

## Progress Report by the IWC Strandings Coordinator April 2022-July 2022

### *The Commission is requested to:*

- *note the intersessional progress made by the Strandings Initiative (SI)*
- *endorse the new Strategic objectives and SI structure ([SC/68C/E/15](#))*
- *adopt the proposed workplan for 2021-2024 ([SC/68C/E/17](#))*
- *support funding application for in-person SEP workshop in Spring 2023 (Annex 4)*
- *endorse the continuation of the Strandings Coordinator position for the next two years to IWC69*
- *supply details of strandings network contact details to the Secretariat*

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper provides a progress update for the IWC Strandings Initiative from April 2022-July 2022 and details of planned upcoming works. Papers outlining progress between April 2018-April 2019 ([SC/68A/E/05](#)), 2019-2020 ([SC/68B/E/08](#)), May 2020-May 2021 ([SC/68C/E/16](#)) and May 2021-April 2022 ([SC/68D/E/13](#)) were submitted to the Scientific Committee by the Strandings Coordinator, IWC Secretariat and Chair of the Strandings Expert Panel. A draft proposed workplan for 2021-2024 was presented to the Scientific Committee in 2021.

### **INTRODUCTION**

At IWC66, the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee (SC) and the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group (WKM&WI) with respect to establishing an IWC Strandings Initiative. This included the establishment of a Strandings Expert Panel (SEP), Strandings Steering Group (SSG) and Strandings Coordinator post. Following the departure in December 2019 of the existing Strandings Coordinator, Dr Andrew Brownlow was enrolled to support the SEP Chair and develop strategic objectives and a four-year work plan for the period 2021-2024. The proposed strategic objectives and revised Terms of Reference ([SC/68C/E/15](#)) and the four-year workplan ([SC/68C/E/17](#)) were endorsed at SC68C.

### **SCOPE**

In May 2020, the SC endorsed the strong need for a Strandings Coordinator position in the IWC Secretariat to support the SEP and SSG and a new coordinator was recruited and commenced employment in late March 2022. Key responsibilities and tasks of the Strandings Coordinator include developing (in coordination with the SEP) capacity building/training programmes for emergency response to large-scale mass and/or unusual mortality events and drafting of specific guidelines/training workshops using IWC-endorsed curricula. Additionally, the Coordinator convenes SEP meetings and workshops, facilitates the provision of scientific and technical advice on strandings response and training from the SEP, prepares reports on progress to the SSG, SC and WKM&WI and assists with the strategic development of the Strandings Initiative in close collaboration with the newly reformed SSG.

As was proposed at Conservation Committee (CC) 2020 a dedicated Data Manager has been employed at the Secretariat since April 2021 to develop IWC data management, curation and visualisation capacity of strandings data. The Data Manager liaises with international organisations and experts to

identify sources of existing data available on cetacean strandings. Additionally, the Data Manager identifies the main barriers and gaps in IWC strandings data and develops methods to streamline IWC data reporting, validation and curation. The Data Manager develops data dashboarding and analysis of high-level data to produce spatial visualisation of reports from member countries

