

**Annotated Agenda**  
**Conservation Committee Planning Group**  
**Monday 7 May 2018, 9.30 am-12.30 pm**  
**Location: Zrak, Hotel Golf, Bled, Slovenia**

**1. Welcome and aims of the meeting**

- a) Appointment of Chair [Lorenzo Rojas Bracho (Mexico) is proposed]
- b) Appointment of Rapporteur [The Secretariat will offer to act as rapporteur]
- c) Terms of Reference and aims of the meeting
- d) Review of documents available to the meeting. A documents list is provided as IWC/M18/CCPG/GEN/02

*At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meetings which would help set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and ensure progression of the Conservation Committee work plan in the intersessional period.*

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

**3. Conservation Committee Strategic Plan and Work Plan (Lorenzo Rojas Bracho/Jamie Rendell)**

- a) Update on strategic plan and work plan

*This item will include an update on the Conservation Committee's strategic plan and work plan which were adopted at IWC66 in 2016. Revised strategic plan and work plan documents are provided as IWC/M18/CCPG/INFO/02 and IWC/M18/CCPG/12. This item will include discussion to identify leads/chairs for areas of work that do not currently have them.*

- b) Working Methods of the Conservation Committee

*At its last meeting the CCPG discussed a proposal from the Chair of the Conservation Committee that the Committee agree working methods. It agreed that an intersessional group comprising the Chair and Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, the Secretariat, Argentina, Norway and Chile would develop a proposal for discussion at the next CCPG and subsequently by the Conservation Committee. Document IWC/M18/CCPG/01/REV1 contains draft Conservation Committee Working Methods for discussion.*

- c) Voluntary National Conservation Reports

*At its meeting in October 2016 the Conservation Committee established an intersessional group, comprised of Australia, Mexico, the UK and the Secretariat to review and develop the report template and align it with the new strategic plan. New Zealand subsequently joined this group. At its last meeting the CCPG discussed an overview of current reporting arrangements and issues to be taken into account in the review of the reporting template and process. The CCPG agreed to revisit this issue at its next meeting to agree any proposals to be brought to the*

*Conservation Committee meeting at IWC67. Document IWC/M18/CCPG/15 contains a proposal for discussion*

#### **4. Preparation for IWC67**

a) Draft Conservation Committee agenda

*This item provides an opportunity for a discussion on the agenda for the next Conservation Committee to be held in September 2018. A draft agenda is provided [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/02].*

b) Timing of Conservation Committee meetings

*At its meeting in October 2016 the Conservation Committee agreed to prepare a proposal for annual Conservation Committee meetings for consideration at IWC67 in 2018. At its 2017 meeting, the CCPG discussed an early draft proposal and agreed to develop a full proposal for discussion at its 2018 meeting. Document IWC/M18/CCPG/06 provides a draft proposal for discussion.*

#### **5. Progress update from intersessional Working Groups**

*This item provides opportunity for the Chairs of Conservation Committee Standing Working Groups and other intersessional groups to give a progress update, to summarise the specific issues they will bring to the Conservation Committee meeting in September 2018, and to identify decisions that will be requested.*

a) Ship Strikes Working Group (Bob Brownell, USA)

*This item will include an update on the implementation of the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan and other intersessional activities.*

b) Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (Ryan Wulff, USA)

*This item will include discussion on progress with the Whale Watching Handbook [IWC/M18/CCPG/09] and updating the Strategic Plan for Whale Watching; and a progress update on the Indian Ocean Rim Association Sustainable Whale and Dolphin Watching Tourism Network [IWC/M18/CCPG/INFO/01].*

c) Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (Suzi Heaton, Australia)

*This item will include an update on intersessional activity since IWC66 including progress with the mid-term review of the CMP Work Plan [IWC/M18/CCPG/05 Rev 01]*

d) Standing Working Group on Bycatch (Stephanie Langerock, Belgium)

*This item will include an update on the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative and progress against the recommendations made at IWC66 [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/07]. A draft Strategic Assessment for the BMI and an outline Strategic Plan [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/04] are provided for discussion.*

e) Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning

*At its last meeting the group agreed that Chile and Belgium would establish a small working group to make recommendations on how the Conservation Committee should address Resolution 2016-3 related to Cetaceans and their contribution to Ecosystem Functioning. The*

*meeting will discuss an update from this group. Document IWC/M18/CCPG/10 contains proposals for discussion.*

f) Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group (Jamie Rendell, UK)

*This item will allow for a brief discussion on intersessional work undertaken for the Joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee Working Group, which will be held in the morning of 8 May 2018. This will include consideration of guidelines on the language to be used when drafting recommendations in Working Group reports and the Conservation Committee report [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/13].*

g) Species of urgent or emerging concern.

*At its last meeting, the CCPG discussed potential ways in which the Conservation Committee could help with species of critical conservation concern for which urgent action was required, including for the Vaquita and for other species. The group agreed to propose that the Conservation Committee recommend species of emergent and urgent concern as a new standing item on the Commission agenda. The group also agreed that Brownell, Rojas-Bracho, Rendell and Simmonds would draft a paper for the next meeting of the CCPG, for subsequent submission to the Conservation Committee regarding species of critical concern and the different actions that might be taken. Document IWC/M18/CCPG/11 is presented for discussion.*

## **6. Finance**

a) Intersessional group on strengthening finance (Stephanie Langerock, Belgium)

*This item will include an update on progress in implementing the recommendations of the ICGSF [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/08].*

b) Voluntary Conservation Fund (Catherine Bell, UK)

*This item will include a financial report on the Voluntary Conservation Fund and an update on intersessional activity by the Steering Group, including discussions on updating the eligibility criteria and allocation process of the Voluntary Conservation Fund. [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/14].*

## **7. Relationship with other inter-governmental organisations (Secretariat)**

*This item provides an opportunity to receive a brief update on engagement with other inter-governmental organisations and Secretariat proposals for next steps [Document IWC/M18/CCPG/03].*

## **8. Any other business**

## **Annex 1. Terms of Reference for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting**

The Conservation Committee Planning Group is tasked with helping set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and progression of the Conservation Committees work plan in the intersessional period.

It will:

- Consider the Committee's progress since the last meeting of the Committee, in particular with regards to intersessional work, and support continued effective delivery of its work.
- Identify key discussions, priorities and deliverables for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee.
- Support the Chair in preparing for Conservation Committee meetings.
- Provide an additional opportunity for discussing the strategic development of the Conservation Committee, particularly with regards it's outward facing strategic plan, strategic development of priorities, engagement with other organisations, and funding.

### *Membership*

The group is intended to be small and focused and does not replace a full meeting of the Conservation Committee. Attendance is not restricted but may be limited by available space. It will primarily be composed of the Chair and vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, Chairs of the Committee's standing working groups, and nominees from contracted governments. Additional expertise will be invited as appropriate to the agenda by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee. The meeting will be Chaired by the Chair of the Conservation Committee.

### *Timings*

The Conservation Committee planning meeting should meet at least annually and where possible in conjunction with meetings of the Scientific and/or Conservation Committee to ensure best use of resources.