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## PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

### 1 . PROPOSAL TITLE

#### **Southern Ocean Sanctuary Review**

### 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.*

The Southern Ocean Sanctuary was established in 1994 and Paragraph 7(b) of the Schedule, which established the SOS, specifies that the SOS "...shall be reviewed ten years after its initial adoption and at succeeding ten-year intervals...". In 2003, the Commission directed the Committee to undertake the first in a series of decadal reviews of the SOS (1994–2004) (IWC, 2004, pp. 47-50). The third decadal review will be conducted in 2024, as agreed by the SC at SC/68C.

The review process requires collation of documents relevant to the review process, solicitation of potential reviewers, and invitation of reviewers to the SC meeting to discuss and present the review (IWC, 2016). This proposal will provide the funding to conduct the Southern Ocean Sanctuary Review.

#### **References**

International Whaling Commission. 2004. Report of the Scientific Committee. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage. (Suppl.)* 6:1-60.

International Whaling Commission. 2016. Annex O. Report of the Working Group to Review Sanctuaries and Sanctuary Proposals. *Cet. Res. Manage.* 17 (Suppl): 404-408.

### 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.*

The SC has been instructed by the Commission to conduct the third decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. The review will also be

A number of SC sub-committees can provide important information for the Southern Ocean Sanctuary Review, in particular ASI, E, EM, HIM, SAN, SH, PH and WW. The Review should include CC representation as well.

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

Research project	
Modelling	
Workshop/meeting	X
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.*

The SOS was established in 1994 and Paragraph 7(b) of the Schedule, which established the SOS, specifies that the SOS "...shall be reviewed ten years after its initial adoption and at succeeding ten-year intervals...". In 2003, the Commission directed the Committee to undertake the first in a series of decadal reviews of the SOS (1994–2004) (IWC, 2004, pp. 47-50). Thus, 2024 will mark the third decade of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and preparations need to be made for the scheduled review.

The stages of the review process are as follows (IWC, 2016b):

- (a) A Steering Group is formed (chaired by the SAN Working Group Convenor). The terms of Reference of this Steering Group are to:
  - (i) Solicit contributions and collate the necessary information to assist with the review of the scientific aspects of the sanctuary in question;
  - (ii) Identify potential external scientists with recognised expertise in research fields relevant to the review of the Sanctuary to attend the Scientific Committee meeting and assist with the review; and
  - (iii) Coordinate the review of the scientific aspects of the SOS.
- (b) The Steering Group will receive suggestions from SC members for potential external reviewers with recognised expertise in research fields relevant to the review of the Sanctuary, to assist with the review of the Sanctuary in question.
- (c) Names of suggested reviewers are provided to the Chair of the Steering Group.
- (d) The Steering Group liaises with potential invited experts.
- (e) A final list of external reviewers to attend the Scientific Committee is developed.
- (f) Invite the external reviewers to attend the Scientific Committee meeting
- (g) Documents for the Sanctuary review are submitted.
- (h) A review of the Sanctuary is conducted.
- (i) A Joint meeting of the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee is scheduled to discuss the review held.

At SC/68C (see Item 18.4), it was agreed to collate documents relevant to the Sanctuary review in 2023 and select reviewers, and to hold the review meeting in 2024.

This proposal will provide the funding to conduct the Southern Ocean Sanctuary Review, which necessitates collating new information, IT support, soliciting a minimum of three external reviewers and holding an in-person review pre-meeting prior to the 2024 SC meeting (COVID-19 restrictions allowing).

**(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.*

Taking into consideration previous instructions from the Commission to the Committee for Review of Sanctuaries (IWC, 2002) and Resolution 2002-1 providing guidance to the Committee on the Sanctuary review process (IWC, 2003), the following Terms of Reference for the review of Sanctuaries were developed (IWC, 2016):

- (a) Provide advice on the status and trends of whale stocks in the Sanctuary in so far as these are known. Assess the present and potential threats to whale populations and their habitats in the area of the Sanctuary and how the Sanctuaries address this;
- (b) Consider whether the Sanctuary is consistent with other measures to protect whales from anthropogenic and other environmental factors;
- (c) Assess the effects of the Sanctuary in terms of:
  - i. the protection of whales in breeding areas, feeding grounds, and/or migratory routes; and
  - ii. international agreements concerning biodiversity and conservation of nature;
- (d) Evaluate whether the Sanctuary allows for the conduct of scientific research useful for meeting IWC objectives or coordinated integrated research and monitoring programmes across the range of issues of global relevance; and
- (e) Provide advice on whether the sanctuary is consistent with the precautionary approach.