## PROGRESS

- Re-establishment of Strandings Steering Group and review and update of membership ([SC17414](#), [SC2175](#)).
- First SSG meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 ([Meeting Report available here](#)): Agenda items included confirmation of approval of the four-year workplan for SEP, SSG membership, SEP training update provided by the Strandings Coordinator, SEP in-person workshop proposal and discussion of fundraising ideas and opportunities. A follow up meeting will be held prior to IWC68 specifically to discuss funding.
- Third SEP virtual meeting (April 2022): Agenda items included communications, the appointment of regional focal point local coordinators to aid emergency responses and the ongoing training request from Mauritius in response to the 2020 *Peponocephala electra* mass stranding ([SC/68C/E/14rev01](#)). ([SC2175](#))
- Establishment of regional focal point local coordinators to aid timely and effective emergency responses and training requests:
  - Western Africa – Antonia Fernandez with the support from Ursula Siebert and Andrew Brownlow.
  - Eastern Africa/Indian Ocean (to Sri Lanka) – Stephanie Plön with the support of Sandro Mazzariol.
  - Eastern Asia – Nantarika Chansue with the support of Chalatip Junchompoo.
  - Central Pacific – Kristi West.
  - South America – Andre Barreto with the support of Gaby Hernandez (Central America) and Michel Vely (Caribbean).
- Re-establishment of the SEP Training sub-committee which met in May 2022. Topics on the agenda included Mauritius training requirements and the shape of future training. It is anticipated that a further meeting will take place in Autumn 2022.
- Ongoing organisation of in-person and remote strandings training in Mauritius following the 2020 mass stranding event and subsequent training request. Remote training is being formalised (Annex 2) and relevant permissions are being sought from the Mauritius government for in-person training hopefully later in 2022/early-2023.
- Ongoing development of a package of strandings response training materials for use in IWC training events and for outreach purposes (Annex 1). This initially covers remote/virtual training but will be extended to in-person training in the future. ([SC1917](#)).
- Ongoing responses to initial strandings training queries or advice for strandings response.
- Remote 'real-time' strandings support in response to assistance and advice requests in the Black Sea, Sri Lanka, Norway, Cambodia, Canada, Namibia, Western Cape of South Africa and Mauritius.
- SEP members intervened on cetacean strandings in their respective areas including unusual mortality events, mass strandings, epidemics, live strandings and out of habitat situations.
- Ongoing knowledge exchange and support within the SEP group.
- Updating the strandings network list with up-to-date contact details.
- Update of the IWC Strandings Initiative website with images and biographies of new SEP members.

- Early discussions to formalise recording of marine debris in strandings. ([SC19187](#), [SC19188](#), [SC19189](#), [SC19201](#), [SC19203](#), [SC19205](#), [SC19210](#))
- Preparation of funding proposal for in-person Expert Panel meeting in 2023 (Annex 4).
- Ongoing scoping of a global strandings database with various regional data holders including CARI'MAM, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – also known as the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). ([SC20131](#), [SC1887](#)) - (IWC Database Manager)

## PLANNED WORK

- Preparation of funding proposal for Strandings Coordinator salary ([SC20126](#))
- Provide quarterly updates on Strandings Initiative to Strandings Steering Group and facilitate quarterly SSG meetings ([SC17414](#), [SC2175](#)).
- Complete annual review of SEP membership ([SC20129](#))
- Working with the IWC data manager, look to identify sources of existing data available on cetacean strandings and identify key gaps and opportunities to fill knowledge gaps with a view to developing a strandings database ([SC20131](#), [SC1887](#)).
- Continued scoping of global strandings database with more regional data holders. Development of a proposed data management framework, including data ingestion, database storage, and data access platforms. ([SC20131](#), [SC1887](#)) - (IWC Data Manager)
- Review training prioritisation matrix (Annex 3) and clarify the role and mechanism of the Strandings Initiative input in emergency response whilst utilising the newly appointed regional focal point local contacts. ([SC1916](#))
- With the SEP training subcommittee, finalise the strandings response remote training package in collaboration with the Global Strandings Network, GMAST, IFAW, BDMLR, ASCOBANS and others. This will include protocols, guidelines and beach-friendly materials available. Endorsement by the IWC Scientific Committee will be sought for all validated training aids. ([SC1917](#))
- Completion of remote and in-person training in Mauritius as well as other in-country training at the request of member countries ([SC19190](#)).
- Convene an in-person SI workshop in spring 2023 in Venice, Italy.
- Ongoing discussion and collaboration with the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, Ship Strikes and Entanglements to provide combined training/advice where appropriate including sourcing funding for projects ([SC1920](#), [SC20128](#)).
- Convene a SEP meeting and develop a costed version of the Strandings Initiative Plan. It is hoped that this will be achieved at an in-person workshop in spring 2023. ([SC2175](#))
- Hold initial discussions and formulate protocols for a standardised approach for post-mortems in respect to marine debris including the recording of zero values for marine debris ingestion or entanglement in necropsy reports ([SC19188](#), [SC19189](#))

## **ANNEX 1**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXPERT PANEL AND STRANDINGS STEERING GROUPS**

#### **Strandings Expert Panel**

Sandro Mazzariol, Italy (Chair)

