

Proposed Wetlands "Synthesis"

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Held on Thursday 18 January 2001 at 3 Rue des Fleurs, Fortunes Gate, Bulawayo.

Arising from the workshop/seminar on the "Biodiversity of the Zambezi Basin Wetlands" project, held at the Hotel Rio in mid-December, it was acknowledged as a priority that the two huge volumes (comprising four parts and xiii + 922 pages!) must be summarised down into a 'synthesis'. Several consequences could flow from this if it could be produced. The workshop agreed to offer the contract for doing this synthesis to JT, to be paid (in the first instance) from BFA's own finances. As stated at the BFA's monthly admin. meeting on 2nd January, the details and ToR were to be worked out at this meeting today.

JT reminded the group of the project situation-

Phase 1: good overall perspective; desk job.

Phase 2: more information, field trips, more comprehensive, but not enough time for a proper digestion, and probably more conclusions were required.

Proposed synthesis: a resource document was needed that was much more accessible to other readers, outside of scientists; not a glossy; perhaps in the 80-page region. In particular, JT felt that conclusions had to be mulled over for some time, a document as important as the synthesis could not be done in a "quick-and-dirty" manner (not his words!).

JT also reminded the group that outside funds must be sourced for the printing and distribution of the synthesis, and hopefully too outside funds for paying the contract. BFA has already requested such funding from the Zambezi Society, and at the December workshop Dick Pitman had agreed to try and look for these.

After lengthy discussions, including a consideration of JT's immediate and medium-term work load, the following points were agreed:

- (i) A SYNTHESIS AND OVERVIEW was required, of ca 80 pages or so, that 'boiled down' the project documents to keep the scientific facts and discoveries; entirely a desk job, no new research of any kind, but also looking for inter-connections.
- (ii) The synthesis was to be produced in edited, peer-reviewed, and in camera-ready copy form, ie. at least as a second draft.
- (iii) From this document, two scientific papers must be hatched, viz.-
 - (a) palaeo-basin, and subsequent evolution (authored by DGB, FPDC, BEM and JT) - JT to produce a 'skeleton' in terms of this contract. Suitable for J. Biogeography etc.
 - (b) conservation action, flagship species, hotspots, important areas (10 or so authors?) [JT - what is the message here?] - JT to produce a 'concept paper'. Suitable for Biol. Conserv. etc.
- (iv) An ongoing liaison must be maintained with the ZamSoc. for the potential funding aspects.
- (v) The contractee should continue to act as a focal point for this "Biodiversity of the Zambezi Basin Wetlands" project.

In summary, then, the ToR, are as follows-

Starting from 1st March 2001, JT to write the synthesis document - 30 days.
Deadline for one hard copy of an edited draft is 30th September 2001.
(i.e. at the rate of a few days per month).

Palaeo-basin scientific paper, skeleton - 1 day.

Conservation of biodiversity, concept paper - 2 days.

Liaison and focal-point as and when, in JT's own time and expense.

Remuneration is Z\$100,000.00

On behalf of BFA, the contracting group comprises DGB, FPDC, JLM and PJM.

JT not to be held responsible for any unreasonable delays by persons of this group or any other peers in reading the draft.

When agreed by everybody in BFA, the edited/adjusted ToR would be produced as a contract between the BFA and JT.