

Proteus 2012 Members Constitution

Status

'Proteus 2012' is a voluntary private sector partnership with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It represents a structured forum of like-minded organisations which are collaborating to provide advice, guidance and financial support to UNEP-WCMC for the development and dissemination of biodiversity data and information. The following constitution has been adopted, to be applied in a voluntary manner, for the efficient governance and management of the partnership and its business meetings.

Secretariat

UNEP-WCMC will act as convenor and Secretary for Proteus 2012, its business meetings and day-to-day activities. The Director of UNEP-WCMC will Chair business meetings.

Membership

Any business organisation may apply to UNEP-WCMC for membership of Proteus 2012 in the appropriate category. Applications for Platinum Membership shall be submitted to UNEP-WCMC and circulated promptly to existing Platinum Members. Such applications shall be accepted unless at least 30% of existing Platinum Members object. Organisations which are not accepted as members may reapply after 12 months. Members may withdraw from Proteus 2012 at any time with 30 days notice, but shall not receive any refund of Membership Fees or any other amount due. Any Member which undertakes an action likely or actually bringing UNEP-WCMC or the Proteus 2012 partnership into disrepute may be given notice in writing to leave the partnership and shall do so upon receipt of such notice.

Regular and Extraordinary Business Meetings

Regular meetings of the Proteus 2012 membership will be held twice a year, at a minimum. Extraordinary Meetings may be called either by UNEP-WCMC or by two of the Platinum Members acting in unison at any time.

The principle purpose of these meetings will be:

- a) To advise on the strategic aims of the Proteus 2012 partnership;
- b) To advise on and monitor the Proteus 2012 Work Programme;
- c) To monitor the deployment of funds contributed by the members; and
- d) To provide UNEP-WCMC with advice on issues related to the development and dissemination of biodiversity data and information.

Notice and Submission of Documents for Regular and Extraordinary Meetings

At least 60 days notice of Regular Meetings and 14 days notice of Extraordinary Meetings will normally be given to all Members. An annotated agenda and any documents to be tabled by Members must be submitted to the Secretariat for onward transmission to all Members not less than 10 days before meetings are due. Draft Minutes will be produced and circulated for comment within 14 days of the end of each meeting. They will be tabled for agreement at the commencement of the meeting immediately subsequent.

How will decisions be made at Regular and Extraordinary Meetings?

Platinum Members may be represented by five members at Full Meetings but shall each be entitled to one vote. However, it is expected that decisions relating to Proteus 2012 will be made by consensus and voting will take place only if it proves impossible to reach consensus in a reasonable time-frame. Gold Members may attend Full Meetings to express their views, but will not be entitled to vote.

Observers

The following will normally be invited as observers to Regular Meetings of Proteus 2012, and may be invited to Extraordinary Meetings at the discretion of UNEP-WCMC with advice from Platinum Members: Proteus 2012 Silver Members; BirdLife International; Conservation International; Earthwatch; ICMM, IPECA; IUCN; WWF.