



# International Firefly Symposium

April 24-28, 2017 | Taipei, Taiwan

## General Meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Fireflyers International Network (FIN)

Taipei Zoo International Conference Hall, April 26, 2-4 pm



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# Agenda

## **General Meeting of the Fireflyers International Network (FIN)**

Taipei Zoo International Conference Hall, April 26, 2-4 pm

*Open to all!*

### **1. Organizational**

- a. Past: A brief history of FIN (ppt attached)
- b. Present: 2014 Minutes (handout), current status
- c. Future: proposal to establish a FIN Steering Committee (handout)

### **2. Outreach**

- a. FaceBook (Fireflyers International)
- b. Need for FIN website
  - many taxon-specific models (eg. Coleopterist Society or PlantLife)
  - need volunteers, possible subcommittee to decide content
  - need webmaster, web hosting service or organization

### **3. Conservation Action**

- a. Selangor Declaration last updated 2014 (including addition of ban on commercial harvesting of fireflies)
- b. FIN exchange of correspondence with Chinese Minister of the Environment (ppt)
- c. Proposal to start IUCN Firefly Specialist Group with regional representatives (handout)
  - Purpose: define population risk categories (e.g. range size, population abundance, habitat specificity, tourism pressure), identify key firefly sires currently at risk
- d. Proposal to designate a date for World Firefly Day to promote firefly awareness & need for conservation.

### **4. Open Discussion**

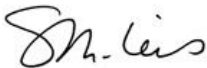

- a. Comments, questions, general discussion

# Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> Fireflyer International Network Meeting

Taipeh Zoo International Conference Hall @ 2.30-3.40pm, 26 April 2017

No.	Agenda	Discussions	Follow up/ Action
1	Opening remarks by the Fireflyer International Network Chair, Sara Lewis	Acknowledged the organisers of the Firefly Symposium. She mentioned how she was asked by Sonny Wong (secretary) to help chair this meeting after Raphael DeCock retired from the post. She was part of the Small Team which work on a background on these meetings since 2014. She introduced the Fireflyer International Network and the word Fireflyer, went through the agenda and got Raphael to talk about the history of the firefly meetings.	
3	Brief history of FIN	Raphael introduced himself as a firefly researcher/ musician and how he was contacted by Portugal to have a European glow-worm meeting. For the larger international set-up the first and main goal was to discuss about research and other topics about fireflies and glow-worms in sort of workshops and come to sharing knowledge or even (future) collaborations. Plans about continuation of Symposia + network meetings arose during IFS2008 Thailand firefly meet, which led on to a larger international participation of about 35-40 international participants. There was no formal structure of the network. He continued about the 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> firefly meeting.	
4	Archivist	Sara introduced her sister, Karen Lewis, an archivist. Institutional memory is important. FIN's contribution to science, our goals, mission and activities should become part of the archives. Basically a compilation of digital records, actual letters etc. Lynn Faust will contribute her photo archives of previous meetings.  Note by Raphael: Reference on history and photos + presentation during IFS2017: <a href="http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/firefly/history.html">http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/firefly/history.html</a> history and an overview till Malaysia: <a href="http://fireflies.sitefun.be/">http://fireflies.sitefun.be/</a>	Contribution of photos, letters, etc by FIN members
5	Past minutes approval	Unanimous approval of the 4 <sup>th</sup> firefly meeting minutes by the participants.	
6	Organisational-Steering Committee members	Sara explained FIN is currently a loose network of members (about 210 emails) which needs a steering committee to bring the group forward. We need people willing to share their time and knowledge. The preference will be a representative from 6 regions. The TOR was explained (as attached). Nominations are open and voting will be done online. The forms are attached.	Everyone; end of June Voting online on 10-15 July 2017
		Sarah Lower: suggested of keeping half the committee each term for continuity. And encourage younger members to be on the steering committee. Sonny: the past chair and/or secretary can sit in as advisor for continuity.	
7	Outreach-Facebook page	Sara updated on the Fireflyers International facebook page which has 170+ members to date. It is a good platform to share information (ex. Chiahsiung Wu's updates on 2017IFS) but there are many members not on fB.	
8	Website	Sara mentioned that this is where the FIN website comes into play. We need a small team to develop the website, verify articles and administer. Forms attached.	Everyone; end of June; voting online on 10-15 July
		Oliver Keller: can have a list of expertise listed Sarah Lower: suggested that the webmaster can be part of the Steering Committee Avalon Owens: volunteered to be the webmaster; and mentioned adding e forms and include old minutes in the website.	

