

Update on Fundraising and the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance

Prepared by the Secretariat
IWC68 – October 2022

Action Requested

This paper provides an update on Fundraising and work of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance (ICGSF) over the past two years, since the update provided at the 2020 virtual meeting of the Conservation Committee (CC) ([link](#)). The Committee is asked to note this information and provide any comments on intersessional progress made.

The Committee is also requested to endorse the proposal to set up a new group to assist the Secretariat in its fundraising activities.

Summary of Progress

In accordance with the guidance provided by the ICGSF, the Secretariat continues to develop and provide for the CC and Commission a strategic plan, a work plan, and corresponding costed work programmes. This was provided for the CC in 2020 and at IWC68 this year. This framework provides clarity on the priorities by work programme and consequently the need for financial support for specific programmes.

The most significant new development over the last year is that the Secretariat has been able to hire a part-time staff member whose primary responsibility is external fundraising. This has increased the Secretariat's ability to identify and pursue funding opportunities and to conduct focused outreach to potential donors. Concept notes on priority topics developed in the early years of the ICGSF have provided a sound foundation for conducting this fundraising. The Fundraising post also manages the accounts of the Scientific Committee research fund which helps ensure effective coordination.

While still in its early stages, the active fundraising has identified and acted on a few opportunities already underway, including funding from FAO and a NOAA Cooperative Agreement. The Secretariat has also joined as a partner in seeking EU funding for the Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic Region (CIBBRiNA) project proposal. Funding for hosting interns from ATLAFCO member countries has been secured from the Voluntary Assistance Fund and a pilot internship is underway to support IWC68. With the addition of staff focused on fundraising the inventory of funding opportunities is also expanding.

Future work of the ICGSF

The Chair of ICGSF continues to work with her counterparts in Finance & Administration (F&A) and Budgetary Sub-committee (BSC) to explore options for the future of the group. Given that the workplan 2018-2020 (see Annex 1) and the mandate of the ICGSF is complete with the implementation of the funding allocation process, guidance for ethical fundraising and other tasks in place, the Committee is asked to consider transforming this group into a new group with a new mandate and a renewed membership to advise the Secretariat in its increased focus on fundraising activities. If this new group is created, it is recommended that it continues to work closely with the BSC and F&A and includes experts related to the activities of the group, such as the development of funding proposals, among its membership.

Annex 1: Workplan (2018-2020) for the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing

Activity	Undertaken by	Resource implications¹
Continue the development of costed work programmes.	ICG-SF, Secretariat	Core
Test the costed work programmes and review is needed / help with fine-tuning.	ICG-SF, Secretariat, SWGs	Core
Support the Secretariat in compiling a list of potential external funding opportunities.	ICG-SF, Secretariat, SWGs	Core
Support/Advise the Secretariat, Commission bodies, and working groups, and others on outreach to funding bodies and other partners.	ICG-SF, Secretariat, SWGs	Core
Support and advise Working Groups and the Secretariat in the development and submission of funding proposals.	ICG-SF, Secretariat, SWGs	Core and potentially additional Secretariat time required
Submit at least one request for external funding during the intersessional period. (preferably several to test the different processes related to different kinds of funds)	ICG-SF, Secretariat, SWGs	Core, voluntary funded Secretariat staff, and potentially additional Secretariat time required
Provide advice on any recommendations of the governance review that relate to external fund raising and associated projects, including the enabling conditions for fund raising e.g. budgets and costed work plans.	ICG-SF	Core
Develop/Look into options for a minimum environmental standard for corporate funding.	ICG-SF	Core
Explore new and innovative fundraising methods like crowdfunding.	ICG-SF, Secretariat	Core
Review the code for Ethical fundraising and update if necessary.	ICG-SF	Core
Maintain the financial pages on the IWC website to ensure they remain current and relevant.	IWC Secretariat	Core
Ongoing review of available funding streams that could potentially be accessed to support the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.	IWC Secretariat	Core
Ongoing review of opportunities to engage with Trust Funds/Foundations and their relevance to	IWC Secretariat	Core

¹ Core - will be undertaken as part of ongoing Secretariat work.

Core and additional Secretariat capacity may be required: Secretariat time is limited and any substantive activity may require, for example, input from the IWC standing working groups or the use of consultants. If and where possible costs incurred will be recovered from grant bodies.

the IWC work programme, including outreach where appropriate.		
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