



BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT PLAN STICHTING RUGVIN 2012

Velp, December 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This document serves the tuning of Stichting Rugvin. It explains the goals, the strategy, and the way of organisation, the methodology and means and how the organisation financially is organised.

1.2. Council members

The Rugvin foundation is managed by the following three board members:

Frank Zanderink

He studied Wildlife management/nature management at the agricultural University of Wageningen. As an information officer he volunteered for Greenpeace Netherlands. In the mid nineties he worked for WWF/Zambia as a conservation trainer in a wetland called Chikuni. Returned into the Netherlands he worked as the Director of the Small Earth (De Kleine Aarde). A visit of a couple of weeks at the Cetacean Research and Rescue Centre in Gardenstown (Scotland) the idea for a similar centre in the Netherlands started to develop. Recently he is working for ARK nature as project leader for nature development projects in Bulgaria, Croatia and Latvia.

Nynke Osinga

She studied Biology at the University of Leiden (2005). As one of her graduation topics she studied the methodology of monitoring harbour porpoises and the by catch of harbour porpoises in the North Sea.

Together with Bas Beekmans she did a feasibility study on the monitoring of cetaceans in the North Sea. At present she works for the Seal Rehabilitation centre in Pieterburen as a sea mammal research officer. She works on the fulfilment as a PhD on the subject of human impact on the population of grey and common seals.

Bas Beekmans

He started in 2002 at the Centre of Environmental studies in Leiden working on the photo identification of Sperm whales. Later he worked for the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge investigating how sensitive whales are for changes in their environment.

2. Problem definition / reason for existence

In the Netherlands there is no non governmental organisation active on the field of Cetaceans (whale species) Some organisations are involved in wildlife in general, some are specialised in the North Sea and some are professionally and commercially active in this field but the initiators of the Rugvin Foundation felt the need to have a Dutch organisation that not only does research on cetaceans but also works on informing the public about the existence, migration behaviour, population dynamics and circumstances of the different species living in the Dutch (coastal) waters.

For starting off the board defined two main problems as the bases for the existence of the foundation.

Problem Definition A

- There is hardly any research being done on the different cetacean species in the Dutch North Sea. A few times per year RIZA (Dutch Marine institute) counts the numbers of porpoises by flying over the North Sea on the base of transect lines. Also occasional encounters of cetaceans by birdwatchers, fishermen and ship crew are recorded in the Marine Mammal Database of Kees Camphuysen. This collected data isn't brought together to form one single database.

Also there is no recording by camera or hydrophone of individual cetaceans (porpoises, dolphins and whales). This results in the following hypotheses and conclusions:

Hypotheses

- The absolute number of Cetaceans and the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in particular, is fluctuating in numbers as well as there habitats are.
- There are more cetacean species in the Dutch North Sea present than one may assume.
- Cetaceans are present on locations where one doesn't expect them.
- There is more interaction between the different populations of different species than at present is thought.
- Porpoises in particular, but other cetaceans as well, are a regular by-catch of today's fishing techniques. This is partly due to the fact that little is known about porpoises in Dutch waters. Further ecological research will contribute to a better understanding.
- The number of strandings and sightings is increasing. (What does this tell us?)

Problem Definition B

- The Dutch general public isn't aware of the presence of cetaceans in Dutch (coastal) waters. But people are interested in the whereabouts of Dutch cetaceans. But making a link between marine mammals and the North Sea isn't on their mind.

3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Main objectives

The main objective of the foundation is to contribute to the improvement and conservation of the living conditions of cetaceans (porpoises, dolphins and whales) and other marine organisms in the Dutch North Sea by:

- a) Setting up a scientific research programme to collect data on cetaceans' behaviour and population dynamics.
 - b) Advising on the use of data for protection and legislation purposes.
 - c) Raising public awareness by giving information and education.
-
- a. To find answers on which cetacean species and how many per species are present in the Dutch part of the North Sea and in what time of year and location? Identification of individuals is hereby important as well.
 - b. On a national but also on an international level protection of cetaceans is important. Making the gathered data, accompanied with advice, accessible for protection and legislation purposes. In order to this it might contribute to the designation of protected areas on base of the "habitatrichtlijn". As well as contribution to insight of disturbance like noise, pollution, disturbance etc.)
 - c. The found data will be published nationally. Hereby the Dutch society will become more aware of the presence and numbers of cetaceans and the problems, like by catch, disturbance and strandings, the populations face in the (Dutch part of) the North sea. In adjunction to this educational activities will be carried out.

3.2. Other objectives

Some organisations are already collecting data on one specific subject concerning cetacean populations. Unfortunately there is no co-operation and much sharing of data between these. Rugvin will try to establish a good working relationship with all involved parties (see 4.4)

4. STRATEGIE A

4.1 Overall strategy

The Rugvin foundation will operate as an independent organisation. It will conduct and act as a Non Governmental Organisation. Rugvin will be operated by professional members, students and volunteers. Working together with other organisation and individuals is part of the strategy.