		Sara: Website could include pdfs of meeting presentations, as Marc Branham solicited following the 2014 Symposium. Avalon Owens: USD150 pa- splitting the cost Sara: Sonny mentioned that MNS can help host....	
9	<b>FIN Logo</b>	A logo is needed for the website. Please send your design and be voted online, forms attached below.	Everyone; end of June; voting online on 10-15 July:
		Raphael DeCock: should we adopt one of the past symposium logos?	
10	<b>Conservation action- Small team</b>	Sara introduced the Small Team (Raphael, Sara, Lynn Faust, Yui Vor, Sonny). Past 3 years' activities include the revision of the Selangor Declaration, set up fB page, sent letter to the Chinese Minister of Environment advising to stop the collecting of wild fireflies and the kind reply from the Minister acknowledging the situation and are looking into it. FIN will follow up with a letter this year.	
		Ping Lei: mentioned best to send follow-up letter soon, as peak season for firefly collection is April-Oct. Between Nov-March the sale of Chinese winter fireflies is through the internet in small portions (small fireflies and low in population). These are from Yunnan especially. Larry: broaden activity .... we should be able to help by figuring out how to rear fireflies as a substitute Raphael: Yes, we mentioned in letter about rearing and farming Sara: If we want, FIN could become more active in conservation & education planning activities. Ping Lei: Rearing would help protect local populations Sara: website could include contact information for firefly rearing experts Ling Yang: suggest to contact Xinhua Fu Sara: Yes, Fu did see & approve our letter, he is actively working to prevent harvesting wild fireflies in China Lynn: FIN website could include links to Taiwan's successful habitat restoration for interested parties	
	<b>World Firefly Day</b>	Sonny explained why we need to have a dedicated day for public awareness and action on firefly conservation. Dates can be submitted with a reason on why you choose the date and submit for on line voting (form attached). The celebration can be individual or group activities and can be celebrated preferably on that day or any day in the year. Pictures and write-ups can be submitted online to either the fB or website.	Everyone; end of June; voting online on 10-15 July
		Raphael: This will help because fireflies are a flagship species for conservation, as they are important for other people, artists, etc. Joann Chang: Maybe check available dates first?	
	<b>IUCN Firefly Specialist Group</b>	Sara explained the need for a firefly specialist group within IUCN. Xerces Society, a US invertebrate conservation organization (mainly insects) contacted Sara inquiring about firefly conservation efforts and to explore if FIN members might help to assess conservation status of fireflies in different regions. If you're interested in joining the IUCN Firefly Specialist Group, email with your expertise. Forms are below. It will be mainly online meetings.	Everyone;
11	<b>Any Other Matters</b>	None. Thanking the organiser and passed mike to Wu.	
12	<b>Next Venue</b>	Raphael represented the Portuguese and presented their proposal for the next venue and asked for a vote. He also mentioned that there is a need to ask other countries like South America, etc Lynn: Reminded that we've previously decided the meetings should rotate among different regions to make it easier for participants to attend. (So far 3 of the meetings have been held in Asia, one in Europe and one in North America region).	Everyone, end of June; voting online on 10-15 July:

		<p>Rotating locations will especially benefit younger FIN members.</p> <p>Vor: So that Portugal can prepare, we should take a preliminary vote, even if we do final web-voting.</p> <p>Sara: OK, take a straw vote: Results = majority in favour of Portugal as the next venue for 2020, no abstentions or objections. <b>A preliminary vote was done by the floor.</b></p> <p>Sara: <b>Let's keep this open until end of June 2017 in case there are any other bidders</b> (form attached).</p> <p><b><i>Secretariat: Request for any additional venue suggestions will be sent to everyone in the FIN email list. The 2020 venue is still open for South and Central America, Africa and Australia-Pacific regions, these regions should get preference if there are any bidders.</i></b></p>	
<p>Dated: 5 May 2017</p> <p></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Sara Lewis FIN Chairman</p> <p></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Wong Choong-Hay FIN Secretary</p>			

## A Proposal to Create a Steering Committee for Fireflyers International Network

*The first international Firefly Meeting was held in 2007, and brought together many people from around the world who have an interest in fireflies, including scientists, educators, naturalists, and artists. From this beginning, the Fireflyers International Network (FIN) has evolved into an informal group that aims to foster collaborative research and conservation efforts by building local, regional and global networks to share firefly-related knowledge. To facilitate communication both within and beyond FIN and to coordinate key activities, we now recommend establishing a Steering Committee.*

### **Steering Committee Responsibilities**

We envision the Steering Committee's responsibilities will include:

- i. To articulate FIN's mission, vision and goals.
- ii. To oversee and coordinate FIN activities such as developing a FIN website, preparing educational materials, listing key firefly conservation areas.
- iii. To periodically revisit and update the Selangor Declaration on the Conservation of Fireflies.
- iv. To serve as initial FIN contacts for media, NGO, and government inquiries, and to provide referrals to relevant experts.
- v. To report back about their activities through a periodic newsletter (suggested 6 monthly) and at the FIN General Meeting that will be held during each International Firefly Symposium.
- vi. To provide input and assistance, if desired, to local organizing committees prior to each International Firefly Symposium.

### **Steering Committee Membership**

We seek nominations of people willing to serve 3-year terms on the FIN Steering Committee, in the following positions: a chairperson, a secretary and 5-6 committee representatives from different geographic regions (e.g. Asia, Australia-Pacific, Europe, Central & South America, North America, Africa). The Steering Committee will conduct business by email or e-meetings convened periodically by mutual agreement. Minutes of each meeting will be taken by the Secretary, co-signed by the Chair, and distributed via email to FIN members. For continuity, the chairman and/or secretary from the previous term may continue in an ex officio advisory role.

*If approved, nominations for the Steering Committee will be solicited immediately, with elections to take place electronically following the IFS.*

**Appendix:** The Selangor Declaration (written 2010, revised 2014)

# The Selangor Declaration. Conservation of Fireflies

*From the **Proceedings of the Second International Firefly Symposium, Selangor, Malaysia 2010***

*Participants from 13 countries met at the Second International Firefly Symposium in Selangor, Malaysia from 2nd to 5th August 2010. They included experts in the fields of taxonomy, genetics, biology, behaviour, ecology and conservation of fireflies as well as members of government agencies, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, corporations and the public. The theme of the symposium was 'Firefly Conservation: From Science to Practice.' The following declaration was made in conjunction with the symposium at the Third International Firefly Research Network Meeting on 5th August 2010 and updated by the same body **on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014.***

THE ABILITY OF FIREFLIES to produce light has inspired wonder and benefited mankind through biomedical research, yet little is known of the diversity of fireflies in many regions of the world because firefly research has not been sufficiently emphasised or adequately funded. As a result, in-depth research has focused on a limited number of species. At the same time, firefly populations are declining across the world, and there is an urgent need for conservation of their habitats. This reflects a decline in the health of the environment and a global trend of increasing biodiversity loss. Governments, local authorities and government agencies need to take measures to preserve the habitats of fireflies and support research, which ultimately provides valuable information to aid in conservation. Protection of the habitats of fireflies contributes to the conservation of many other species of wildlife and a better quality of life for human beings. Fireflies have the potential to be used in education to enhance environmental and conservation awareness. Fireflies have also in recent years become ecotourism icons. Ecotourism needs to be managed sustainably with good, ecologically sound guidelines. Local communities should be involved in the ecotourism industry, be beneficiaries of its economic returns and be involved in conservation.

