

Update on Contributions

A Secretariat Report

15 February 2023

1. Background

- 1.1. Rule of Procedure, Financial Regulation E.7. requires the Executive Secretary to keep the Bureau updated on contributions and voting status and this report serves that purpose.
- 1.2. The Secretariat would like to bring to members' attention some extracts from the Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations which may aid Contracting Governments in arrears.
 - Section E.3: It shall be open to any Contracting Government to defer the payment of any increased portion of its annual contribution resulting from a change in Capacity to Pay Groups. The Contracting Government must obtain written agreement to defer the increase portion of its annual contribution from the Executive Secretary 30 days before payment is due. The deferred portion shall be paid in full by 31 December of that year. The non-deferred portion must still be paid to the Commission by 30 June.
 - Section F.5(f): The provisions of this Regulation and of Financial Regulations F.1. and F.2. will cease to have effect for a Contracting Government if it makes a payment of 2 years outstanding contributions and provides an undertaking to pay the balance of arrears and the interest within a further 2 years.

2. Current Position

- 2.1. The right to vote of representatives of any Contracting Government shall be suspended automatically when the annual payment, including any interest due, has not been received by the Commission by the earliest of these dates:
 - 3 months following the due date; or
 - The day before the first day of the next biennial or special meeting of the Commission or meeting of the Bureau if such a meeting is held within 3 months following the due date; or
 - In the case of a vote by postal or other means, the date upon which votes must be received if this falls within 3 months following the due date,

the right to vote of the Contracting Government concerned shall be suspended as provided under Rule E.2. of the Rules of Procedure, unless the Commission decides otherwise in the case of exceptional circumstances.
- 2.2. Regarding the third bullet point in the list above, this indicate that the deadline for a postal vote on the Bureau's recommended candidate for Executive Secretary will be the due date for payment of 2023 financial contributions. This could impact the ability to attain a quorum to hold a vote unless the Bureau has reached a decision well before 30 June 2023.
- 2.3. Annex A shows countries with and without voting rights as at 09:00 15 February 2023.
- 2.4. At the time of writing:
 - For 2023 financial contributions, the Commission has received 18 payments, 20%. The due date for 2023 invoices is 30 June 2023.
 - For 2022's contributions, 57 countries are in good standing and 31 have arrears.
 - This means that the Commission is currently quorate and therefore can hold a vote if this becomes necessary. It is required for a simple majority (45) of countries to be in good standing for voting to be quorate. This position will change from 1 July 2023 if more 2023 contributions are not paid.
 - The arrears balance totals nearly £539k for the six years 2017-2022, which is approximately 31% of the IWC annual contributions budget.

2.5. Not receiving contributions on time is critical for the Commission to be able to operate and pay its obligations as they fall due. Non-payment / late payments of contributions create risks to the IWC's ability to function.

2.6. A verbal update will be given to the Bureau if the position has changed from that set out in this report.

3. Proposal to publish annual contribution status on the IWC website

3.1. In August 2022, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), announced the launch of a new webpage on their website which provides a report on the status of annual financial contributions, updated once per month.

3.2. The Secretariat proposes we emulate this report and include it on the IWC Funding webpage.

3.3. Two motivators for doing this are:

- It provides useful information for our stakeholders, and
- This fits with the aim of having our information more accessible and transparent.

3.4. A copy of the proposed report is available in Annex B.

4. Summary

4.1. The Bureau is requested to:

- Note the status of contributions and voting for Member Governments.
- Emphasise the need to pay contributions in full and on time and strongly encourage Member Governments in arrears to pay their remaining contributions immediately.
- Note the potential impact of the status of contributions on the ability to recruit a new Executive Secretary.
- Provide feedback on the proposed report shown in Annex B.