4.2.1 Achievement of goals and objectives

- The achievement of the main project goals will be reached by doing research that fits into the needs and wishes of Dutch and international public and governmental programmes. Therefore it will contribute towards larger goals than its own goal and creates a higher acceptance and understanding. (* Providing data for Ascobans and other conventions.)
- In other countries programmes exist where the activities of Rugvin might connect with. For example the Atlantic Research Coalition (ARC) where different organisations from different countries work together by linking up the collected data they gathered from monitoring on ferry lines.

NB Linking up with national and international programmes may lead to financial support as well. But more important is that the gathering of data leads to a better understanding and possible to a better protection of cetaceans.

4.2.2 Ways of collecting data

1. Gathering data by finding and observing cetaceans from small boats at sea.
 - a. By sight
 - b. By hearing (C-pods-hydrophones) (According to the WiSescheme, the European protocol and its own scientific board)
2. Gathering data by observing cetacean whilst on board of ferries.
3. Using data by questioning Ferry personnel (Stena Line and others).
4. Using data gathered by Marina Mammal Database (Kees Camphuysen).
5. Using data gathered by a) Naturalis and b) Pieterburen (strandings and necropsies).
6. Using data from static hydrophones (C-pods) at “hotspots”.
7. Using data by questioning/interviewing off shore personnel.
8. Using data by questioning fishermen.
 - a. Professional fishermen.
 - b. Sportsmen (data are also collected by MMD)

WiSe (Wildlife **S**afe) is a Training and Accreditation scheme aimed at operators of passenger pleasure craft, wildlife cruise operators, dive boats and charter yachts who may come into contact with “mega”marine wildlife such as **whales, dolphins, basking sharks or seals**.
European protocol: agreement on how to monitor cetaceans in European waters.

4.3.1 Finances

- The organisation consists of a finance committee checking and approving the financial books.
- All financial data are registered by the treasurer.
- The organisation is an approved ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instantie) organisation.
- The foundation has its own bank account.

4.3.2 Financial support will come from:

- Governmental programmes and subsidies (national and international).
- Charity funds as WNF, N.P.O.S., Ascobans and others.
- Sponsor activities
- Others

4.3.3 Discontinuation

In the occasion of the discontinuation of Stichting Rugvin a positive figure is present on the Foundation's bank account, the total amount will be equally divided and donated to the ARK Foundation (Hoog Keppel) and Zeehondencrèche Lenie 't Hart.

4.4 Co-operation

At this moment different organisations are working in the field of the North Sea and (Sea) mammals in different ways. Every organisation has its own strength, a history and a network. We see that co-operation and working together, (using each others data, experience and connections) will benefit all. "Connecting data makes new data".

Establishment of good contacts with different people and organisations is a must.

At this moment we distinguish the following cooperative partners:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Atlantic Research Coalition | Tom Brereton / Clive Martin |
| 2. SOS Dolfijn | Eligius Everaerts |
| 3. WNF | Marius Brants / Esther Blom |
| 4. Stichting Anemoon | Niels Schrieken |
| 5. Stichting De Noordzee | Joop Coolen / Marchien de Ruyter |
| 6. NP Oosterschelde | Wilco Jacobussen |
| 7. Oosterschelde harbour managers | Several |
| 8. Seamarco | Ron Kastelein |
| 9. Stena Line | Bob Brouwer |
| 10. Stichting ARK | Wouter Helmer |
| 11. RWS | R. Amersfoort/ P. Koppenaal |
| 12. IVN Zuid Holland | M. Siemensma |
| 13. Ministry of ELI | F. van Dijken |
| 14. Biodiversity coalition | Management office |

5. ORGANISATION

5.1. Organisation structure

The foundation consists of a board with three members; a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. The day to day work is coordinated by the coordinating directors.

The organisation is more or less divided into three parts, two scientific (1 and 2) and an educational part (3). A scientific committee is linked up with the scientific part for the guarantee of a necessary scientific framework.

All members of the board and others are working on a voluntary base. There is no paid staff.

5.2 Committees

1. North Sea research
2. Oosterschelde research
3. Communication activities

Each committee consists of a coordinator and other volunteers who might be: students or other experienced members of the committee.

5.3 List of useful qualifications for all staff members:

- Experience in monitoring sea mammals (or birds)
- Photography
- Using GPS (Geographical Position System)
- Using Mari phone
- Identification of sea mammals
- Project Acquisition
- Communication
- Web site building
- Marine science
- Management
- Marine Mammal Medic

6. METHODS AND MEANS

Research

In order to gain the necessary data Rugvin works with the following methods and means:

1. Boat surveys
 - On the Hook of Holland route to Harwich by Stena line ferries on the North Sea.
 - On the Oosterschelde for the annual porpoise scans.
2. Use of C-pods (data collecting hydrophones placed in the Oosterschelde estuary);
3. Use of land sightings;
4. Use of other additional data (gained by others).

Communication

For the information of the Dutch (and English) public the following communication means are issued or conducted by Rugvin

1. The issue of brochures and leaflets;
2. The presence of a web site;
3. Conducting lectures at schools, clubs or for groups on a boat.
4. Giving presentation at the annual European Cetacean Society congresses.
5. The issue of an annual report
6. Making press releases for media purposes, inviting journalists on board etc.
7. Sharing data with other organisations
8. Being present at meetings concerning cetaceans in the Netherlands or Europe (ECS and ARC)

Frank Zanderink / Chairman
December 2011