

The future of IBOC

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Should IBOC have an organizational structure?

- Structure should be left to evolve as needed
- Most felt that at least for now, structure should be loose, flexible, lean, friendly
- Advantages of more formalized structure:
 - More services could be offered
 - Might attract some funding (e.g. for website development)
 - Should allow for more strategic planning
 - Should lead to greater visibility and impact

Ideas for IBOC website

- Highest priority (within next year)
 - Build directory of world's bird observatories and stations, with links to their websites and contact information
 - Compile a directory of opportunities for students, interns, visiting biologists
 - Post IBOC II presentations
 - Post edited results of IBOC II breakout sessions as a resource for observatories
 - Continue to serve as a portal for exchange of information among observatories
 - Remain unique – focus on services unavailable elsewhere

Action Item: Create a communication platform for bird observatories that includes a listserv and a space to share curricula, training materials, fundraising ideas, etc.

- Suggestions for future development
 - Allow website users to sign up for automatic notice when new content has been added.
 - Post resources and ideas for new/smaller observatories to get started
 - Identify priorities for location of new observatories
 - Photos
 - Volunteer resources
 - Build a searchable database with metadata on each observatory (location, type of data available for sharing, time span covered, summary of data collection protocol, species represented) that would facilitate data sharing, analysis and research collaborations. Also include information of facilities and opportunities available through each observatory (accommodation or lab space, internships, exchange opportunities).
 - Provide information on research grants and other funding opportunities Share manuals, protocols, methods, best practices, training materials, etc.
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 - Share education and outreach materials
 - Create an IBOC story/video regarding why connection is important, around the world, different faces with different birds and habitats; story about people.

Other ideas for IBOC activities

- Support establishment of new bird observatories in regions with major gaps
- Focus on global projects/initiatives
- Hold coordinated events other than meetings (e.g. host a global outreach day)
- Set up IBOC info table and/or display at other bird conferences
- Identify researchers willing to offer advice on scientific publishing to observatories that want it, and/or to review manuscripts prior to submission
- Raise funds for bringing delegates to future conferences, scholarships for observatory exchanges, etc.
- Develop a toolkit for future conference organizers

Future IBOC meetings

- Meet every 3 years or so, in a new place
- Considerations in choosing a location
 - Need to attract smaller observatories and those in planning stages
 - Expense of travel
 - Visa difficulties (such as barriers to travel to USA)
- Focus on attracting representatives from portions of the world missing from previous meetings. Seek funding to help with travel?
- Major themes at IBOC II (listed below) could be continued
 - Outreach and engagement of local communities
 - Education
 - Global/local conservation themes
 - Science and monitoring
- Other suggestions for sessions or workshops
 - Allow more time for brainstorming, both on research and non-research topics.
 - How do we best support the “little guys”?
 - How to extent global reach?
 - Cooperative studies among bird observatories. Perhaps gather ideas ahead of time so planning can take place at meeting
 - Themed sessions (e.g. tracking technology results, analysis methods, focus on taxonomic groups such as shorebirds or woodpeckers)
- Consider webcasting IBOC sessions