

Update on Fundraising and the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance

Prepared by the Secretariat

Action Requested

This paper provides an update on Fundraising and work of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance. The Conservation Committee (CC) is asked to note this information and provide any comments on intersessional progress made.

Summary of Progress

In September 2018 the Commission adopted the report of the ICGSF, including the Code for Ethical Fundraising, the revised Terms of Reference of the Group as well as its workplan for the next biennium.

The ICGSF has made some good progress against its workplan in this intersessional period, including through the work of the Secretariat in continuing to support development of costed work programmes, ongoing review of external fundraising opportunities and outreach to potential donors, and the development of concept notes on priority topics to support fundraising. Funding information has been updated on the IWC website.

The Secretariat worked with the relevant Standing Working Groups and Chair of the ICGSF to identify and compile information on voluntary funding needs for the work of the Conservation Committee and other IWC work programmes for the next biennium. This was sent out via IWC Circular in July (IWC.CCG.1411).

Though the Secretariat continues to actively progress fundraising, including some potential grant applications in 2021, it has limited capacity to bid for and manage large grants. This will be reviewed further in the coming year and any proposals on how IWC capacity could be increased in this area will be presented at IWC68.

Future work of the ICGSF

ICGSF provided its input to the co-chairs of the WGOE for the discussions held in July 2019 and its Chair has participated in subsequent discussions. During the development of this contribution, a number of issues were raised regarding the current and future mandate of the group. The Chair of ICGSF, with the Chair of the Budgetary Sub-Committee of F&A is exploring options for the future of the group in light of the WGOE discussions and will provide an update to IWC68.

In the meantime the ICGSF will continue to work with the Secretariat to implement its workplan and to take forward IWC objectives on fundraising.