Andre Silva Barreto, Brazil

Andrew Brownlow, UK

Nantarika Chansue, Thailand

Rob Deaville, UK

Antonio Fernandez, Canary Islands

Daren Glover, New Zealand

Frances Gulland, USA

Ailsa Hall, UK

Gabriela Hernandez Mora, Costa Rica

Lonneke Ijssedijk, Netherlands

Chalatip Junchumpoo, Thailand

Milton Marcondes, Brazil

David Mattila, IWC Secretariat Human Impacts Technical Advisor

Michael Meyer, South Africa

Katie Moore, USA

Stephanie Plön, South Africa

Lindsay Porter, Hong Kong

Teri Rowles, USA

Carlos Sacristan, Brazil

Aviad Scheinin, Israel

Ursula Siebert, Germany

Raphaela Stimmelmayer, USA

Karen Stockin, New Zealand

Marcela Uhart, Argentina

Kristi West, USA

Michel Vely, Caribbean

#### **Strandings Steering Group<sup>2</sup>**

Fabia Lunas (D) Chair (Brazil)

Helena Herr (IP) (Germany)

Mark Simmonds (D) (UK)

Silvia Frey (IP) (Switzerland)

Mdu Seakamela (D) (South Africa)

Lindsay Porter, Vice-Chair of Scientific Committee

Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Chair of Conservation Committee

Jan Henderson, Chair of Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group

Daniele Cholewiak, Co- Convenor of the Environmental Concerns Sub-Committee of the Scientific Committee (E)

#### *Ex Officio*

Sandro Mazzariol, Chair of the Strandings Expert Panel

TBC, Convenor of the Environmental Concerns Sub-Committee of the Scientific Committee

Emma Neave-Webb, IWC Strandings Coordinator

Imogen Webster, IWC Secretariat

<sup>2</sup> This list indicates members of the steering group and whether they are representatives of the Scientific Committee (SC) and Strandings Expert Panel, Chairs of IWC subcommittees or members nominated by an IWC Contracting Government (country indicated) or Accredited Observer organisations.

**ANNEX 2**

**(DRAFT) IWC STRANDINGS INITIATIVE TRAINING SCHEDULE REMOTE TRAINING**

Module	Topic	Resources
1.	<b>Introduction to IWC strandings initiative and why respond to and record strandings</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING - NEEDS WRITING</b>
2.	<b>First Response to Strandings Events</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to Report and record a stranding event</li> <li>2. First Response</li> <li>3. Data recording</li> <li>4. Photo Documentation</li> <li>5. Next Steps</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GMAST - Training Objective # 2 Report and Record a Stranded Animal</li> <li>2. GMAST - Training Objective # 3 First Response</li> <li>3. GMAST - Training Objective # 4 Data Recording</li> <li>4. GMAST - Training Objective # 5 Photo Documentation</li> <li>5. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> </ol> <p><b>OUTSTANDING – First Response Flow Chart designed specifically for Mauritius</b></p>
3.	<b>Live Strandings</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reasons why cetaceans strand (May be better in module 1)</li> <li>2. First response recap</li> <li>3. Logistics &amp; Planning Ahead</li> <li>4. Human Safety &amp; Health</li> <li>5. Cetacean First Aid</li> <li>6. Cetacean Health Assessment</li> <li>7. Decision Making: Release vs Euthanasia</li> <li>8. Refloating a live cetacean</li> <li>9. Euthanasia</li> <li>10. Responding to a live large cetacean stranding</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>2. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing (pull key slides from First Response above?)</b></li> <li>3. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs expanding on (a lot)</b></li> <li>4. GMAST – Training Objective # 1: Human Safety &amp; Health</li> <li>5. GMAST – Small (Live) Cetacean Stranding response: Supportive Care section</li> <li>6. GMAST – Small (Live) Cetacean Stranding response: Health Assessment section</li> <li>7. GMAST – Small (Live) Cetacean Stranding response: Optimal disposition section</li> <li>8. <b>OUTSTANDING – BDMLR training?</b></li> <li>9. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>10. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> </ol> <p><b>OUTSTANDING – Live Stranding Response Flow Chart/Protocol designed specifically for Mauritius</b></p> <p>Other Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCOBAMS - Guidelines for Response to Cetacean Strandings during Emergencies <b>(GSN)</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IWDG – Cetacean Live Stranding Response Guidelines (<b>GSN</b>)</li> <li>• BDMLR Training videos/manual</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Dead Strandings</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to cetacean pathology &amp; disease</li> <li>2. Responding to Dead Stranded Cetaceans</li> <li>3. Dead large cetacean strandings response</li> <li>4. Necropsy best practice and lab resources</li> <li>5. Sample Storage &amp; Transport</li> <li>6. Carcass Disposal</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>2. GMAST – Responding to Dead Stranded Cetaceans</li> <li>3. GMAST – Dead Large Whale Response</li> <li>4. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>5. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>6. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> </ol> <p><b>OUTSTANDING – Dead Stranding Response Flow Chart/Protocol designed specifically for Mauritius</b></p> <p>Other Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCOBAMS/ASCOBAMS - Best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling (<b>GSN</b>)</li> <li>• Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution - Marine Mammal Necropsy: An introductory guide for stranding responders and field biologists (<b>GSN</b>)</li> <li>• UK Cetacean Necropsy Protocol Mass Strandings</li> <li>• Sample Storage and Transport folder in SP</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Mass stranding and unusual mortality events</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mass Stranding Events</li> <li>2. Unusual Mortality Events</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> <li>2. <b>OUTSTANDING – needs writing</b></li> </ol> <p>Other Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFAW Cape Cod Mass Stranding Response</li> <li>• UK Mass Stranding Protocol 2014</li> <li>• UK Cetacean Necropsy Protocol Mass Strandings</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Establishing a strandings network and capacity building</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishing a Strandings Network</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GMAST - Structural Elements of a Functioning Stranding Response Network</li> </ol>

