

TEMPLATE FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL AND BUDGET

1. Project Title

Pilot project to assess the socio-economic values of a single species, population or stock of cetaceans to the well-being of people and the rest of nature.

2. Lead Working Group

Please note which Working Group has recommended the project be taken forward.

Additionally, if other Working Groups or Subcommittees have interests in the work of this project, please list them here.

During the 2022 workshop on the socio-economic values of the contribution of cetaceans to the ecosystem functioning, it was proposed to conduct a short-term pilot project to assess the socio-economic values provided by a species of cetacean (still to be selected) with the objective of closing the research gap that currently exists in evaluating the ecosystem services provided by this group of marine mammals, specially those supporting services that help maintain the health of the ecosystem.

Subcommittees and Working groups that have or could have an interest in the work of this project are:

- ✓ IWC Conservation Committee and its working group on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning.
- ✓ IWC Scientific Committee and its standing working group on ecosystem modelling, as well as the second workshop on cetacean and ecosystem functioning.
- ✓ IWC Finance and Administration Committee

3. Project Description

A very brief overview of the project proposal and its expected outcomes.

The pilot project is aimed to 1) assess the economic value of selected services of a single species/population/stock of cetacean; 2) identify potential contributions of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning that require further research to establish links to specific ecosystem services; and 3) explore the design of financial mechanisms and governance schemes that could allow us to utilise the human benefits derived from these services to generate funding that would be reinvested to improve their conservation and restoration.

It is envisaged that a consultancy could be appointed to conduct the pilot project (*i.e.* economic valuation and proposals for a suitable financial mechanism and potential governance schemes). However, initial steps and agreements are needed before such a consultancy could start its work. These include *inter alia*.

- 1.- the identification of potential species, populations or stocks that currently have the best available scientific information to perform such an analysis, including understanding the threats that may influence economic valuation.
- 2.- the development of Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the consultancy and contracting services.

It is proposed to appoint a project coordinator as well as an advisory group (including scientists from disciplines such as ecology and economics) to develop these initial steps as well as to oversee and provide feedback to the work conducted by the consultants.

The project coordinator should organize virtual meetings, workshops, expert polls, or any other activities agreed by the advisory group, using a participatory approach, to select the suitable species/stock(s) as well as the ecosystem services that should be considered as minimum requirements during the consultancy valuation. Results on the selection process as well as draft ToRs for the consultancy should be provided to the Scientific Committee meeting during April/May 2023 to update on the process and get feedback on the selection of the species/stocks and variables to be considered under this process¹.

The coordinator and advisory group, with support of the IWC Secretariat, should open a process to receive applications and contract consultants to undergo the above-mentioned economic assessment and proposals.

The consultancy should be appointed to at least a) conduct the economical valuation of the contribution of the selected species/stock, b) propose a financial mechanism based on the ecosystem services evaluated to support conservation and restoration efforts, and c) design a institutional framework of the proposed financial mechanism.

Specific ToRs for the consultancy will be developed after the initial steps by the coordinator and advisory group and will also be discussed within the IWC Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Planning Group before its adoption. The consultancy will have to work closely with the coordinator and advisory committee, or any other instance requested, to present preliminary results on their work and receive expert feedback and revise/modify the on-going work if needed.

A final written formal report will be required at the end of the consultancy project. It is proposed that the consultancy should provide as deliverables:

- 1.- a summary of a literature review (to include the scientific and economic aspects related to cetaceans and their role in ecosystem functioning) that may include, among others, information from the IWC 2021 and 2022 related workshops.
- 2.- the identification of species' ecosystem services where a connection between supporting services and economic data for one or more economic activities can be provided and identify research needed to establish links to specific ecosystem services where there is still not possible to appropriately link them.
- 3.- an economic valuation of the selected ecosystem services.
- 4.- a proposal of a financial mechanism and institutional arrangement to improve the target

¹ It should be noted that even if not all biological data may be available, there may still be social and/or economical data that can support the goal of developing financial mechanisms to be used for improving cetacean conservation outcomes.

species conservation and restoration.

A final workshop, organized by the coordinator, will be conducted to present results to a broader audience.

All the processes and final outcomes/recommendations from the consultancy and workshops will be presented for consideration at the next IWC69 meeting.

4. Project Justification

Demonstrate connections to relevant recommendations and Resolutions endorsed by the Commission including, where relevant, the Conservation Committee's Strategic Plan.

In 2016, the Commission adopted the resolution on Cetacean and their Contribution to Ecosystem Functioning (Resolution 2016-3). It directed the Conservation Committee to undertake the review of ecological, management, environmental, social and economic aspects related to the contributions of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning to people and natural systems, as a matter of importance.

During a Conservation Committee Planning meeting conducted in 2017, a working group (WG) on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning was established. In 2018, the Commission adopted resolution 2018-2 on advancing the Commission's work on the role of cetaceans in the ecosystem functioning and endorsed the recommendations of the CC-WG that included *inter alia* the conduction of a workshop on socio-economic value of the contribution of cetaceans to the ecosystem functioning.

The workshop on socio-economic value was conducted in April 2022 and was attended by 69 participants, including distinguished scientists from different disciplines from around the world. In the short term, the workshop proposed the development of such a pilot project and suggested that the CC-WG on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning could develop a proposal, including terms of reference, for a pilot project to be presented at the Commission meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia in October 2022 for consideration.

5. Relevant IWC Voluntary Funds

Please list all relevant IWC Voluntary Funds and which criteria this project meets.

Voluntary Conservation Fund - Projects addressing emerging issues and new threats to whale populations

6. Overview of activities

Activity	Expected Results	Timeline	Budget Implications	
			Type (Salary, Travel, Meeting Services, Equipment, Other)*	Estimated Cost (GB pounds)
Project coordination	Organization of meetings, workshop, poll, etc.; coordination between advisory group, consultancy, and scientific committee; preparation of reports and presentation of advances and results to the Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee and the Commission.	November 2022 – October 2024	Salary (24 months, GBP20/hr, 400hrs/year)	16,000
Establishment of advisory group	Identification of key experts, invitations and appointment	November-December 2022	---	---
Virtual meetings and polls	Selection of candidate species/stocks to be assessed and the potential associated ecosystem services to be valued; draft ToR for consultancy	January 2023-April 2023	---	---
Presentation at Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Planning Meeting	Get feedback on selection of species/stocks and ToR	April/May 2023	---	---
Finalize ToR	Prepare documents needed to open selection process for consultancy	May-June 2023	---	---
Open consultancy selection process	Select and contract consultancy	June 2023		
Consultancy work and monitoring	Periodical meetings with project coordinator and advisory group to discuss preliminary results and receive feedback; final report and deliverables including economical valuation, suggestions of research needed and potential financial and governance mechanisms	June 2023-April 2024	Contracting services	60,000

Initial review of literature	Summary of literature review (scientific and economic) on cetacean and ecosystem functioning as well as ecosystem services valuation	June – August 2023	---	---
Identification of supporting services to be used	Selection of ecosystem services to be evaluated and identification of research gaps and modelling needing for those where a link is not yet well established.	June – August 2023	---	---
Virtual expert meetings	One to three instances to present advances to a broader audience that could provide advice in case adaptation is required.	September 2023 - March 2024	---	---
Final in-person expert workshop	15-20 participants, including cetacean scientists and economist experts on the field	April – May 2024	Flights, local travels, accommodations and subsistence.	25,000
Presentation of pilot project results from consultancy and workshop	Report to the Scientific Committee	April-May 2024	---	---
	Report to the Conservation Committee and Commission	September-October 2024	---	---
TOTAL				101,000

*Salary costs should include salaries for additional staff to be recruited but exclude staff time of existing Secretariat staff (core time), which is outlined below. Travel costs should include a breakdown of flights, accommodation and subsistence. Please contact the Secretariat for guidance on subsistence rates.

7. Core Secretariat support required

Type	Detailed description	Number of days
IT/database	Support with polls and virtual meetings	15
Communications	Promotion of pilot project at IWC web portal	4
Meeting Services	Coordination of in-person workshop	4
Project management	Send invitations, contract arrangements, submission of documents to IWC portal	10
Other		
Total		33

8. Potential partners or funders

Please include a list of all potential partners and funders and their role in this project.

Centro de Conservacion Cetacea (Chile) – potential partner to help with meetings/workshop coordination and assist with report

Whale and dolphin conservation (international) – potential partner to help with meetings/workshop coordination, assist with report, liaise with scientists, and potentially provide resources to assist the consultant, subject to funding and scope of this work.

9. Project requirements/Permits/Insurances

Please list any constraints or other considerations e.g. field work permits, CITES permits, welfare concerns, security considerations etc

Please confirm that all relevant insurances are secured.

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10. Possible Risks

This should include all possible risks or uncertain factors that might have a negative impact on the project and their possible consequences. Add mitigation options, if possible.

✓ Not applicable