We, the participants of the Second International Firefly Symposium and Third International Firefly Research Network Meeting recognise and advocate that:

- 1.0 Fireflies are a part of our biodiversity heritage and are iconic insects that have been the subject of much investigation in the sciences, an inspiration in the arts and a part of local cultures, folklores and traditions because of their ability to produce light. This ability has also enabled their genes and enzymes to be used in biomedical research for the benefit of mankind.
- 1.1 The world's firefly diversity is still poorly understood, and studies on their physiology and behaviour have focused on only a small number of species. Taxonomic research on fireflies has been poorly funded and given insufficient priority, but is greatly needed since it forms the basis for our understanding of their diversity and is crucial for the development of other aspects of firefly research.
- 1.2 Fireflies have been a source of ecotourism revenue for many communities in different parts of the world and have the potential to bring similar benefits to other local communities. Fireflies and their natural habitats also enhance quality of life and contribute to economies through the promotion of aesthetically pleasing landscapes that have greater appeal.
- 1.3 Fireflies are bio-indicators of the health of the environment and are declining across the world as a result of degradation and loss of suitable habitat, pollution of river and water systems, increased use of pesticides in agro-ecosystems, non-regulated commercial harvesting and increased ecological light pollution in areas of human habitation. The decline of fireflies is a cause for concern and reflects the global trend of increasing biodiversity loss.
- 1.4 Intervention is greatly needed from governments to provide guidelines for preserving existing habitats and restoring degraded habitats for the conservation of fireflies.
- 1.5 The habitats of fireflies are a refuge for many forms of wildlife including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and numerous species of invertebrates and flora. Recognizing that habitat conservation and/or restoration is a long-term commitment, we believe this to be a worthwhile goal with the potential to conserve a wide range of flora and fauna.

- 2.0 We urge governments, local authorities and government agencies worldwide to take decisive and concrete action at the regional, national and local level to:
  - 2.1 First and foremost, protect the habitats of fireflies so as to preserve these iconic creatures and other fauna and flora for the enjoyment of future generations.
  - 2.2 Undertake rehabilitation of degraded firefly habitats to enable gradual recovery of populations.
  - 2.3 Develop management plans for firefly ecotourism sites that enable them to be managed sustainably and in a manner that is ecologically sound.
  - 2.4 Promote the involvement of local communities in firefly ecotourism and ensure they are beneficiaries of the economic returns.
  - 2.5 Ensure local communities are equipped with knowledge of the habitats, life cycle and ecology of fireflies and are fully involved in conservation efforts.
  - 2.6 Develop guidelines prohibiting commercial harvesting of wild fireflies for biochemical extraction, as synthetic alternatives are now widely available. Similarly, harvesting of wild fireflies for public or private entertainment, hobby trade or social functions should be discouraged.
  - 2.7 Protect the genetic integrity of current firefly populations by discouraging/prohibiting release of non-native or captive-bred fireflies outside their natural range.
  - 2.8 To recognize that pesticides uses and release of biochemical controls in agricultural, urban or residential areas may impact firefly larval or adult, locally, regionally or in nearby ecologically sensitive habitats.
  - 2.9 Promote environmental education about firefly conservation in schools, and create awareness among the public on the natural history and conservation of fireflies.
- 3.0 We strongly recommend that governments, local authorities, agencies and corporations support the allocation of human and financial resources for:
  - 3.1 Inventory and documentation of firefly species in highly diverse, under-researched areas such as Asia, Africa and tropical America.
  - 3.2 Taxonomic research on firefly diversity at both the morphological and molecular level, which forms a basis for our understanding of the world's poorly-documented firefly fauna.
  - 3.3 Research on fireflies that provides key information on all aspects of their classification, genetics, biology, ecology, behaviour, physiology, conservation and utilization in biomedical research.
  - 3.4 The development and application of low environmental impact techniques that minimize degradation of firefly habitats together with environmental impact assessment yet enable the development of infrastructure for the benefit of human communities.
  - 3.5 Collaboration and the sharing of research findings among researchers, and communication of research findings to government authorities and agencies to aid the cause of firefly conservation.
  - 3.6 Environmental education on the ecology and conservation of fireflies at the level of schools, local communities and the public, as a tool for inculcating environmental responsibility.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2010, by the participants of the Second International Firefly Symposium and Third International Firefly Research Network Meeting in Subang, Selangor, Malaysia

