



## Environmental Commission – EnviCom –

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### Background

The EnviCom is

- Responsible for dealing with both broad and very specific navigation sustainability and environmental risk-related issues of interest to PIANC that cross cut all PIANC areas, partner activities.
- Developing and providing environmental guidance for **sustainable** waterborne transport infrastructure.
- Networking/communicating with international organizations and associations dealing with sustainability, climate change, working with nature and environmental risk issues and sharing of information on navigation and the environment with Countries in Transition.

### Members

34 members from 15 nations (AUS, BE, ESP, FIN, F, GER, IND, IR, JAP, KOR, NL, NOR, PHIL, UK, USA) and 7 partner organizations (CCNR, CEDA, EUDA, IADC, IAPH, INE, Ports Australia). For the first time the Philippines were present by Mr. Reynand Parafina (alternate) and YP Christopher Ornum. Members from Columbia were expected but still could not make it so far. For USA Burton Suedel succeeded Susan Rees, for FIN Olli Holmes replaced Riitta Kajatkari and for Spain Jose Maria Gómez Fuster succeeded Maria Dolores Ortiz Sanchez. On March 5, 2015 EnviCom founder, former EnviCom chair and honorary member Bob Engler (USA) passed away. He was a great colleague, mentor, and friend to many people and his larger than life personality will be missed and remembered. During the conference Dredging 2015 in October in Savannah/USA, where the EnviCom connected its 43rd meeting, worthy tribute was given to Bob Engler by the PIANC USA section and all attendees with Bob's family present.

### Meetings

The EnviCom meetings no. 42 and no. 43 took place in

- **Brussels, Belgium, hosted by PIANC Headquarters, February 3-4, 2015**  
in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Task Group on Climate Change (PTGCC) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- **Savannah, Georgia, USA, hosted by PIANC USA, October 18-19, 2015**  
in connection with the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Task Group on Climate Change on OCT 17, 2015 and the PIANC USA conference Dredging 2015, OCT 19-23 incl. an EnviCom session on OCT 21, 2015.

#### ***Next meetings in 2016:***

- **February 2-3, 2016 in Brussels, Belgium**, hosted by PIANC headquarters, in conjunction with PTGCC (February 1-2, 2016)
- **October 16-17, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, in connection with the IX. PIANC COPEDEC conference, OCT 16-21, 2016.

## Technical recommendations and guidance

EnviCom continued its work in 2015 in the following fields:

### *Dredging:*

- **Working group 157 “Environmental Aspects of Dredging, Port and Waterway construction around coastal plant habitats”.** Chairperson is **Paul Erfteimeijer** (NL), co-chair is **James Matt Jury** (IADC), EnviCom mentor is **Rene Kolman**. There are still a few chapters to be completed, and these are currently being worked on. Unfortunately heavy work commitments (plus economic constraints and travel restrictions) of the chairman have slowed the progress down during this year. Consequently the co-chair Matthew Jury will now compile the rest of the chapters, and edit them into a cohesive first draft. This is targeted for March 2016, with submission of the draft report to EnviCom targeted for June 2016, a year later than formerly expected. In other activities, James Matt Jury gave a presentation on WG157 at the Coast Engineering Conference Asia, held in Singapore in August 2015 and on the conference Dredging 2015 in Savannah, USA on October 21, 2015.
- **Working Group 170 “Dredging Operations and Port Construction around Marine Turtles and Mammals.** The chairman is **Chris McDougall** (UK) and secretary is **Heidi van der Meij** (NL). Mentor from EnviCom is **Rene Kolman**. In its second year the Working Group made good progress with several meetings in subgroups (March 2015 UK for a 2-day working session; May 2015 in Rotterdam incl. the Australian member by telecom). A schedule of next steps has been prepared with the view to completing the document. The first internal review of the report as a whole is planned for summer 2016. A ‘Testing’ of the guidance document in a workshop setting with selected externals is intended later in 2016 and publication around March 2017. First results were presented in the EnviCom session at the conference Dredging 2015 in Savannah, USA on October 21, 2015.
- After the adoption of the revised and updated dredged material management guidelines of the London Convention in 2013 the EnviCom (POC: **Todd Bridges/USA**) together with CEDA observed and supported ongoing the activities of the **Scientific Group of the London Convention (LC) and the OSPAR Convention**. The Scientific Group (SG) of LC met during APR 2015 in London. Cynthia Banks (PIANC USA) is working with the IMO-Secretariat for drawing together and organizing a library of relevant resources on waste covered by the Convention. PIANC reports are information sources that will be exploited. In early January 2016 the EnviCom provides an update on the WwN progress and the related PIANC Awarding to the LS SG. The next meeting of the LC SG in April 2016 is in New Guinea.

