

AQUACULTURE WITHOUT FRONTIERS (UK)

Chairman's Report Annual General Meeting, 26 November 2006

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for presentation at the second AGM of the UK charity Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF) and contains a brief summary of our activities since our previous AGM held on 26 November 2005.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The office of the charity remains in Marlow.

Lorrae Hayes resigned as a Trustee and Secretary and Sophie Emma Louise Varley became a Trustee during the year.

The Charity Trustees are currently as follows:

- Geoff Allan (Australia)
- John Cooksey (USA)
- Michael New (UK)
- William Northcroft (UK)
- Sophie Emma Louise Varley (UK)

Our second report to the Charity Commission and our second annual return to the Companies Register were submitted by Michael New on schedule.

Confirmation on the exempt status of AwF has been received from HM Customs and Revenue. Reimbursement for tax paid by UK donors up to the end of FY 2005-2006 has been claimed and received (see below).

An agreement with Acuicultura sin Fronteras (Spain) has been signed. Discussions are taking place about an agreement with AwF México.

MEETINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

A meeting of the trustees was held, at no cost to AwF, during a meeting of the World Aquaculture Society and the European Aquaculture Society in Firenze on 10 May 2006 (Present: Allan, Cooksey, New, Northcroft, Varley).

FINANCIAL & FUND RAISING

The financial report for the year ending 31 May 2006 has been distributed to the members. This section provides some additional explanatory information.

Income

Donations have continued to come mainly from trustees and their families, from friends and colleagues in the aquaculture industry and from local fund-raising activities.

The European Aquaculture Society (EAS) gave AwF a second grant of €3,000 in 2005-6, earmarked for supporting European student involvement in field activities. €1,100 of this grant is held in an EAS Euro account in Belgium.

A large pharmaceutical supplier to the aquaculture industry has pledged €1,500 to AwF (one of four beneficiaries) in lieu of sending Christmas cards in 2006. Next year, some income is anticipated from an AwF agreement with a company selling charity Christmas cards.

Local fund raising activities in Marlow, organised by an AwF (UK) trustee, raised nearly £5,600 during the summer of 2006. An art exposition in France, organised by an AwF Foundation Member, brought in over £500. Between 1 January and 16 October 2006 AwF Board Members and an AwF Foundation member contributed nearly £1,700. Nearly £1,320 was received from HM Revenue & Customs, being a refund of the tax paid on donations by UK tax payers to AwF during the period from inception until the end of May 2006.

Various appeals to philanthropic organisations and individuals have not yet produced any financial support; competition for such funds is severe.

Expenditure

So far, expenditure has been limited to project expenditure and grants, company registrations, bank charges and website establishment and maintenance costs. No expenses have been paid to any of the AwF trustees, who have continued to donate the use of their time and facilities.

Details of project expenditure are summarized in the field activities section of this report.

PATRONS & SPONSORS

No developments within the year.

WEB SITE

News items continue to be posted on the AwF website (www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org).

The number of daily visitors is very variable; the highest number since 26 November 2005 has been 76 (last year = 55) and the highest number of daily page views has been 224 (last year = 147). Table 1 is a copy of the record for the week 9-15 October 2006.

The establishment of our website has inevitably brought enquiries about aquaculture technology, statistics, student funding, etc. (AwF continues to come out top of the list if anyone googles 'aquaculture charity'). AwF is maintaining an 'aquaculture information' page on the web, which gives links to sources of information, including WAS, EAS, FAO, various magazines and journals, etc. There is also a direct link from our home page to the websites of the World Aquaculture Society, European Aquaculture Society, National Shellfisheries Association (USA) and the Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

AwF (UK) assistance has been provided to activities in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Kenya, India, Peru and Thailand. In addition, our affiliate, AwF (USA) has been involved in tsunami relief work in Indonesia. Details of our current activities appear on the project pages and the news section of our website; they are summarised in Table 2.

Further activities are being discussed for Bangladesh, Brazil and Côte d'Ivoire.

PUBLICITY

No new developments.

AwF VOLUNTEERS

The database has now expanded to over 130, plus 18 student volunteers.

CONCLUSIONS

The wish of others to form an 'AwF' in their home countries, the increasing numbers of potential volunteers, and the interest in establishing AwF projects continue to indicate that:

- the concept behind the formation of AwF was sound;
- there is a real need for the assistance that we can provide; and
- scientists and others in the aquaculture sector are keen to provide their experience on a voluntary basis, both in the field and through communications.

