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PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

1 . PROPOSAL TITLE

Please provide the title of the project or the name of the workshop/meeting.

Assessment of the traditional drive-hunt in the Solomon Islands: Collaborating with Indigenous Communities and Updating the IWC Direct Take Database

2 . BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME

Give a very brief overview (max 150 words) on your proposal and its expected outcomes. Use bullet point to list outcomes. Be succinct and clear as this may be used to summarise your project for the report.

An assessment of the Solomon Islands dolphin drive-hunt was funded by the Small Cetacean Voluntary Fund in 2012-2015 (Oremus et al 2015). The hunt's traditional methods appear to have remained consistent throughout the available written history. Meticulous hunt logs are maintained and have been published in academic records from 1976 to 2013. The hunt has been ongoing since 2013, and recently the Committee was made aware that the communities who conduct the hunts were willing to share their 2013-2022 records with researchers. This request is to support local travel of Solomon Islands government Fisheries Officers to the remote villages that conduct the hunts to copy the hard records kept by the hunting communities and to conduct interviews with hunters to update both this Committees record of direct takes and to document any changes in practise and update our understanding of the hunters perspective of the cetacean populations occurrence and distribution.

Expected Outcomes

An update the IWC database on directed take of small cetaceans in the Solomon Islands (1976-2013) and provide a new estimate of the total number of dolphins obtained from the drive hunt.

The provision of advice to the Solomons Islands Government on the sustainability of the hunts on both spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) and spotted (*S. attenuata*).

Improved communication between management authorities, scientists and indigenous communities with the long-term view of enabling a more consistent monitoring programme of these dolphin populations

3 . RELEVANT IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS

List all the IWC Scientific Committee groups or sub-groups that the outcomes of this work would be relevant to and provide a brief (1-2 lines) explanation of how it would contribute more widely to their ongoing programmes of work. Where possible, do not simply list only the sub-committee within which or for which the project proposal was generated.

Small Cetaceans: will provide an additional 10 years data to a 30 years dataset on the take of small cetaceans from a traditional hunt. The SM sub-committee continually reviews developments on topics and recommendations that were subject to previous SM reports. In 2021-22, it came to the attention of SM organisers that it was both timely and possible to obtain information that will update a critically important dataset established by a past SM research project. SM core

activities include review information on the status of stocks of small cetaceans and to provide an assessment of threats and to provide mitigation advice. By updating the existing dataset, the SM sub-committee will be able to provide new information on the status of species which have been subject to indigenous hunting and to provide guidance to management authorities as to the impacts of these hunts.

4 . TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)

Research project	X
Modelling	
Workshop/meeting	
Database creation/maintenance	
Compilation work/editing (<i>e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.</i>)	
Other (<i>please specify below</i>)	X
The fund requested is only for national travel costs to go to the villages and obtain both written hunt logs and oral descriptions of present-day hunt practices.	

5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS CONNECTION WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (DO NOT EXCEED 1500 WORDS)

(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Provide a clear explanation of the background and rationale for the proposal and its relevance to Scientific Committee identified priorities. Clearly identify the most relevant and recent Scientific Committee recommendations.

The analyses of small cetacean takes is part of the Subcommittee on Small Cetacean’s core work. SM has spent many decades building datasets of often disparate information on indigenous hunts. The hunter log books and verbal accounts from the Solomon Islands is unique in that there is a systematic recording system which the SM has previously provided funds to analyse (1976-2013; Oremus et al 2015). It has recently become possible to obtain data from 2013 to 2022 and thus update this dataset. By obtaining these data, SM will be able to continue analysis of this unique dataset, improve our understanding of the status of the two species involved in hunts and update our assessment of this threat.

Oremus, M., Leqata, J. and Baker, C.S., 2015. Resumption of traditional drive hunting of dolphins in the Solomon Islands in 2013. Royal Society Open Science, 2(5), p.140524.

(B) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OR TOR AND DELIVERABLES/OUTCOMES:

Provide the specific objectives and the expected deliverables. In the case of workshops and meetings, include the Terms of Reference (ToR) and expected outcomes.

Objectives

Obtain data from hunting logs and interview active hunters to better understand the number of takes and hunting practices compared to those previously collated (1976-2013)

Deliverable

Addition of 9 to 10 years data (2014-to collection date) to the existing direct take database for the Solomon Island hunts

(C) METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH/WORK PLAN/ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Specify the methods to be applied (novel methods require more explanation than standard ones) and the broad workplan – the detailed timetable appears under Item 5 below.

