

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS EUROPE CHAPTER

And

INTERNATIONAL WETLAND POLLUTANT DYNAMICS AND CONTROL SYMPOSIUM

Relating to

COOPERATION TOWARD WETLAND SCIENCE AND
SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

RECOGNIZING that the Society of Wetland Scientists Europe Chapter (hereafter referred to as SWS Europe) is a Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (hereafter referred to as SWS) which is an international scientific, educational, and non-profit organization that strives to be recognized as the world leader in wetland science and has the objectives to 1) promote understanding, conservation, scientifically based management and sustainable use of wetlands throughout the world 2) lead the education of wetland professionals and the public regarding wetland science and its applications, 3) promote the development of wetland science programs around the world, particularly in developing countries, 4) foster diversity among SWS members and other wetland professionals, and 5) promote sound science in wetland policy and stewardship;

RECOGNIZING also that the SWS is a leading international nonprofit organization focused on wetland science, conservation, management and education; with a diverse membership of over 3,000 members from numerous countries and from the private, government, non-profit and educational sectors, and with regional chapters located throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Oceania and elsewhere; and that publishes the quarterly peer-reviewed journal WETLANDS and the newsletter, *Wetland Science & Practice (WSP)*, which provide a source of information and expertise for the conservation and management of wetlands;

RECOGNIZING also that SWS Europe brings together wetland scientists and other professionals from around Europe who share common interests in wetland science and management and that it is focused on understanding and advancing wetland science, as well as assuring that decision-making processes affecting wetlands are based on an understanding of wetland science;

RECOGNIZING that the International Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control Symposium (hereafter referred to as WETPOL) is the preeminent global conference and network bringing

together scientists, engineers and practitioners working on the use of wetlands for water quality improvement;

RECOGNIZING that WETPOL's goals are: knowledge transfer between natural wetland science and treatment wetland technology; to increase acceptance of treatment wetland applications; to increase understanding of processes controlling wetland biogeochemistry and cultural exchange;

CONSIDERING that WETPOL and SWS Europe share the common goal of encouraging sound science in wetland research, management, restoration, policy, and conservation, and that meeting this goal requires enhanced collaboration between the two organizations and their various partners.

CONSIDERING that WETPOL and SWS Europe differ somewhat in objectives, mission, and membership, but that the differences can be combined into strengths and that the two organizations can complement each other in many respects;

The SWS and WETPOL (hereafter referred to as the Parties) wish to establish a formal partnership to achieve COOPERATION FOR THE KNOWLEDGEABLE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF WETLANDS;

THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Article 1. General Cooperation

The Parties agree to collaborate to promote the knowledgeable management, conservation, and research of wetlands, by enhancing their existing communication and cooperation and by increasing communication with other networks and groups.

The Parties recognize the benefit of facilitating the development of cooperative and collaborative programs, and will foster such programs by co-organising various methods of information dissemination and sharing, such as wetland meetings and workshops, publications, newsletters, web sites, webinars, etc.

The Parties shall keep each other well-informed of needs, issues, and opportunities that emerge as a result of their activities.

The Parties will disseminate information to each other's membership and/or network through standard organization-specific channels (email, newsletter, social media, blogs, etc.).

The Parties shall create links between their respective web sites to share relevant wetland information with their members and/or network (e.g. conference information, calendar of events, news items, training opportunities, etc.). The Parties shall seek opportunities to develop and support programs, projects, and publications of mutual interest via verbal agreements. Where both Parties agree to the development of major joint initiatives that will require significant resources (monetary, volunteer or staff time) of either party, the specific terms of collaboration shall be agreed upon in writing prior to the initiation of activities.

The points of contact for general matters between the WETPOL and SWS Europe shall be the Founding Organizer of the WETPOL and the President of the SWS Europe.

The leadership for the Parties shall arrange to assess the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation and conduct reviews of the Memorandum of Cooperation as necessary.

