



135 Station Road, Impington, Cambridge, UK, CB24 9NP;  
 Tel: +44 1223 233397 - Fax: +44 1223 232876  
 E-mail: [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)

## PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

### 1. PROPOSAL TITLE

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

Compilation of the State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) for 2023-2024 including the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-year global compendium

### 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.*

SOCER is in response to several Commission resolutions requesting regular updates on the state of the world's oceans as relevant to cetaceans. SOCER is an appendix to the annual SC E annex and available online on the IWC website

([iwc.socer.int](http://iwc.socer.int))(<https://iwc.int/management-and-conservation/environment/socer-report>)(iwc

### 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.*

Especially E, but also HIM, EM and others - ultimately most subcommittees and working groups, as the status of the environment is important for virtually all deliberations at the SC. SOCER helps ensure the most recent relevant literature – on a wide variety of topics, such as climate change, pollution, and emerging disease – is brought to the attention of the SC as a whole, as well as the Commission.

### 4. TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)

Research project	
Modelling	
Workshop/meeting	
Database creation/maintenance	
Compilation work/editing (e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.)	X

Other (please specify below)	
------------------------------	--

**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.*

Perhaps the key mission of the IWC is to prevent extinctions of cetacean species and populations. Gauging the status of their environment sets the whole framework for all such deliberations and management measures. This is echoed in many SC recommendations and expressions of concern as well as in recent Commission resolutions on mercury, climate change, noise etc.

SOCER is a compilation of recent publications related to habitat degradation (e.g. marine debris, fisheries interactions, ship strikes), chemical pollution, disease and mortality events (e.g. harmful algal blooms, oil spills, die-offs), noise pollution and climate change. It offers Commissioners, SC members, and others a convenient, basic summary of these publications, allowing them to remain current with developments in the scientific literature related to cetacean habitat.

SOCER also provides the relevant pollutant concentrations in cetaceans as published in the literature in table form for use in the SC’s pollution initiative (and corresponding pollutant website), as requested by the Environmental Subcommittee.

**(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.*

For 2023 and 2024, two regional overviews will be provided; 2023 for the state of the Indian Ocean, 2024 for the Mediterranean and Black Seas as relevant to cetaceans and their

habitat. SOCER also always includes matters of global concern, based on the published literature in reviewed scientific journals in the respective preceding ca. 2-year periods. Importantly, the 2024 Mediterranean and Black Sea will complete the 5-year cycle of regional seas. The combined information of these 5 years will therefore also be incorporated into a new (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) 5-year global compendium, to be prepared and presented in that same year.

#### (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).*

Literature review (as short, simplified entries on all major issues and threats identified by the Scientific Committee) using publication databases, available scientific journals, e.g. "Marine Pollution Bulletin", and submissions by SC members and others. The key details from these publications are summarised in lay language and a glossary is provided for scientific or policy terms.

(D) SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTREACH
<p>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.</p> <p>SOCER is available on the IWC website both in its annual, regional form and in the first 5-year global compendium produced in 2018/19</p>

## 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)
	Chris Parsons	01.2023 & 2024	ca. 05.2023 & 2024
	Naomi Rose	01.2023 & 2024	ca. 05.2024 & 2024
	M Stachowitsch	01.2023 & 2024	ca. 05.2023 & 2024

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
SOCER (Indian ocean; Mediterranean and Black Seas & respective global sections)	At respective SC meetings ca. 05.2023 and 2024
+ SOCER 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5-year global compendium	

## 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
Stachowitsch	Head of Delegation (Austria)	none
Parsons	Convener, Invited Participant	none
Rose	Animal Welfare Institute – Invited Participant	none

## 8. TOTAL BUDGET

Breakdown into: (1) salaries/wages (include name/position of each individual and breakdown of time and duties i; (2) travel/subsistence expenses (breakdown by person and justification) unless for IPs for workshops where a total estimate based on an average for the total number of IPs is acceptable; (3) services (e.g. aircraft/vessel time, consultancy fees, ARGOS fees, etc.); (4) reusable capital equipment (e.g. reusable equipment such as a hydrophone, cameras, etc. Note that this equipment will have to be registered at the IWC Secretariat and will remain property of the IWC at the end of the project), (5) expendable capital equipment (e.g. consumables, tags, stationery), (6) shipping costs, (7) insurance costs, (8) in kind co-funding (specify whether other funding is available for personnel/name, equipment, venues, etc.). Note that "Overheads" are not admissible. Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Type	Detailed description	Cost in GB pounds
(1) Salaries (by person)	Parsons Rose Stachowitsch	1333 + 1333 = 2666 1333 + 1333 = 2666 1333 + 1333 = 2666
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)		
(3) Services (by item)		
(4) Reusable equipment		
(5) Consumables		
(6) Shipping (by Item)		
(7) Insurance (by item)		
(8) Co-funding		
(9) Other		
<b>Total</b>	For 2 years	8000

## 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](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)).

We do not collect any original data, but all SOCERs are available at <https://iwc.int/socer>.

## 10. PERMITS (PLEASE TICK)

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

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