### *Ports:*

- **IAPH-PIANC WG 174 “Sustainability reporting for ports”.** **Kris de Craene** (B) is chairman on behalf of IAPH and **Eric de Deckere** (B) secretary. **Tiedo Vellinga** (NL) is co-chairman and mentor on behalf of EnviCom. After the successful kick off meeting in Antwerp on October 9-10, 2014 the WG held a meeting in Valencia, Spain during 20-21 APR 2015 and during 22-23 OCT in Beijing, China with emphasis on developments of Asian ports in sustainability reporting. The WG is making very good progress and intends to present a first impression of a full report on the FEB 2016 EnviCom meeting.

### *Navigation:*

- The PIANC Guidance document no. 124 **“Dredging and Port Construction: Interactions with Features of Archaeological or Heritage Interest”** was published in November 2014 exactly one year after the workshop was held in PIANC HQ with more than 30 participants and 8 invited international speakers. **Chairman was Euan McNeill** (UK) and EnviCom mentor **Jan Brooke** (UK). A Lesson learned presentation of Euan McNeill during EnviCom and joint commission luncheon on 04 FEB 2015 was very well received. It is a convincing example on how to produce a PIANC report for a special issue in one year only.

The following three new Workings Groups were successfully kicked off parallel on 05-06 February 2015:

- **WG 175: Environmental Risk Management for Navigation Infrastructure Projects** Chairman: **Burton Suedel/USA**, Co-Chair: **Kevin Kane/AUS**, EnviCom mentor: **Todd Bridges/USA**). The WG members are from Australia, Belgium, Ireland, Norway, Spain, UK and USA. The main goal is to provide a methodology to inform risk management decisions for the comprehensive range of environmental risks pertinent to navigation infrastructure. During 2015 the WG made good progress by several webinars in March, April and July and a meeting in Mackay, AUS in SEPT 2015.

- **WG 176: A guide for Applying Working with Nature to Navigation Infrastructure Projects**  
Chair: **Kelly Burks-Copes**(USA), Secretary: **William Coulet**(UK), EnviCom mentor: **Paul Scherrer**(F). The 14 WG members are from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, The Netherlands, UK, US. The WG held several webinars (JUN, OCT, NOV, DEC) where chapter assignments and contents were advanced and potential case studies and locations for field visits globally discussed. The WG addressed the format and questions for the annual WwN Award submission forms, and discussed the WwN case study database. WG175 and WG176 agreed to coordinate the development of their reports going forward. The WwN concept and first ideas of the WG report were presented by Paul Scherrer in the EnviCom session at the conference Dredging 2015 in Savannah, USA on October 21, 2015. An abstract was submitted and accepted to the COPRI Ports '16 Conference to be held in New Orleans, LA (USA) in June 2016.
- **WG 178: Working Group on climate change adaptation for maritime and inland port and navigation infrastructure**  
Chair: **Charles Haine** (UK), Secretary: **Ben Hodgkin** (UK), EnviCom mentor is **Jan Brooke**  
The WG found with 38 members from various countries and partner organizations very big interest. The very first action was a slight revision of the TOR which were agreed by the ExCom in May 2015. After detailed Terms of Content were drafted on a second meeting in April in London the WG was divided into sub-groups (e.g. understanding climate science, risk management) to develop first chapters of the document. Focus is audience of end users with few resources for enabling them to adequately understand what actions they can take, especially in the near term, for adapting. A supporting survey questionnaire to be circulated to all PIANC members is in preparation. Regional Workshops are being organized worldwide to promote awareness and elicit case studies, involving WG members as well as local navigation representatives with synergies to the implementation of the PIANC CC Action Plan presented at UNFCCC COP 21 on 06 DEC 2015 in Paris. Next plenary meeting is scheduled for 28-29 JAN 2016 in London.
- To develop a better understanding how to proceed with the topic **Ecosystem Services (ES)** for the waterborne infrastructure sector the international PIANC seminar “**Ecosystem Services: Identification, Assessment and Benefits for Navigation Infrastructure Projects**” was successfully held on May 7, 2015 in Koblenz, Germany (see presentations on <http://www.pianc.org/events.php>) hosted by the Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde (BfG) in connection with a German ES- seminar. It was concluded to create first a PIANC orientation paper on ES which was developed during 2015. Based on this a TOR for a WG will be developed on more guidance how to use the concept of ES in practice. The activity is driven by an EnviCom core group under the lead of **Filip Vandeputte** (BE) and **Elmar Fuchs** (GER).
- EnviCom continued the partnering/corresponding to WGs of other commissions.