The review report will be collated and written intersessionally between the SC meeting in 2023 and 2024 and presented to the SC for comment at a pre-meeting in 2024.

The report and SAN pre-meeting report will be shared with the Conservation Committee.

**(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).*

**Where & When:** The Review report will be drafted intersessionally between the SC meetings in 2023 and 2024. The report will then be presented to the SC for comment during a two-day pre-meeting prior to the SC meeting in 2024, at the meeting venue.

**Who:** The funds for the pre-meeting will cover the accommodation/per diem for three external, independent reviewers selected by the SC. The funding also covers per diem and accommodation for the duration of the pre-meeting for Review Steering Committee members who are normally IWC-funded IPs. Should alternative funding be found for the latter two participants, funding will not be required. The travel for the three reviewers will be covered under the IP budget.

**Risks:** In case of a pandemic resurgence that necessitates travel restrictions, the meeting will be conducted virtually.

#### (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.*

In addition to the reports to the Conservation Committee and Commission, the nature of the review may be of interest to the wider public, in particular the issues facing large whales in the Southern Ocean and the management measures to ensure their proper management and conservation, as well as the large body of research conducted in the SOS that will be compiled, including that related to environmental change and its impacts on cetaceans.

Therefore, it is proposed to produce a lay summary of the report for the IWC website and to also discuss relevant information from the report on the Marine Mammal Science podcast, which has previously been an excellent platform for conveying the scientific work of the IWC to a wider audience.

#### 6 . TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

*Specify the timetable for project activities and expected out puts 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.*

\*Assumes a May 2023/2024 time frame for the SC meetings

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start(mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Appoint Steering Committee	SAN WG	This meeting	
Collate documents	Steering Committee	01/23	01/24
Develop list of possible reviewers	Steering Committee	01/23	05/23
Present reviewer short list to SC	Steering Committee	05/23*	06/23*
Invite participants reviewers	Steering Committee	05/23*	
Produce review report	Reviewers	06/23*	04/24*
Book venue	Steering Committee	01/24	
Provide report to SC	Steering Committee	04/24*	04/24*
Hold SOS review	SC	05/24*	05/24*
Provide report to CC	SC	TBD	TBD

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
Sanctuary Review Report	04/24*
Presentation of Sanctuary Review to SC	Pre-meeting SC 2024
Lay summary for IWC website	7/24*
Marine Mammal Science podcast	8/24

## 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
ECM Parsons	University of Exeter, UK (based in USA)	
E Bell	Australian Antarctic Division, Australia	
A Zerbini	NOAA, US	
R Leaper	IFAW, UK	
E Slooten	University of Otago, New Zealand	
G Lauriano	Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Italy	

## 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	2023	2024	Co-funding £GBP
(1) Salaries (by person)	per diems for 3 reviewers and 2 Steering Committee IPs	£75/day (for 2 days for 5 people)	10	750		750	
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)							
(3) Services (by item)				0			
(4) Reusable equipment				0			
(5) Consumables				0			
(6) Shipping & Customs (by Item)				0			
(7) Insurance (by item)							
(8) Other	Accommodation costs	£123.50/day (for 2 days for 5 people)	10	1,235		1235	
<b>TOTAL</b>				1,985		1985	

## Co-funding Memo:

Source	Purpose of Funding	Cost £GBP	Secured/Tentative?
Various sources	At least four 'self-funded' participants supported by government departments, NGOs covering travel and accommodation		
Government of Austria			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Total value of project:	Cost £GBP
	2015
Co-funding	
<b>TOTAL</b>	2015

## 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)).

The workshop reports and appropriate source documents will be main available via the IWC website.

## 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: