

The Field Development Committee

Draft proposal 4¹

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A. Introduction

During the 2012 International Conference the question was raised if the “Capacity Development Fund” (CDF) is bound to the “Chapters” in a way which excludes “SIG”. In the aftermath, a task group formed by David Ford (President of the ISDS) and Martin Schaffernicht (VP Chapters, aided by AVP Ozge Pala) developed a “Evolving the Capacity Development Fund” proposal which was discussed during the 2013 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council.

The present document proposes the creation of a “Field Development Committee” (FDC) in charge of designing, developing and overseeing initiatives to foster the development of the field in a global perspective.

B. Background

The Capacity Development Fund (CDF) has the purpose to support Chapters in efforts to strengthen their capacity, excluding dissemination activities and excluding subgroups which are not Chapters of the ISDS. The fund is \$20,000 and applicants can apply for portions of it, but have to demonstrate that the proposed activity will be only partly financed by the fund.

Since its creation, this Fund has been used only once, by the Brazilian Chapter. Other Chapters have made initial proposals (Italy, India, Russia) oriented towards dissemination activities, thus implicitly indicating that in their current stadium, they do not need *this* fund.

After questions and inquiries concerning the possibility to admit SIGs and other groups during the 2012 International Conference, the Strengthening the Field Committee (President and VP Chapters) developed a proposal called “Evolving the Capacity Development Fund”, proposing to admit such groups and enlarging the types of activities beyond the workshop format.

During the 2013 PC Winter Meeting, several topics surfaced:

- a) It is not clear if we should increase our efforts to make Chapters use the Fund in its current form or widen its scope as suggested in the “Strengthening the Field” proposal.
- b) It is not clear if the focus on on-site workshops should not be reviewed in sights of other possibilities with higher leverage potential (mainly using the Internet).
- c) It is not clear if in such a perspective, the amount of \$20,000 is sufficient.
- d) It is not clear how the Society plans to have a sufficient stock of SD-beginners to whom to propose capacity development, and if dissemination should also become a subject of our attention.

Under these circumstances, it was deemed premature to discuss and decide on the “Evolving the Capacity Development Fund” proposal initially submitted for discussion and decision; the CDF should remain in its current form.

¹ Thanks to Kim Warren, David Ford, Bob Eberlein and Brad Morrison for their helpful discussion of the previous draft.

Instead, a “Field Development Committee” consisting of VP Member Services, VP Chapters, VP Meetings and VP Finance should be constituted and charged with the design, development and oversight of instruments targeted to foster the development of the field in a global perspective.

The FDC should then work with the interested groups (like Chapters and SIGs) to explore and evaluate strong initiatives, which do not exclude activities and materials aiming at dissemination. The FDC shall elaborate a proposal on “Field Development” – aligned with the strategy initiative – for the PC Summer Meeting in July 2013.

C. The motion

Resolved, that the ad-hoc Field Development Committee formed by the Vice President Chapter Activities and consisting of Martin Schaffernicht, David F. Andersen, Leonard Malczynski and Étienne A.J.A. Rouwette, be empowered to determine the disposition of the 2013 budget item labeled “Chapter Dev (\$20K Max)” of \$16,000 during the remainder of 2013.

Further resolved to ask this committee to report at the Summer 2013 PC Meeting suggesting guidelines and procedures that may be warranted to continue to provide Society funds in support of activities of Chapters and SIGs.