However, while the aquaculture sector seems morally supportive, financial commitments have been limited and we have failed to attract funding from philanthropic organisations and individuals. In addition, though it has been demonstrated that local fund raising activities (e.g. sponsored dragon boat racing and a street party in England, an art exhibition in France, and a student-run booth at a WAS conference), publicity about these events on our website has failed to provoke other friends of AwF to organise similar events in their home countries.

AwF activities are being undertaken in several countries through the provision of technical advice from AwF Volunteers, either in the field or electronically, and through grants for joint projects with other NGOs.

To date, our attempts to raise enough money to establish a home office have failed, despite the help of John Forster. Unless this situation changes it will be impossible to scale up our activities. Issues of sustainability and succession were discussed during the last board meeting in Firenze but have yet to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted, 16 October 2006,

Michael New
Chairman
Aquaculture without Frontiers

Table 1. Use of the AwF website in the week 9-15 October 2006

2006	Views	Visitors
9 October	159	58
10 October	137	60
11 October	96	37
12 October	144	46
13 October	122	54
14 October	107	39
15 October	97	42

Table 2. Summary of field activities from inception to 16 October 2006

TYPE	PLACE	BRIEF NAME	COST	STATUS
*	India	Bishramganj- India	£2,053 for first phase; US\$5,000 for second phase	One-year project completed; second phase, which increased beneficiaries to 50 families on-going; reports indicate that the work is on target. Work under supervision of AwF Volunteer. Funds for first phase provided by AwF (UK); funds for second phase provided by AwF (USA)****
**	Indonesia	Tambak rehabilitation****	US\$18,818	Completed; informal reports on website. Enabled by grant from YSI/WAS.
**	Indonesia	Hatchery rehabilitation ****	US\$14,994	Reconstruction of three hatcheries completed; hatcheries now operational. Enabled by grant from YSI/WAS.
**	Indonesia	Seaweed culture****	US\$16,000	Grant was received in Aceh. Work was expected to commence November 2005 but confirmation not yet received. Enabled by grant from YSI/WAS.
**	Indonesia	Professional International****	US\$400	Technical advice provided initially by AwF Volunteer site visit and electronic communications with AwF Volunteers. Additionally, supplies of equipment and literature have been sent by an AwF (USA) Director, with financial support from the University of Arizona.
**	Indonesia	MercyCorps	nil	Technical advice provided by AwF Volunteer
**	Indonesia	Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture****	US\$25,000	Enabled by grant from YSI/WAS.
*	Peru	Proindes Peru	nil	Technical advice being provided by AwF Volunteer
*	Colombia	Coobiomar	nil	Technical advice provided by AwF Volunteer
***	Bangladesh	Caritas	nil	AwF Volunteer participated in evaluation of Caritas Bangladesh fishery programme and donated his fee towards a small future AwF-Caritas project there (see below).
*	Bangladesh	VOSD	£1,427	Joint project designed to sponsor the cage culture of monosex tilapia in a group of 35 female rural farmers.
*	Bangladesh	Caritas	Tk60,000 (~£485)	Pond renovation and inputs in joint project designed to upgrade existing facilities and train 14 women farmers in mixed carp culture in ponds. Enabled by gift from AwF Volunteer (see above).
*	India	Marine shrimp farming	£577	Tsunami relief to 28 shrimp farmers in Kerala that lost facilities in the tsunami. Funds provided by WAS LACC grant. Organized by Kerala Agricultural University.
*	Peru	Inaderu	nil	Technical advice being provided by AwF Volunteer
*	Kenya	Aquaculture potential	€1,900	Survey by team including AwF Student

		in Lake Naivasha area		Volunteer, which recommended the provision of a small hatchery. AwF contribution funded by EAS grant; co-funded by NUTRECO; work under supervision of Wageningen University.
*	Thailand	WorldVision	[sterling equivalent of approx US\$12,000 reserved]	Extension of earlier World Vision work in NE Thailand to new locations. Includes training in aquaculture nutrition and feeding. Coordinated by AwF Director. No funds transferred yet.
*	Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso Trust	nil	AwF Volunteers providing technical assistance

* Small-scale aquaculture

** Tsunami relief

*** Other

**** Activity of AwF (USA) - not controlled by AwF (UK)