

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Names and Objectives

1. The name of the group shall be the INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS, hereinafter referred to as the International Chapter. The SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS in general will be referred to as SWS. Currently, the International Chapter represents members of SWS from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and other regions with no specific chapters.

2. The SWS Business Management team shall transmit all relevant International Chapter information and communications to the Chapter Chair(s), as necessary. The current International Chapter Co-Chairs are: Dr Tatiana Lobato de Magalhães, Email: tatilobato@gmail.com (Latin America and the Caribbean); and Dr Alanna Rebelo, Email: RebeloA@arc.agric.za (Africa).

3. The objectives of the International Chapter are as follows:

- i. Establish new SWS Chapters outside of the United States and Canada. The International Chapter's intent is to dissolve pursuant to Article VII, as soon as SWS Chapters are formed in several regions of the world and an International Chapter is no longer deemed necessary by the SWS Board of Directors.
- ii.
- iii. Promote formal partnerships between SWS and other wetland organizations to promote international coordination and collaboration.
- iv.
- v. Operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization to foster conservation and understanding of wetlands.
- vi.
- vii. Advance public education and enlightenment concerning wetland resources.
- viii.
- ix. Provide an independent forum for an interchange of ideas and data developed within wetland science.
- x.
- xi. Develop and encourage wetland science as a distinct discipline by supporting student education, curriculum development, and research.
- xii.

xiii. Encourage and evaluate the educational, scientific, and technological development and advancement of all branches of wetland science and practice.

xiv.

xv. Encourage the knowledgeable management of wetland resources.

4. For the administration of the affairs and the attainment of its objectives, the International Chapter shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful activities that may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable, or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of any or all of the objectives for which the International Chapter is organized, and to aid and assist other organizations whose objectives are such as to further accomplish, foster, or attain any of such objectives.

5. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the International Chapter shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity that would: (1) prevent SWS from obtaining exemption from Federal income taxation as a corporation as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and its regulations as the same now exist or as they may hereafter be amended from time to time, or (2) cause it to lose such exempt status.

ARTICLE II Membership

1. International Chapter membership is possible regardless of the geographical location of the member. Membership in the International Chapter will be the same as for SWS, as described by the SWS Bylaws, Article II (1).

2. As used in the Bylaws and Standing Rules, the term "member in good standing" means a member whose dues are paid.

ARTICLE III Officers

1. The Officers of the International Chapter shall be one Chapter Chair or two Co-Chairs that are representing different geographic locations within the International Chapter (e.g. currently, the Chairs represent South America and Africa). In the event those entities establish separate regional Chapters, new Chairs of the International Chapter will be elected. The International Chapter Chair(s) shall serve a 3-year term, which can be renewed upon re-election. If there are two Chairs, their elections should, ideally, be staggered. The term begins and ends at the Annual Meeting of SWS.

2. Each Chapter Chair may appoint a Secretary, Treasurer and other committee members as required (for each Chair) to help in conducting the business of the International Chapter.
3. The Board of Directors for the International Chapter shall consist of the Chair(s) and the Secretary/Treasurer(s) who is authorized to conduct business and hold meetings at its discretion. All members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing.

ARTICLE IV

Adoption of Standing Rules

1. The Board of Directors of the International Chapter is authorized to adopt and amend Standing Rules necessary to conduct business of the Chapter.
2. The Standing Rules must include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Matters pertaining to International Chapter finances.
 - b. Prescribed duties of the Chapter officers.

ARTICLE V

Amendment of Bylaws

1. Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the International Chapter members who vote on the amendment. Voting may be conducted via electronic mail, phone, fax, postal mail, or any other effective and suitable means of communication. Proposals for amendments may be generated in the following ways:
 - a. Recommendation by the International Chapter Board of Directors, or
 - b. Petitions signed by not fewer than ten International Chapter members in good standing and presented to the Chair(s) of the International Chapter.

ARTICLE VI

Society Representation

1. Members of the International Chapter will not represent the International Chapter without the prior approval of the Officers.

ARTICLE VII

Dissolution of the International Chapter

1. Pursuant to the SWS Bylaws Article VII, the International Chapter can be dissolved by two-thirds vote of the SWS membership at any annual meeting upon the recommendation of the SWS Board of Directors.

**INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER
STANDING RULES**

Section 1. Duties of the Chair(s)

The Chair(s) of the International Chapter shall be responsible for:

- a. Conducting the business of the International Chapter;
- b. Serving as a voting member of the SWS Board of Directors;
- c. Making appointments authorized in the Standing Rules;
- d. Establishing special committees required for the business of the Chapter, and appointing Chairs of these special committees when necessary;
- e. Preparing and mailing correspondence to pursue attainment of International Chapter objectives;
- f. Preparing and disseminating information pertinent to International Chapter members;
- g. Ensuring that bylaws and standing rules are accurately maintained and updated;
- h. Managing the financial resources of the International Chapter; and
- i. Engaging in other activities to advance the objectives of the International Chapter.

Section 2. Duties of the Secretary (if so appointed)

- a. Preparing and distributing minutes of International Chapter Board Meetings;
- b. Ensuring that International Chapter bylaws and standing rules are accurately maintained and updated;
- c. If there is no Treasurer, then taking on the roles of the Treasurer, and
- d.
- e. Engaging in other activities to advance the objectives of the International Chapter.

Section 3. Duties of the Treasurer (if so appointed)

- a. Administering the financial resources of the International Chapter;
- b. Paying International Chapter bills as authorized by the Chapter Chairs and communicating with the SWS Business Office concerning Chapter finances and budgets; and
- c. Engaging in other activities to advance the objectives of the International Chapter.

Section 4. Salaries and Expenses

- a. International Chapter members and Officers shall not receive any salary or clerical or other expenses unless approved by the Chairs in advance.
- b. Travel expenses for Chapter Chair(s), or their designee(s) to attend SWS meetings, and regional or international meetings to promote the SWS, in the absence of a Treasurer, may be authorized by a majority vote of the members of the International Chapter who vote on the authorization.

Section 5 Dues and Fees

- a. The International Chapter will not assess any dues and fees in addition to those assessed by SWS.

Section 6. Special Committees

Special Committees are appointed to assist the Chair(s) with developing information, services, or programs. The Committee(s) shall report to the Officers and the membership, as directed by the Officers. Special Committees, composed of International Chapter members in good standing, shall be appointed by the Chair(s) in consultation with the Officers at any time for a period of 3 calendar years from the date of appointment unless reauthorized by the Officers.

Section 7: Chapter Boundaries

Pursuant to the SWS Standing Rules Section 14, the International Chapter boundaries are all countries exclusive of those represented by other existing regional chapters. However, following the SWS Standing Rules Section 14, SWS members residing in geographical areas outside that of the International Chapter, but with professional interests in the geographical area covered by the International Chapter, can also elect to be part of the International Chapter.

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