Revised: 25th day of November, 2014, by the participants of the Third International Firefly Symposium and Fourth International Firefly Research Network Meeting in Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.



# FIN exchange of correspondence with Chinese Minister of the Environment



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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**Date:** 12 October 2016  
**To:** Minister Chen Jining  
Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)  
People's Republic of China  
**From:** International Firefly Scientist Network  
**Re:** PRC Biodiversity Threat from Commercial Overharvesting of Fireflies  
**Via:** Postal service and email

Dear Minister Chen:

We represent an international group of scientists with considerable expertise in the biology and conservation of fireflies, and we write today to urge your Ministry to take action to protect China's rich firefly biodiversity. Recent news [reports](#) show that large numbers of Chinese fireflies are being harvested from wild populations for firefly release events [at theme parks](#) and to be [sold online](#) as romantic gifts during Qixi Festival. As scientists, we believe these current harvest levels to be unsustainable, and likely to cause extinction of certain Chinese firefly species within the next decade. We write to you today because the MEP is charged with the stewardship of China's vast nature resources, including its impressive biological resources.

Fireflies are iconic, light-producing insects that are beloved by people all around the world. Because of their unique life cycle, bioluminescence, and pharmaceutical potential, fireflies also have great scientific value. Out of a total of 2000 species worldwide, the People's Republic of China boasts more than 300 different firefly species. However, [reports](#) indicate that during 2015 more than 10 million fireflies were harvested. Although sellers often claim that such fireflies were raised on "firefly farms", visiting reporters did not find any farms. Instead, they [interviewed and photographed](#) "firefly hunters" who gained income from collecting local fireflies during the breeding season and selling them for about 1 yuan each.

Our concern is that these adult fireflies, once they are collected and removed from their native habitat, cannot successfully reproduce. Firefly adults are short-lived, and any eggs deposited by female fireflies are unlikely to survive due to unsuitability of their destination habitat in theme parks and cities. Ecological modeling [studies](#) suggest that firefly populations are quickly extinguished when such large numbers of breeding adults are harvested. In 2014, the international [Selangor Declaration on the Conservation of Fireflies](#) called for a ban against harvesting fireflies from wild populations for commercial purposes. We recognize that China has been extremely proactive and vocal on issues related to the international Convention on Biological Diversity, including the 1994 China Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and the Law on the Protection of Wildlife, which outlines regulations for eco-environmental protection and conserving the nation's wildlife resources. Based on fireflies' cultural, scientific, and biodiversity significance, we urge you to consider a government regulation prohibiting the commercial harvest of wild fireflies in the People's Republic of China.

Having described the problem, perhaps we may be permitted to take one additional step to suggest some possible solutions. As China's government commences the commendable action of establishing National Parks, perhaps it might consider setting aside nationally protected sanctuary areas for firefly conservation. In recent decades, fireflies have become the focus of a thriving ecological tourism industry in Malaysia, Thailand, Mexico, and the United States. Based on fireflies' romantic significance in Chinese culture, a viable economic alternative for local villagers who now harvest fireflies might be for them to offer romantic sight-seeing tours to view fireflies in their native habitat. In addition, MEP might support research to develop firefly artificial breeding techniques. China has already become a world leader in establishing breeding centers to help save endangered wildlife, including the giant panda, red ibis, and white-flag dolphins. Perhaps firefly breeding centers can be established to discover new methods for mass-rearing those firefly species that have terrestrial (vs. aquatic larvae), which has not yet been done successfully. Lastly, providing education about firefly ecology and conservation at the level of schools, local communities and the public would teach future generations how to protect their shared biological heritage.

