

## Update on Voluntary Conservation Funds

*Prepared by the Secretariat*

July 2022

### **Action Requested**

This paper provides an update on Voluntary Conservation Funds. You are asked to note this information and provide any comments on intersessional progress made.

### **1. Introduction**

At IWC67, the Commission endorsed changes to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. This included an update to the project categories, eligibility criteria, evaluation criteria, and allocation process for the Voluntary Conservation Fund and revised Terms of Reference for the VCF Steering Group.

In addition, the proposed Carole Carlson Fund for whale watching and the CMP Fund were brought under the VCF umbrella and follow the same process, with the relevant SWG maintaining control over projects and budget.

### **2. Voluntary Conservation Fund**

A status update for the Voluntary Conservation Fund can be found in Table 1.

A total of £119,434 in Voluntary Contributions was gratefully received in 2021, along with £13,242 in 2022 to date. Additional voluntary contributions to the fund are welcomed.

Since IWC67, the main expenditure from the Voluntary Conservation Fund relates to:

- Whale Watching Handbook
- FOA Factsheets
- Ship strikes database coordinator

Please note, the £140,000 commitment under Bycatch General relates to £20,000 each for pilot projects in: Congo, Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, and Pakistan

**Table 1. Status update for the Voluntary Conservation Fund, 31 July 2022**

Project Code	CMPs					General VCF								Total
	Eastern SP Right Whale Implementation	Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale	Public Comms Campaign on Franciscana	Amazon River Dolphin	Unallocated CMP Funds	Carole Carlson Fund (Whale Watching)	Bycatch General	Bycatch Risk Assessments	Marine Debris	FAO Factsheets	Conservation Committee Database	Ship Strikes	Unassigned	
Opening Balance 01/01/2021	809	15,600	5,600	-	58,889	11,686	149,797	19,489	8,750	-	10,000	37,361	75,318	393,299
<b>Income</b>														
Voluntary Contributions from:														
Austria					17,297		25,945							43,242
Belguim							25,342							25,342
Chinese Taipei							11,500							11,500
Netherlands							8,507					8,507		17,013
Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)							3,613						3,613	7,225
Cetacean Society International (CSI)													361	361
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)							3,613					3,613		7,225
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)										2,273				2,273
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)												1,084		1,084
OceanCare							2,000							2,000
WWF Australia							2,168							2,168
<b>Total Income</b>	-	-	-	-	17,297	-	82,687	-	-	2,273	-	4,697	12,481	119,434
<b>Expenditure</b>														
Salary & Benefits												(20,675)		(20,675)
Contractor Remuneration			(1,700)			(9,450)								(11,150)
Miscellaneous													(1,347)	(1,347)
Bank Charges & Currency Adjs			(5)						428			(47)	(612)	(236)
Transfers of Budget												10,000		10,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	-	-	(1,705)	-	-	(9,450)	-	-	428	-	-	(10,722)	(1,959)	(23,408)
Closing Balance 31/12/2021														
Opening Balance 01/01/2022	809	15,600	3,895	-	76,186	2,236	232,484	19,489	9,178	2,273	10,000	31,335	85,840	489,325
<b>Income</b>														
Voluntary Contributions from:														
Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)				3,973			6,621						2,648	13,242
<b>Total Income</b>	-	-	-	3,973	-	-	6,621	-	-	-	-	-	2,648	13,242
<b>Expenditure</b>														
Salary & Benefits												(17,335)		(17,335)
Contractor Remuneration			(1,650)											(1,650)
Media & Communications Literature										(5,625)				(5,625)
Miscellaneous														-
Bank Charges & Currency Adjs			(5)				(5)			(5)		(35)		(50)
Transfers of Budget														-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	-	-	(1,655)	-	-	-	(5)	-	-	(5,630)	-	(17,370)	-	(24,659)
<b>Current Balance 31/07/2022</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>76,186</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>239,101</b>	<b>19,489</b>	<b>9,178</b>	<b>(3,357)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>13,965</b>	<b>88,488</b>	<b>477,908</b>
<b>Commitments</b>														
Income										9,960				9,960
Contractor Remuneration	(809)		(2,240)								(10,000)			(13,049)
Media & Communications Illustrator										(5,625)				(5,625)
Salary & Benefits												(12,382)		(12,382)
Miscellaneous										(978)				(978)
Contractor cost for bycatch rapid risk assessment training, Columbia		(9,600)						(2,989)						(12,589)
Travel element retained by Secretariat		(6,000)												(6,000)
Columbia rapid risk assessment								(9,500)						(9,500)
Capacity building								(7,000)						(7,000)
Seed Money for Pilot Projects							(140,000)							(140,000)
Communication activities							(3,000)							(3,000)
Consultant for IOTC data collation							(5,000)							(5,000)
<b>Uncommitted Balance to 31/07/2022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>76,186</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>91,101</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,178</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>88,488</b>	<b>272,744</b>