Ms Hu Fan	External Affairs Senior Manager
	Ms Luz Gil	
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	Prof William James Sutherland	Professor (also TT5 Co-lead)
Wetlands International	Mr Ward Hagemeyer	Senior Advisor
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)	Dr Rob Clay	Director of the Executive Office
Taif University, Saudi Arabia	Prof Mohammed Shobrak	Independent expert
BirdLife International	Dr Gary Allport	Senior Adviser to the CEO
WCFEG Observers		
CMS Secretariat	Mr Tilman Schneider, on behalf of Dr Ivan Ramirez	Head, Avian Species Team
Ramsar Secretariat	Mr Jerker Tamelander	Director, Science and Policy

Institution	Name	Position
WCFEG Advisors		
	Mr Stanley Johnson	
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	Mr Jens Enemark	Former head of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
WCFEG Task Team Co-leads & Members*		
Co-lead, TT1	Mr Guo Yinfeng	Chief Expert for International Cooperation, National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC
Co-Lead, TT2	Dr Luo Ming	Director of Key Laboratory of Consolidation and Rehabilitation Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC
Co-Lead, TT5	Dr Lu Wenhai	Director Research, Marine Ecology Division, National Marine Data & Information Service, Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC
Member, TT1	Dr Luo Gang	Associate (Research) Professor, China Institute for Marine Affairs (CIMA), Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC
Member, TT4	Dr Li Yan	Project Manager, China Oceanic Development Foundation, PRC
Invitees		
National Parks Board of Singapore	Ms Wendy Yap Hwee Min	Director, International Biodiversity Conservation
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Philippines	Ms Kyle Zuleta	Project Management Officer, Programme Development and Implementation Unit
Tongji University, PRC	Prof Su Ping	Professor
Jiangsu Yellow Sea Wetland Institute Co., Ltd. PRC	Mr Yan Zequn	General Manager
Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation & Management Center, PRC	Mr Yuan Quan	
WCFEG COORDINATORS		
BirdLife International	Ms Nicola Crockford	Principal Policy Officer of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Kingdom
Eco Foundation Global	Mr Alex Zhang	Secretary General
	Dr Taej Mundkur	WCFEG Interim Coordinator
	Mr Haochen Li	Project Assistant Director

* WCFEG Members who also serve as TT Co leads are listed in the Members section.