	2. Capacity Building	2. GMAST - Capacity Building Considerations
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**ANNEX 3**

**STRANDINGS INITIATIVE TRAINING PRIORITISATION MATRIX**

<b>Country Requesting Training:</b>			
<b>Date of Request</b>			
<b>Contact Name:</b>			
<b>Contact Details:</b>			
<b>IWC Member:</b>	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
<b>Following officials notified:</b>	Member Government Contact <input type="radio"/> <i>(From IWC List)</i>		
	Country Commissioner <input type="radio"/>		
	Secretariat <input type="radio"/>		
<b>Regional Expert Panel Contact Appointed:</b>			
<b>Training Request Template:</b>	Sent:		Received: <input type="text"/>
<b>Notes:</b>			

**APPROVED:      YES       NO**

<b>If approved, next steps:</b>	
<b>If not approved, reason:</b>	



<b>Would future work be considered if not approved:</b>			
<b>FACTORS</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Region</b>	e.g., North America, Australia/New Zealand, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBAMS <input type="radio"/>	e.g., Asia <input type="radio"/>	e.g., Africa, Central and South America <input type="radio"/>
<b>Existing risks and/or safety concerns to trainers/participants</b>	Known e.g., conflicts, terrorism threat <input type="radio"/>	Possible/Unknown e.g., logistical difficulties <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Zoonotic disease presence/likelihood</b>	None <input type="radio"/>	Possible/Unknown <input type="radio"/>	Known <input type="radio"/>
<b>Government support</b>	No government input <input type="radio"/>	Government supports training request <input type="radio"/>	Government leads training request <input type="radio"/>
<b>Existing stranding networks</b>	National/Regional <input type="radio"/>	Local <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Existing expertise (e.g., technical response specialists, veterinarians, biologists)</b>	National/Regional <input type="radio"/>	Local <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Diagnostic laboratory capacity</b>	Good e.g., lab/s with full diagnostic capability <input type="radio"/>	Limited e.g., lab with partial capability <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Existing facilities/infrastructure</b>	Good <input type="radio"/>	Limited <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Welfare concerns (e.g., mass stranding event, limiting capacity/logistical difficulties to response)</b>	Low/Unknown <input type="radio"/>	Limited welfare concerns <input type="radio"/>	Significant welfare concerns <input type="radio"/>
<b>Conservation concerns (e.g., threatened/endangered, cetacean disease of concern, mass stranding event, unusual cetacean event)</b>	None/Unknown <input type="radio"/>	Some conservation concern <input type="radio"/>	Significant conservation concerns <input type="radio"/>
<b>Recipient of previous strandings training</b>	Several <input type="radio"/>	Limited <input type="radio"/>	None <input type="radio"/>
<b>Evidence/likelihood of prior training uptake and/or improvement</b>	No <input type="radio"/>	Limited <input type="radio"/>	Yes <input type="radio"/>

**Instructions:**

Please tick the appropriate box for each category.

Prioritisation is based on the sum assignment of either Low, Medium or High priority ranking to each of the listed factors. In addition to this ranking, the SEP further considers additional factors including (i) financial resources available, (ii) type of training being requested (e.g. live vs dead response, basic vs advanced level response), (iii) potential for joint training initiatives either relating to other IWC work programmes (e.g. entanglement) or in collaboration with third parties (e.g. IFAW), and (iv) opportunity for co-funding and cost sharing (e.g. by timing in with existing conferences, meetings etc). The SEP then discusses these factors and reaches a collective decision. If the SEP cannot agree, or several competing applications are in simultaneous review with no clear priority evident, then the SEP will vote, with the casting vote held by the chair.

## ANNEX 4 RESEARCH FUNDING PROPOSAL



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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.*

In-Person workshop of the IWC Strandings Expert Panel (to include the Chair of the Steering Group and Strandings Coordinator).

#### 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 purpose of this proposal is support and help fund a three-day workshop bringing together in-person for the first time all members of the IWC Strandings Expert Panel (SEP), the Chair of the Strandings Steering Group and the Strandings Coordinator in Spring 2023. This vital workshop will enable the Expert Panel to:

- Review and define a new and more efficient structure of the SEP to properly respond to training requests and emergencies
- Refine existing and develop a plan of new training programmes and tools to support countries requesting advice. This would include a review and finalisation of a remote training package currently being written for the Government of Mauritius.
- Select, collate and synergize materials for emergency responses and training
- Design a strategy for cooperation and collaboration with other IGO initiatives (OIE, IUCN etc)

This funding request is to enable work that has been proposed and endorsed by the Scientific Committee at SC68C as part of the Strandings Initiative four-year plan. The main goal of the workshop is to define a strategy to develop and implement all the tasks identified within the four-year work plan if it is endorsed by the Commission.

#### 3 . RELEVANT IWC COMMITTEES 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.*

Strandings Expert Panel

Strandings Steering Group

Intersessional Group for Welfare

WKM&WI

Scientific Committee

Conservation Committee

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

Research project	
Modelling	
Workshop/meeting	✓
Database creation/maintenance	
Compilation work/editing (e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.)	
Other (please specify below)	

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

(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC COMMITTEES, GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS:

In 2020, four-year work plan ([SC/68C/E/17](#)) and strategic objectives ([SC/68C/E15](#)) for the Strandings Initiative were developed and presented for discussion and endorsement at the IWC Scientific Committee in 2021 (SC68C). These will now be presented for endorsement of the Commission at IWC68. Within the Strategic Objectives, revised Terms of Reference were agreed and within these, it is stated that the Strandings Expert Panel shall aim to have an in-person meeting once every biennium which to date has not happened. It is anticipated that the workshop will enable the Strandings Expert Panel to work on the following recommendations and priorities:

##### Recommendations

- Review training prioritisation matrix (Annex 3) and clarify the role and mechanism of the Strandings Initiative input in emergency response whilst utilising the newly appointed regional focal point local contacts. ([SC1916](#))
- With the SEP training subcommittee, finalise the strandings response remote training package in collaboration with the Global Strandings Network, GMAST, IFAW, BDMLR, ASCOBANS and others. This will include protocols, guidelines and beach-friendly materials available. Endorsement by the IWC Scientific Committee will be sought for all validated training aids. ([SC1917](#))
- Develop a costed version of the Strandings Initiative Plan ([SC2175](#))
- Hold initial discussions and formulate protocols for a standardised approach for post-mortems in respect to marine debris including the recording of zero values for marine debris ingestion or entanglement in necropsy reports ([SC19188](#), [SC19189](#))
- Use the opportunity of SEP members being together to run an additional one-day mass strandings workshop inviting in additional experts virtually or in person as per the Welfare Workplan.

