

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF SARAWAK (BCSS) (PERTUBUHAN KONSERVASI BIODIVERSITI SARAWAK)

Registration No: 0427-04-15

No 4, Lorong Setia Raja 12A2, Taman Stutong Indah 93350, Kuching, Sarawak

Minutes of the 2018 Biennial General Meeting

Date: 20th October 2018
Time: 2:00 pm
Venue: 7 Jalan Ridgeway

- 1 The Vice-Chairman welcomed the members to start the meeting.
- 2 Attended by: Michael Meredith
Ngumbang Juat
Sylvia Ng
Jongkar Grinang
Rambli Ahmad
Joshua Pandong
Mohd Azlan Jayasilan
Melvin Gumal
Voon Mufeng
Daniel Kong
Apologies for absence: Andrew Alex Tuen
Oswald Braken Tisen
Pascal Dagang
Jayl Langub
- 3 The minutes of the previous BGM were approved by the members
Proposed by Rambli, seconded by Ngumbang.
- 4 Matters arising
Item 5.2 : Reserve fund: this is still needed and this must be followed up now that we have an account with Public Bank.
Item 5.3 : Online banking: After investigating options with Maybank and with CIMB, the Society has opened an account with Public Bank. The first online payment from this account went through on 15 October.
Item 8.1: National Tiger Survey: MM and NJ are involved with analysis of NTS data, but no agreement has been entered into by BCSS in this regard.
- 5 Reports from the outgoing committee
 - 5.1 Workshop coordinators report
 - 5.1.1 There were at least four committee meetings held each year.
 - 5.1.2 Workshops since the last BGM (Refer to website:http://www.bcss.org.my/statsWorkshops/Past_workshops.htm)
 - Due to the number of bootcamps, some will be done in tandem and there is a need for Mike and Ngumbang to run concurrently.
 - Due to the need to get more people to be able to facilitate and run workshops, there is a need for more trainings and materials.
 - BCSS has received assurance that WCS, Malaysia will continue to support workshops in the form of trainers and facilitators.
 - 5.1.3 Financial report
 - The society received an in influx of cash from MikeMeredith. This is mostly to pay for Ngumbang's salary who is working part time with BCSS. The last financial year ended with RM7000 in the bank.

- Questions asked by the members include whether the society has charitable status or is tax exempted. The answer to both questions was that the society is not.
- The main sources of income for the organization is from donations and registration fees. In 2017, there were two consultancy fees, one from a two-day workshop with DWNP and another from WWF Sabah.
- The motion to approve the audited accounts for the years ending 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018 was passed unanimously.
Proposed by MG, Proposed by VM

6 Election of the New Committee

- 6.1 Chairman :Rambli Ahmad
(Proposed MG, seconded by MAJ) Unanimous.
- Vice-chairman : Michael E. Meredith
(Proposed by MG and seconded by MAJ) Unanimous.
- Secretary : Sylvia Ng
(Proposed by VM and seconded by RA) Unanimous.
- Assistant-secretary : Aishah Majri
(Proposed by MG and seconded by MAJ) Unanimous.
- Treasurer : Oswald Braken Tisen
(Proposed by MG and seconded by VM) Unanimous
- Committee members There were three candidates for two posts:
: Mohd. Azlan Jayasilan
(Proposed by NJ and seconded by MG) 7 votes - elected
: Voon Mufeng
(Proposed by MG seconded AM) 7 votes - elected
: Joshua Pandong
(Proposed MG, seconded DK) 6 votes

As an employee, NJ will need to attend committee meetings.