ANNEX A – Voting Status

09:00 15 February 2023

Countries **with** full voting rights:

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Belgium
5. Benin
6. Bulgaria
7. Cambodia
8. Chile
9. China, P.R of
10. Colombia
11. Croatia
12. Cyprus
13. Czech Republic
14. Denmark
15. Dominican Republic
16. Estonia
17. Finland
18. France
19. Germany
20. Grenada
21. Hungary
22. Iceland
23. Ireland
24. Israel
25. Italy
26. Kiribati
27. Korea, Rep of
28. Lao PDR
29. Lithuania
30. Luxembourg
31. Marshall Islands
32. Mexico
33. Monaco
34. Morocco
35. Netherlands
36. New Zealand
37. Nicaragua
38. Norway
39. Palau
40. Peru
41. Poland
42. Portugal
43. Romania

Countries **with** full voting rights, cont.:

44. Russian Federation
45. San Marino
46. Senegal
47. Slovak Republic
48. Slovenia
49. South Africa
50. Spain
51. St Kitts and Nevis
52. St. Lucia
53. Sweden
54. Switzerland
55. United Kingdom
56. Uruguay
57. USA

KEY

1 = 1 year in arrears

2 = 2 years in arrears

3 = 3 years in arrears

+ = more than 3 years in arrears

Countries **without** full voting rights:

1. Antigua and Barbuda (1)
2. Belize (+)
3. Brazil (1)
4. Cameroon (+)
5. Congo, Rep (+)
6. Costa Rica (1)
7. Cote d'Ivoire (+)
8. Dominica (+)
9. Ecuador (2)
10. Eritrea (+)
11. Gabon (+)
12. Gambia, The (+)
13. Ghana (+)
14. Guinea (3)
15. Guinea-Bissau (+)
16. India (1)
17. Kenya (1)
18. Liberia (+)
19. Mali (1)
20. Mauritania (+)
21. Mongolia (1)
22. Nauru (1)
23. Oman (1)
24. Panama (2)
25. Sao Tome & Principe (+)
26. Solomon Islands (+)
27. St Vincent & The Grenadines (+)
28. Suriname (1)
29. Tanzania (+)
30. Togo (1)
31. Tuvalu (3)

ANNEX B – Proposed report to publish on IWC website

Status of contributions to the International Whaling Commission

Report date: 15 February 2023

Red = subject to Financial Regulation F5

#	Country	As at 1 January 2023		Contributions for 2023 C	Interest due on arrears D	Receipts in 2023 for prior years E	Receipts in 2023 for 2023 F	As at 15 February 2023		Total Outstanding I=G+H	Right to vote?
		Unpaid contr's from prior years A	Advanced receipts for 2023 B					Unpaid contr's for prior years G=A+D-E	Unpaid contr's for 2023 H=C-B-F		
1	Antigua and Barbuda	582		7,224				582	7,224	7,806	N
2	Argentina	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
3	Australia	0		32,109				0	32,109	32,109	Y
4	Austria	0		25,379			25,379	0	0	0	Y
5	Belgium	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
6	Belize	13,100		4,816				13,100	4,816	17,916	N
7	Benin	96		13,002				96	13,002	13,098	Y
8	Brazil	5,551		13,002				5,551	13,002	18,553	N
9	Bulgaria	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
10	Cambodia	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
11	Cameroon	37,096		13,002				37,096	13,002	50,098	N
12	Chile	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
13	China, P.R of	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
14	Colombia	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
15	Congo, Rep	19,622		4,816				19,622	4,816	24,438	N
16	Costa Rica	18,309		13,002				18,309	13,002	31,311	N
17	Cote d'Ivoire	36,967		13,002				36,967	13,002	49,969	N
18	Croatia	0		25,379			25,379	0	0	0	Y
19	Cyprus	0		18,649			18,649	0	0	0	Y
20	Czech Republic	0	38,839	38,839				0	0	0	Y
21	Denmark	0	54,217	54,217				0	0	0	Y
22	Dominica	16,868		4,816				16,868	4,816	21,684	N
23	Dominican Republic	0		17,337				0	17,337	17,337	Y
24	Ecuador	25,365		13,002				25,365	13,002	38,367	N
25	Eritrea	16,191		4,816				16,191	4,816	21,007	N
26	Estonia	0		18,649			18,649	0	0	0	Y
27	Finland	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
28	France	0		63,430				0	63,430	63,430	Y
29	Gabon	26,201		4,816				26,201	4,816	31,017	N
30	Gambia, The	27,723		4,816				27,723	4,816	32,539	N
31	Germany	0		70,160				0	70,160	70,160	Y
32	Ghana	50,341		13,002				50,341	13,002	63,343	N
33	Grenada	0		4,816				0	4,816	4,816	Y
34	Guinea	16,992		7,224				16,992	7,224	24,216	N
35	Guinea-Bissau	4,135		4,816				4,135	4,816	8,951	N
36	Hungary	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
37	Iceland	0		60,947			60,947	0	0	0	Y
38	India	907		13,002				907	13,002	13,909	N
39	Ireland	0	25,379	25,379				0	0	0	Y
40	Israel	0	25,379	25,379				0	0	0	Y
41	Italy	0		63,430				0	63,430	63,430	Y
42	Kenya	12,199		8,668				12,199	8,668	20,867	N
43	Kiribati	0		7,224				0	7,224	7,224	Y
44	Korea, Rep of	0		63,430				0	63,430	63,430	Y
45	Lao PDR	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
46	Liberia	20,735		7,224				20,735	7,224	27,959	N
47	Lithuania	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
48	Luxembourg	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
49	Mali	1,247		8,668				1,247	8,668	9,915	N
50	Marshall Islands	(363)		4,816				(363)	4,816	4,453	Y
51	Mauritania	11,953		7,224				11,953	7,224	19,177	N
52	Mexico	0		13,002			13,002	0	0	0	Y
53	Monaco	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
54	Mongolia	6,777		4,816				6,777	4,816	11,593	N
55	Morocco	0		13,002				0	13,002	13,002	Y
56	Nauru	12,199		8,668				12,199	8,668	20,867	N
57	Netherlands	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
58	New Zealand	0	25,379	25,379				0	0	0	Y
59	Nicaragua	0		4,816				0	4,816	4,816	Y
60	Norway	0		60,947				0	60,947	60,947	Y