## (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.*

The workshop aims to:

- Review training prioritisation matrix and clarify the role and mechanism of the Strandings Initiative input in emergency response
- Finalise the strandings response remote training package in collaboration with the Global Strandings Network, GMAST, IFAW, BDMLR, ASCOBANS and others
- Develop a costed version of the Strandings Initiative Plan
- Hold initial discussions and formulate protocols for a standardised approach for post-mortems in respect to marine debris
- Further develop strategies for the agreement of other IGOs/NGOs to enhance global cooperation
- Finalise a plan of implementation for the four-year workplan

The Strandings Initiative Expert Panel Terms of Reference highlights:

- Identify and, as appropriate, develop 'best practices' for stranding response, including protocols for how to respond effectively maintaining adequate animal welfare, euthanasia and sampling protocols, how to conduct scientific investigations to meet the needs of the Scientific Committee, and how to communicate stranding science and management decisions; and assist member states to build strandings response capacity.
- The Expert Panel shall meet virtually at least quarterly and aim to have an in person meeting (where resources allow) once every biennium, back to back with other meetings if possible.
- Expert Panel membership shall ideally consist of individuals who offer a range of complementary expertise in both live and dead cetacean strandings response and have members with expertise in as diverse a range of geographical regions as possible.
  - a. Regional experts in stranding response, including those leading the work on the Global Marine Animal Stranding Toolkit (GMAST);
  - b. Diverse agencies and organizations (e.g. governmental, NGO, academia);
  - c. Multi-disciplinary expertise (e.g. logistics, biology, medicine and rehabilitation, pathology, epidemiology, toxicology, database management, stranding management; and
  - d. Administrative/coordinator staff
- The membership of the Expert Panel shall select a Chairperson from among the membership to serve a two-year term of office following which the Chair may be reappointed or replaced.
- Membership of Expert Panel members will be reviewed every 3 years and those members who are actively contributing to the panel will be invited to continue their membership. Membership will be terminated for a member who fails, over this period, to contribute at meetings or intersessional work.
- The Expert Panel may establish committees of Expert Panel members, or their representatives, on an ad hoc or standing basis as it deems necessary. Such committees shall report to the Expert Panel. As appropriate, the Coordinator shall provide support services to the committees.

### (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).

It is anticipated that the workshop will take place at the University of Padova (UNIPD) who have offered to host the workshop with venues, AV equipment and catering. The workshop will include a maximum of 27 SEP members (with a hybrid option available for those members unable to travel) plus the Chair of the Strandings Steering Group plus the Strandings Coordinator totaling 29 participants. The workshop will last three full days with a variety of sessions and break-out sessions to cover topics.

It is hoped that it will be possible to utilize the fact that the SEP are meeting in-person to hold a one-day Mass Stranding workshop prior to or after the SEP workshop to save on additional travel costs. This would be a hybrid workshop with external experts dialing in if they are not able to attend in person.

In terms of funding, we are requesting funding for 10 participants to the SEP workshop with all other participants paying their own way. This would be the equivalent to approximately £34,200 of match funding assuming the same costs per individual of £1800. It is likely that this cost will be considerably less for members travelling from within Europe.

### (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.

The Strandings Coordinator will work closely with the Secretariat lead for communications to produce relevant promotional materials on the IWC Strandings Initiative and to develop relevant content for the IWC website.