- 7 Proposal to appoint officers to deal with immovable property
Under rule 19 of the society, three officers shall be appointed by the BGM for the purpose of Section 9(b) of the Societies Act, which section deals with transactions relating to immovable property. It was agreed unanimously that the chairman, secretary and treasurer be appointed for this purpose.
Proposed by MM, Seconded by: SN
- 8 Appointment of auditor for the ensuing term
The members of the society unanimously agreed to maintain Hii & Lee as the auditor for BCSS for the current term.
Proposed by MG, Seconded by RA
- 9 Resolution for a change of registered address
9.1 To ensure that there will be no missed letters to the society it is proposed that the registered address of the society be changed to SN's home address:
SL 615, 225D, Lorong 4c1, Tabuan Laru, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
Proposed by MG, Seconded by DK. Agreed unanimously.
9.2 Noted that any change of registered address requires approval of ROS before becoming effective.
- 10 Any other matters
No other matters were raised.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Prepared by:

Sylvia Ng
Secretary

Approved by:

Michael E. Meredith
Vice-Chairman

Biodiversity Conservation Society of Sarawak (BCSS)

(Pertubuhan Konservasi Biodiversiti Sarawak)

Workshops carried out since BGM 2016

Since the last BGM in January 2017, we have run or assisted with 8 Boot Camps and 5 specialist statistics workshops, plus a trainer-training workshop. We have regular dates with Suranaree University in Thailand and with UWICER in Bhutan, and we run Boot Camps in association with the ATBC-Asia Pacific annual meetings.

We recently ran a Boot Camp in Nepal that was supported by USAID, but we have not been back to Bangladesh or Indonesia. Support for Boot Camps in Malaysia varies: both Kuching and KL events were fully booked last year, as is the January 2019 workshop at Sunway, but the planned Boot Camp in Kuching December 2018 only attracted 4 applicants (none from Sarawak) and has been cancelled.

We ran specialist workshops in KL in March 2018. The GIS workshop lead by Fen was full, but the JAGS and Data Exploration workshops only attracted 10 participants. We also ran 10-day JAGS workshops in Thailand in July 2017 and in Bhutan in September 2018. A 6-day simulations workshop will be held at NUS Singapore in November 2018.

Our trainer team continues to expand following another Elf Camp led by Ian Signer in Jan 2018 with 12 participants. Many of the new elves have helped with Boot Camp since then. For many of countries where we plan to work – Thailand, Myanmar and most of South Asia – the training season is July to September, which is the main field season in Malaysia; hence we are pushing to recruit more trainers from those countries. The next Elf Camp will be in Bhutan in September 2019 and will target South Asian trainers.

Future plans

We will likely run Boot Camps in association with the ICCB in Kuala Lumpur in July and the ATBC-AP meeting in Sri Lanka in August 2019. We have firm dates for Boot Camps in Thailand (August) and Bhutan (September), and invitations to Myanmar (July) and Tanzania (October). A Boot Camp in Germany was offered for February, but not enough people applied to make it viable.

Ngumbang now takes charge of the Boot Camps, allowing me to doze at the back of the room. If all the 2019 workshops take place, we plan to run Boot Camps in parallel, with Ngumbang leading one and other instructors and myself leading the other.

A summary of the workshops we have been involved with follows:

Dates	Location	Workshop type	Partners
30 Mar-19 April 2017	XTBG (China)	Boot Camp	ATBC and XTBG
3-14 July 2017	King Mongkut University, Thailand	Bayes with JAGS	KMUTT
28 Aug-8 Sept 2017	Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand	Boot Camp	SUT
18-29 Sept 2017	Gelephu, Bhutan	Boot Camp	UWICE
4-15 December 2017	Swinburne, Kuching	Boot Camp	
9-13 Jan 2018	KL (RRI)	Trainer Training (Elf Camp)	
15-26 Jan 2018	Sunway University (KL)	Boot Camp	
4-10 March 2018	KL (ATCEN)	Bayes with JAGS	
12-15 March 2018	KL (ATCEN)	Data Exploration	
17-23 March 2018	KL (ATCEN)	GIS with QGIS and R	
18-30 June 2018	Kuching (Harbour View)	Boot Camp	ATBC
13-24 August 2018	Suranaree University of	Boot Camp	SUT

	Technology, Thailand		
11-23 Sept 2018	Bumthang, Bhutan	Bayes with JAGS	UWICER
26 Sept-8 Oct 2018	Kathmandu, Nepal	Boot Camp	Friends of Nature Nepal

Michael E Meredith
Vice-Chairman and Workshop Coordinator
Biodiversity Conservation Society of Sarawak