## Strategic Initiatives

**Working with Nature (WwN)** (<http://www.workingwithnature.pianc.org/>).

After a very good development of distributing and implementing PIANC’s Working with Nature philosophy in the last years which peaked in the grant of the 1<sup>st</sup> PIANC Working with Nature (WwN) Award on the 33<sup>rd</sup> PIANC World Congress in San Francisco, California, June 1-5, 2014 the interest of new case study submission dropped down significantly. The analysis of EnviCom and the WwN jury around **jury-chairman Elmar Fuchs** (DE) lead to the conclusion that after a first phase of establishment - supported by national programs (Engineering with Nature in USA, Building with Nature in NL) - new acknowledgement incentives specially to non-consented projects are necessary to more open the process and raise interest again. Consequently EnviCom worked on a progressed acknowledgement concept for WwN which will be presented to the ExCom in FEB 2016 and which will be pictured in the WwN rules & regulations. The whole process is supported by international presentations of EnviCom members (e.g. **Paul Scherrer**(F) and the work of WG 176 which is developing specific guidance oriented on good practice collected from the experiences collected so far. PIANC’s WwN philosophy was highlighted with case studies within the UNFCCC COP21 event on DEC 7, 2015 in Paris during the SLoCaT-80 days Campaign “Climate Action in Transport” by **Jan Brooke** (UK) (see <http://ppmc-cop21.org/working-with-nature-on-inland-waterways/>).

### ***Permanent Task Group on Climate Change (PTGCC)***

The PTGCC had two face-to-face meetings in 2015 (no. 11 on 02<sup>nd</sup> February in Brussels and no. 13 on 17<sup>th</sup> October in Savannah/USA) in connection with the EnviCom meetings and two interim telecons under the lead of **chairman Todd Bridges/USA and secretary Sandra Brasfield/USA**. After the successful kick off of PIANC WG 178 on Climate Adaptation in FEB 2015 the PTGCC focussed its work on the preparations of two new working groups. The TOR for the new WG 188 “**Carbon Management for Port and Navigation Infrastructure**” was finalized and agreed by the ExCom. The kick off meeting of WG 188 is going to take place on 4th February 2016 in Brussels under the lead of EnviCom mentor **Filip Vandeputte (BE)**.

Furthermore a background paper on “**Resilience of the Maritime and Inland Waterborne Transport System**” and a TOR for a new PIANC WG was developed together with InCom member John Clarkson (USA) to be agreed by ExCom in FEB 2016. The PTGCC maintains the specific website

<http://www.pianc.org/climatechange.php> to provide relevant information to the PIANC community.

Furthermore the PTGCC supported the initiative of PIANC president Geoffroy Caude and the activities of PTGCC representative **Jan Brooke (UK)** during the development of the so-called initiative “**PIANC Think Climate Coalition - Navigating a Climate Change**” which was prepared together with PIANC partner organizations (coalition) to be visible on the UNFCCC COP21 summit in early DEC 2015 in Paris. For the first time in the history of PIANC an Action Plan was presented by the PIANC president on the highest political level and published (see <http://www.pianc.org/thinkclimate.php>).

### ***EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) Navigation Task Group***

UK EnviCom member **Jan Brooke (UK)** continues to chair the EnviCom-led, multi-Association Task Group dealing with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and to inform PIANC and the navigation sector via the thematic PIANC website about the progress on navigation interests (<http://www.pianc.org/euwfd.php>).

This permanent task group met two times in 2015 (April 8, September 26) and observed, discussed and reported on the meetings of the **WFD Strategic Coordination Group (SCG)** and subgroup meetings (e.g. MAR 2-3, SEPT 29) regarding relevant issues for the navigation sector. EU Member States had to finalize and publish their River Basin Management Plans by 22 DEC 2015. Discussions among EU member states were ongoing to reach agreement on priorities for the 2016-2018 Common Implementation Strategy Work Program. In close connection with the **CEDA-led Marine Navigation Group (MSNG)** continues to monitor activities around the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) including to address overlaps between the WFD and the MSFD. At EU level, discussions continue to try to reach agreement on how to determine what is good environmental status for most of the 11 descriptors (e.g. non-indigenous species, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, underwater noise, marine litter). CEDA is actively in discussions involved. In the context of the MSFD, there is increasing interest in non-indigenous species in Europe – especially with likelihood that Ballast Water Management Convention will be ratified early 2016.