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to voice our concerns, and we sincerely hope that you will not be offended by our ideas for possible solutions to the problem. Please feel free to contact any of the undersigned should you wish for additional clarification or consultation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara Lewis, *Professor, Tufts University, Boston MA USA (sara.lewis@tufts.edu)*

Sonny Wong, *Malaysian Nature Society, KL, Malaysia (conservation2@mns.org.my)*

Dr. Raphaël De Cock, *Associate Researcher, University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Lynn Frierson Faust, *Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association, author Fireflies, Glow-worms and Lightning Bugs, USA*

Dr. Dieter Weiss, *Senior Scientist, Friedrich- Schiller- Universität Jena, Germany*

Robin Scagell, *UK Glow Worm Survey, UK*

Dr. Chaweewan Hutacharern, *Former Bureau of CBD COP 12, Bangkok, Thailand*

Peggy Butler, *Secretary, PA Firefly Festival, Inc., USA*

Dr. Albert Matheny, *Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Florida, USA*

Dr. Chia Hsiung, Wu, *Assistant Professor, National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences, Taiwan.*

Dr Giuseppe Camerini, *Entomologist, Italy*

Benji Kessler, *University of California, Berkeley, USA*

Dr. Alan J.A. Stewart, *Senior Lecturer, University of Sussex, UK*



Fireflyers\* International is a network of international firefly researchers and enthusiasts... dedicated to the wonder, conservation and science of fireflies.

\*Fireflyer. firefly + er. n. short for firefly chaser. A person who thinks about fireflies.

## Response from the Minister of Environment

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Dear experts of International Firefly Scientist Network,

We have received your letter on “commercial overharvesting of fireflies”. We appreciate your attention and support to the biodiversity conservation of China. Minister Chen Jining pays high attention to the matter. He required us to organize relevant investigation and study and entrusted me for reply.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to biodiversity conservation. China has earnestly implemented the Law on Protection of Wildlife and developed a series of policies and measures on biodiversity conservation. China has established the National Commission for Biodiversity Conservation, launched China's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030) and strictly fulfilled relevant obligations for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. All regions and departments in China make concerted actions and obtain significant achievements. You may visit the websites of Ministry of Environmental Protection and State Forestry Administration to get more specific information.

Relevant departments have already paid attention to firefly conservation and they have taken some active measures. State Forestry Administration of China called on “Protect fireflies and refuse cruel romance” through microblog. Some local law enforcement teams have investigated the organizers of Firefly Theme Park and punished those who failed to provide relevant certificates such as the License for Domestication and Breeding of Wild Animals, and those who were suspected of illegal purchasing and utilizing of wildlife including fireflies. In addition, the public and environmental NGOs also carried out many activities on rejecting overharvesting and commercial release of fireflies.

In the future, we will cooperate with other departments to carry out basic investigations and monitoring, study and develop protection measures and strengthen the habitat conservation of fireflies. Moreover, we will study and promote the ecological protection mode of “habitat conservation-scientific research-sightseeing-science popularization”, conduct public education activities on protection of fireflies and raise public awareness in this field.

We also welcome continuous attention and support of your network to biodiversity conservation in China as well as your constructive comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Director General of Biodiversity Conservation Office  
Ministry of Environmental Protection  
The People's Republic of China

## Now Seeking Members to form an IUCN Firefly Specialist Group

Fireflies (Coleoptera: Lampyridae) are perhaps the most charismatic among all insects. Admired by human cultures around the globe, ~2000 described species are distributed on every continent save Antarctica. The past few decades have yielded numerous discoveries in firefly taxonomy, life history, habitat requirements, reproduction, and behavior. However, firefly populations now face escalating threats due to habitat loss, artificial night lighting, overharvesting, and ecotourism.