Areas of cooperation may include but will not be limited to the following:

Co-organization of each other's conferences, symposia, and other events of the Parties, as appropriate within the mission of each organization. Co-organization will not require financial support.

Development of white papers on various timely wetland issues. The Parties will, as appropriate for each issue, cooperate on development, review, and dissemination of issue papers, and may work together to air issues in a forum that informs the wetland scientific, management, and policy communities, and/or the public.

Improvement and facilitation of the sharing of information on wetland science, wetland management, and wetland education. By disseminating each other's information to respective members, the Parties will bring more diverse expertise to bear on wetland issues.

Development of more specific protocols for cooperation in areas of joint interest such as international activities as they are identified.

Article 2. Contribution by the SWS Europe

The SWS Europe shall bring WETPOL meeting organization under the umbrella of SWS Europe, so that SWS can manage the address lists, communications and organization with the host meeting organization. This is under the strict condition that the founders of WETPOL are fully involved in the WETPOL meeting organization and can continue (without veto or modifying mandate from SWS Europe or SWS) to lead WETPOL in the future, e.g. regarding meeting location, theme definition etc.

The SWS Europe shall, through web site links, newsletters, and other outlets, provide information on the activities of WETPOL.

The SWS Europe shall routinely consider non-financial sponsorship of WETPOL conferences and the SWS Europe Committee will invite proposals from the WETPOL for financial support of its conferences and other events.

The SWS Europe will invite the WETPOL network to organize symposia, workshops, and other events at its annual conference on topics of mutual interest.

The SWS Europe shall offer the Founding Organizer and one other leader or their designee in WETPOL complementary membership in the SWS Europe and complimentary registration at the annual meeting.

The SWS Europe shall offer the Founding Organizer of WETPOL to sit on the quarterly Full Board meetings of the SWS Europe committee to promote cooperation and coordination of meetings.

Article 3. Contribution by WETPOL

WETPOL shall, through web site links, newsletters, and other outlets, provide information on the activities of the SWS Europe.

WETPOL will invite the SWS Europe to organize symposia, workshops, and other events at its conferences on topics of mutual interest.

WETPOL shall ask the organisers of the WETPOL conference to offer the President and one other committee member or their designee of the SWS Europe complementary registration at the bi-annual meeting but the final decision would be with the organisers.

Article 4. General

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall be effective from the date when both Parties have effected their signatures.

Amendments to this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) shall only be made on the basis of a written agreement signed by the SWS Europe President and WETPOL Founding Organizer.

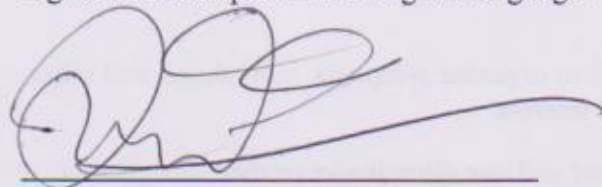
Neither Party shall be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out independently by the other Party.

Any differing viewpoints or interpretations of this Memorandum of Cooperation MOC shall be resolved amicably by consultation or negotiation between the two Parties.

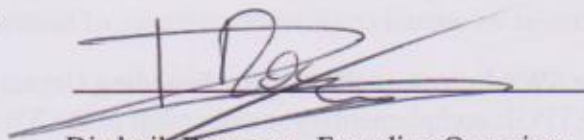
This Memorandum of Cooperation shall continue for five (5) years past the date of approval by both Parties, unless amended or terminated. One year before the term of this Memorandum, both Parties will review it and agree to renew it, amend it or terminate it by the 5-year anniversary.

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party subject to written notice of six months. In case the Memorandum ceases to be in effect on account of termination thereof, existing cooperation shall continue to the extent necessary for the completion of existing, agreed activities.

Signed in two copies in the English language:



Jos Verhoeven, President
SWS Europe



Diederik Rousseau, Founding Organizer
WETPOL

Date

Date