### ***Sustainability – Umbrella Goal for PIANC and EnviCom activities***

To prepare and support the navigation sector for the future the EnviCom has concentrated its activities on several, interrelated key components which are relevant for the waterborne infrastructure sector to strive for sustainability. The aim is to orient these under the umbrella of sustainability and to provide implementation guidance and recommendations in the coming years. Therefore **EnviCom Chairman Harald Köthe** presented the overview paper “**Challenges and Opportunities for the Waterborne Transport Infrastructure Sector to strive for sustainability – overview of EnviCom activities**” on the PIANC Smart Rivers Conference in Buenos Aires, ARG, SEPT 9-11, 2015 (see <http://www.pianc.org/envicom.php>). This summarizes the current activities on the components Working with Nature, Ecosystem Services, Environmental Risk Management, Dredging in environmental sensitive areas, Sustainability reporting in ports, Climate change adaptation, Carbon management and Resilience. In this context EnviCom has started to check the relevance of **new 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals** which were published in SEP 2015 by the UN.

## **EnviCom presentations in 2015** (listed by date):

- **Todd Bridges:** “Ecosystem Services, Natural Systems and Sustainable Navigation Infrastructure”.- PIANC seminar “Ecosystem Services: Identification, Assessment and Benefits for Navigation Infrastructure Projects”, May 7, 2015, Koblenz, Germany.
- **Elmar Fuchs:** “Perspectives in Germany – Summary of the Ecosystem Services Colloquium of the Federal Institute of Hydrology”.- PIANC seminar “Ecosystem Services: Identification, Assessment and Benefits for Navigation Infrastructure Projects”, May 7, 2015, Koblenz, Germany.
- **René Kolman:** “Ecosystem Services Project: Towards More Unbiased Maritime Infrastructure Project Assessments”. - PIANC seminar “Ecosystem Services: Identification, Assessment and Benefits for Navigation Infrastructure Projects”, May 7, 2015, Koblenz, Germany.
- **Harald Köthe:** Presentation of EnviCom activities in 2014/2015.- PIANC AGA 2015, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Porto, Portugal.
- **James Matt Jury:** Dredging Around Sensitive Areas and Species: PIANC Working Groups 108.- Coast Engineering Conference Asia, Singapore, August 2015.
- **Harald Köthe:** “Challenges and Opportunities for the Waterborne Transport Infrastructure Sector to strive for sustainability - overview of activities of PIANC’s Environmental Commission”.- PIANC Smart Rivers 2015, SEP 9-11, 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Harald Köthe:** “Characterization of contaminated dredged material (CDM) and required handling procedures”.- Seminar on Contaminated Dredged Material, SEP 8, 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **René Kolman:** Source/types of contamination and the environmental consequences of the proper handling of CDM.- Seminar on Contaminated Dredged Material, SEP 8, 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Tiedo Vellinga:** Management of contaminated sediments: the Port of Rotterdam experience.- Seminar on Contaminated Dredged Material, SEP 8, 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **Burton Suedel:** Risk Management for Navigation Dredging – PIANC WG 175.- EnviCom session on PIANC conference Dredging 2015, October 21, 2015, Savannah, USA.
- **James Matt Jury:** Dredging Around Sensitive Areas and Species: PIANC Working Groups 108, 157 & 170.- EnviCom session on PIANC conference Dredging 2015, October 21, 2015, Savannah, USA.
- **Paul Scherrer:** Working with Nature for Sustainable Practice: PIANC WG 176.- EnviCom session on PIANC conference Dredging 2015, October 21, 2015, Savannah, USA.
- **Filip Vandeputte:** Ecosystem Goods and Services Related to Dredging and Navigation.- EnviCom session on PIANC conference Dredging 2015, October 21, 2015, Savannah, USA.
- **Edmond Russo:** Panel Discussion - The Future of Risk Management Practice.- EnviCom session on PIANC conference Dredging 2015, October 21, 2015, Savannah, USA.
- **Jan Brooke:** “Navigating a Changing Climate”.- PIANC France seminar 'French actors in maritime and river infrastructure, on the effects of climate change', 25th November 2015, Paris, France.
- **Jan Brooke:** “The Navigating a Changing Climate initiative”.- PIANC UK AGM seminar, 27th November 2015, London, UK.
- **Jan Brooke:** The PIANC-Think-Climate-coalition: “Navigating a Climate Change”.- Presentation on the breakout session ‘Transport and adaptation to climate change: impacts, policies and finance’, Transport Day during UNFCCC COP21 summit, DEC 6, 2015, Paris.
- **Jan Brooke:** “Working with Nature on Navigable Waterways”.- Presentation on SLoCaT-80 days Campaign “Climate Action in Transport” during UNFCCC COP21 summit, DEC 7, 2015, Paris.