In the case of workshops and meetings, include the broad work plan including any pre-requisites for the workshop/meeting to take place (apart from funding, e.g. completed analyses, papers etc.) and administrative details (e.g. location, dates, number of participants).

Noting that this proposal is a little unusual, when compared to other IWC research proposals, in that it is for travel funds to collect written logs and collate verbal accounts of hunting practices in a remote island archipelago of the Solomon Islands. Local personnel are in place and the data collection mission is supported by the Government of the Solomon Islands. The funds will provide valuable quantitative data, however, this is also an opportunity for renewed collaboration of scientists, indigenous people and management authorities (as initiated by an SM funded project in the early 2010's) and is anticipated to provide a new basis for moving forward with data analyses enabled by additional records, and also to being the process of establishing contact and building trust with local communities.

(D) SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTREACH

Please, note that successful proponents will be requested to produce ad hoc material that will be used by the IWC Secretariat for dissemination and outreach.

- Outputs from statistical analyses to update population status of the IWC website
- Popular media and publicity reports
- IWC (and other relevant partners, e.g., CMS) website material
- Peer-reviewed publication

6 . TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Specify the timetable for project activities and expected outputs separately. For projects with multiple distinct elements please indicate interim goals and timeframes. Add as many rows as you need to the tables below. If publications are an expected output please note whether you will submit the manuscript to the IWC's Journal of Cetacean Research and Management.

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start(mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Travel to Fanlei and adjacent communities (trip will take 1 month but timing not yet confirmed)	Lindsay Porter	01/23	06/24
Data review and analyses	IWC Statistics Department	06/24	12/24

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
An update the IWC database on directed take of small cetaceans in the Solomon Islands (1976-2013) and provide a new estimate of the total number of dolphins obtained from the drive hunt.	12/24
The provision of advice to the Solomons Islands Government on the sustainability of the hunts on both spinner (<i>Stenella longirostris</i>) and spotted (<i>S. attenuata</i>).	12/24
Improved communication between management authorities, scientists and indigenous communities with the long-term view of enabling a more consistent monitoring programme of these dolphin populations	Ongoing

7. RESEARCHERS' (OR STEERING GROUP) NAME(S) AND AFFILIATION

Please, also specify if the project team has any direct connection (e.g. same research group or institute, collaborator on common project) with people involved or likely to be involved in taking the funding decision (e.g. IWC SC heads of delegations, SC convenors, etc.). Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Name	Affiliation	Connection with decision
Lindsay Porter	IWC SM Committee	Convenor
Fernando Trujillo	IWC SM Committee	Convenor

8 TOTAL BUDGET

PROJECT BUDGET					Please indicate when funds will be needed		Co-funding funds only
	Description	Cost per unit £GBP	Number of units	Total Cost £GBP	2022 £GBP	2023 + £GBP	Co-funding £GBP
(1) Salaries (by person)							
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)	Travel/Subsistence (Domestic Solomon Islands)	2500	2	5000	2500	2500	
(3) Services (by item)							
(4) Reusable equipment							
(5) Consumables							
(6) Shipping & Customs (by Item)							
(7) Insurance (by item)							
(8) Other							
TOTAL				5000	2500	2500	

Co-funding Memo:

Source	Purpose of Funding	Cost £GBP	Secured/Tentative?
TOTAL			

Total value of project:	Cost £GBP
Funds requested from IWC	5000
Co-funding	
TOTAL	5000

9 . DATA ARCHIVING/SHARING

Please state your plans for data archiving and sharing. Note that data collected primarily under IWC grants are considered publicly available after an agreed period of time for publication of papers, usually about two years. The work of the IWC depends on the voluntary contribution of data to the various databases and catalogues IWC supports. Please consult the Secretariat (secretariat@iwc.int).

Data will be archived in the SM Direct Take database of the IWC

10 . PERMITS (PLEASE TICK)

Do you have the necessary permits to carry out the field work and have animal welfare considerations been appropriately considered?	NA
Do you have the appropriate permits (e.g. CITES) for the import/export of any samples?	NA

If 'Yes' please provide further details and enclose copies where appropriate:

ID	Score#1	Score#2
1	4	4
2	4	3
3	3	4
4	3	4
5	4	4
5a	4	4
5c	4	4
5d	4	3
6	4	4
7	3	4
8	3	3
9	3	3
10	4	4
Total	47.00	48.00
Average	47.50	