## 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)
Meeting Planning	Strandings Coordinator, Chair	November 2022	May 2023
Travel Booking	Secretariat, individual members	January 2023	April 2023
Travel	All	May 2023	May 2023
Meeting	All, Strandings Coordinator	May 2023	May 2023
Report write-up	Strandings Coordinator, Chair	May 2023	July 2023

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
Finalised training programme	July 2023
Revised Training Prioritization Matrix	June 2023
Marine Debris Necropsy recording protocols	Early 2024
Four-year work plan implementation plan	May 2023
Costed version of four-year workplan	May 2023
Workshop report	July 2023

## 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
Sandro Mazzariol, Italy (Chair)	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Andre Silva Barreto, Brazil	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Andrew Brownlow, UK	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Nantarika Chansue, Thailand	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Rob Deaville, UK	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Antonio Fernandez, Canary Islands	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Daren Glover, New Zealand	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Frances Gulland, USA	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Ailsa Hall, UK	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Gabriela Hernandez Mora, Costa Rica	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Lonneke Ijssedijk, Netherlands	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Chalatip Junchumpoo, Thailand	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Milton Marcondes, Brazil	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
David Mattila, IWC Secretariat	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Michael Meyer, South Africa	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Katie Moore, USA	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Stephanie Plön, South Africa	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Lindsay Porter, Hong Kong	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Teri Rowles, USA	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Carlos Sacristan, Brazil	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Aviad Scheinin, Israel	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Ursula Siebert, Germany	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Raphaella Stimmelmayer, USA	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Karen Stockin, New Zealand	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Marcela Uhart, Argentina	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Kristi West, USA	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Michel Vely, Caribbean	IWC Strandings Expert Panel	None
Fabia Lunas, Brazil	IWC Strandings Steering Group Chair	None
Emma Neave-Webb, IWC Secretariat	IWC Strandings Coordinator	None

## 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)	Flights to Venice		10	£10,000			
	Accommodation		10	£500			
	Subsistence		10	£300			
(3) Services (by item)							
(4) Reusable equipment							
(5) Consumables							
(6) Shipping & Customs (by Item)							
(7) Insurance (by item)							
(8) Other							



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
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£18,000</b>			

Co-funding Memo:

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

Total value of project:	Cost £GBP
Funds requested from IWC	<b>£18,000</b>
Co-funding	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£18,000</b>

## 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 report will be held in the IWC archive. All training materials once finalised will likely be available online via a dedicated website or sharing facility. However, the exact mechanism for this is to be decided at the workshop. They will also be held within the Strandings Initiative Sharepoint site.

## 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:*

## DRAFT SCORING SHEET

If a project presents multiple primary objectives which are achieved using sub-projects, a sheet should be used to evaluate each single sub-project. Note that not all criteria are equally applicable depending on the nature of the project (e.g. field work versus workshops).

### VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FUND - EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Criteria	Weighting	Score
1	Do the expected outcomes of the project address the identified priority area in the Conservation Committee's strategic plan?	0 – Not addressed 1 – Poorly addressed 2 – Reasonably addressed 3 – Well addressed 4 – Very well addressed 5 – Excellently addressed	
2	Does the methodology outlined effectively and efficiently address the research questions in the proposal?	0 - Not demonstrated 1 - Poor methodology 2 - Reasonable methodology 3 - Good methodology 4 - Very good methodology 5 - Excellent methodology	
3	Does the project involve good participation and engagement of regional participants?	0 - Not demonstrated 1 - Poor engagement proposed 2 - Reasonable engagement proposed 3 - Good engagement proposed 4 - Very good engagement proposed 5 - Excellent engagement proposed	
4	Is the proposed project feasible, well organised and timeline achievable?	0 - Not demonstrated	

		<p>1 - Feasibility, organisation and timeline unrealistic</p> <p>2 - Feasibility, organisation and timeline not properly addressed</p> <p>3 - Feasibility, organisation and timeline sound</p> <p>4 - Feasibility, organisation and timeline demonstrated well</p> <p>5 - Feasibility, organisation and timeline very well demonstrated</p>	
5	<p>Have the project leads demonstrated that they are capable of carrying out the proposed work and disseminating the outcomes accordingly?</p>	<p>0 - Not demonstrated</p> <p>1 - Poor record</p> <p>2 - Reasonable record</p> <p>3 - Good record</p> <p>4 - Very good record</p> <p>5 – Project leads have an excellent record relevant to the proposed work</p>	
6	<p>Does the project demonstrate good value for money?</p>	<p>0 - Not demonstrated</p> <p>1 – Poor value for money</p> <p>2 - Reasonable value for money</p> <p>3 - Good value for money</p> <p>4 - Very good value for money</p> <p>5 – Excellent value for money</p>	