Some FIN members are working to establish an IUCN Firefly Specialist Group to assess these threats. In general, IUCN Specialist Groups consist of a worldwide network of volunteers working together towards the vision of "*A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth.*" Most groups focus on conservation of particular taxa, but fireflies are not currently included in any existing specialist group.

We have already assembled a small team of volunteers:

*Sara Lewis* - Professor of Biology, Tufts University

*Sonny Wong* - Wetlands Programme Manager, Conservation Division, Malaysian Nature Society

*Sarina Jepsen* - Director of Endangered Species & Aquatic Conservation, The Xerces Society

*Avalon Owens* - Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Biology, Tufts University

Now we are looking for others who are willing to help accomplish the following goals by providing their input and regional expertise:

- to describe key conservation issues facing fireflies in different regions
- to identify particular at-risk firefly species and habitats
- to develop and share methods for estimating firefly population abundance
- to develop and share guidelines for ethical firefly ecotourism

## Proposal for a World Firefly Day

Celebrating the firefly may not be new for some countries. There is a need to dedicate a day and encourage every country in the world to celebrate the fireflies as an annual awareness raising highlighting the need for the conservation of fireflies and their habitats.

Days, years and decades are recognized as international observances by the United Nations, and other organizations or government to commemorate a day at a national or international level for various causes.

The FIN propose to dedicate a day as the World Firefly Day as an annual global outreach tool to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the fireflies, their ecological importance of fireflies and the need for action to conserve the fireflies.

FIN will coordinate the events worldwide through the website and facebook. A yearly global campaign theme will be a unity for a common global campaign. Approaches can be online self-download of photos, coordinates of events, with a write up of the events by individuals or organisations. A map will show the events with the write up. Examples of public events such as firefly festivals, education programmes, exhibitions and firefly-watching excursions to celebrate WFD. All these activities can be undertaken at any time on the year because that countries or regions observing the firefly emergence are at different times, but the main day for the international celebrations will be chosen by you. All the individual events can be shared around the world perhaps inspire others to take action too. This can be compiled annually as a report for FIN's outreach activities.

Please take your time to think of a most suitable date for nomination and tell us why you chose that date. All dates received will be voted by the members. The highest vote will be the WFD date.

## Official Form

Please use the word document form as attached and return us by email to: Sara Lewis [watersparks@gmail.com](mailto:watersparks@gmail.com) and Sonny Wong [FINsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:FINsecretary@gmail.com). The closing date is 12 midnight, 30 June 2017 (Malaysian time and date).

Dear FIN,

Name:

Email:

Expertise:

Country:

I would like to: (please mark with an 'x', where appropriate)

(    ) nominate myself or .... (name of person) to be a FIN Steering Committee member.

*Note: Please get the person's agreement first.*

(    ) be in the IUCN Firefly Specialist Group small team  
Your firefly conservation interests or concerns:

*Note: small team members can be scientists, government officials, zoo and museum employees, and anyone else with firefly expertise.*

(    ) be in the FIN Website Development small team

(    ) nominate the                      (date/month) to be the World Firefly Day and  
Please state the reason why:

(    ) submit a FIN logo design

*Note: The creative design should be original, not be a specific firefly species, less "bug" looking, more simplified / stylized version of a firefly. Please attached file 1Mb or more in JPEG format. The winner will receive a special stamped 2010 ifs on the first day cover about Malaysian fireflies.*

(    ) bid for the 2020 Symposium venue ..... (name of venue)

*Note: only for Europe, South and Central America, Africa and Australia-Pacific regions. We wish to rotate among different regions in order to make it easier for participants to attend and benefit younger FIN members, local and regional students. (So far 3 of the 5 symposia have been held in Asia and N. America hosted the previous one).*

*Please join us!*

*Thank you!*

*FIN secretariat*