#	Country	As at 1 January 2023				As at 15 February 2023					
		Unpaid contr's from prior years	Advanced receipts for 2023	Contributions for 2023	Interest due on arrears	Receipts in 2023 for prior years	Receipts in 2023 for 2023	Unpaid contr's for prior years	Unpaid contr's for 2023	Total Outstanding	Right to vote?
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G=A+D-E	H=C-B-F	I=G+H	
61	Oman	12,199		8,668				12,199	8,668	20,867	N
62	Palau	0		7,224			7,224	0	0	0	Y
63	Panama	24,398		13,002				24,398	13,002	37,400	N
64	Peru	(68)		17,337				(68)	17,337	17,269	Y
65	Poland	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
66	Portugal	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
67	Romania	8,132		8,668		8,132		0	8,668	8,668	Y
68	Russian Federation	0		25,587				0	25,587	25,587	Y
69	San Marino	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
70	Sao Tome & Principe	20,738		4,816				20,738	4,816	25,554	N
71	Senegal	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
72	Slovak Republic	0	25,379	25,379				0	0	0	Y
73	Slovenia	0		25,379			25,379	0	0	0	Y
74	Solomon Islands	20,643		7,224				20,643	7,224	27,867	N
75	South Africa	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
76	Spain	0		25,379			25,379	0	0	0	Y
77	St Kitts and Nevis	0		8,668				0	8,668	8,668	Y
79	St Vincent & The Grenadines	20,903		4,816				20,903	4,816	25,719	N
78	St. Lucia	0		7,224				0	7,224	7,224	Y
80	Suriname	6,777		4,816				6,777	4,816	11,593	N
81	Sweden	0		25,379				0	25,379	25,379	Y
82	Switzerland	0		25,379			25,379	0	0	0	Y
83	Tanzania	37,157		8,668				37,157	8,668	45,825	N
84	Togo	335		4,816				335	4,816	5,151	N
85	Tuvalu	14,902		4,816				14,902	4,816	19,718	N
86	United Kingdom	0		76,890			76,890	0	0	0	Y
87	Uruguay	(1)		13,002				(1)	13,002	13,001	Y
88	USA	0		98,999			98,999	0	0	0	Y
	TOTAL	546,907	194,572	1,710,679	0	8,132	421,255	538,775	1,094,852	1,633,627	