

**Bureau Meeting
Tuesday 28 February 2023**

Secretariat Paper to Bureau

NB: Bearing in mind that this document will be translated and shared with the broader IWC community, please keep the sections very short. Verbal presentations can provide additional detail.

1) Budget updates

Note that a separate document prepared by the Secretariat provides more detail on budget issues.

At the IWC68 Commission meeting in October 2022, a balanced, biennial budget was approved.

2023 annual financial contribution invoices have been raised and distributed, with a due date of 30 June 2023.

Plans are underway to ensure we can achieve this reduced budget. One area is the Scientific Committee meetings, where, in collaboration with the SC leadership team and key Secretariat staff, we have worked on a plan to stay within the allocated budget. Another area we have challenged our insurance brokers to source is alternate, but equally suitable policies, and they have achieved this at a slightly reduced rate.

2) Personnel

Patrick Naylor joined the IWC Secretariat on 4 January as a part-time, one-year appointment as Assistant Editor of the Journal of Conservation Research and Management, replacing Jess Rowley.

The announcement for the Executive Secretary post was made on 16 January 2023. The advertisement has been circulated widely through several global networks and we are grateful for the assistance of Bureau members in circulating this announcement. The deadline for applications is 15 March 2023. Following Secretariat sorting and Bureau review of the applicants, interviews will be conducted. The final step in this process is the voting by the Commissioners, which will require a quorum of members in good standing and could be conducted by a 'silence procedure'. The 90-day grace period allowed under RoP before suspension of the vote should allow those members who are up to date as of 2022 contributions to vote.

3) Red House

At IWC68 the Commission agreed to a lower asking price for the Red House, however since then there has been no progress on the sale due to the prevailing poor market conditions in the UK causing hesitance by potential buyers. The real estate agent predicts that there will be an upturn in the property market in Spring resulting in renewed interest.

Staff have returned to the office on a more regular basis since the COVID-19 situation has diminished in the UK and we are no longer subject to restrictive social distancing measures. Efforts to reduce the volume of hard-copy files and other non-portable items are underway in anticipation of an office move this year.

4) Global Biodiversity Framework

Following the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, there is a new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Based on the directives of the IWC Commissioners, the IWC participated in the work leading up to the new GBF and will be engaged, as resources allow, in the development of monitoring frameworks. The overall goal is to ensure that the science and stewardship mission of the IWC, and in particular the work of the Scientific and Conservation Committees, is well reflected in the monitoring and progress towards meeting the goals and targets.

5) Possible venues for SC69B and IWC69

SC69B

An on-the-floor offer to host this meeting was made at IWC68 by Antigua & Barbuda and communications from the Secretariat regarding preparations since then have gone unanswered. Indirect contact was very recently made via Bureau member St Lucia and the Secretariat has provided the specifications and noted the level of urgency required, given that the event is scheduled to take place in under 14 months. It is noted that even though the potential venue is unknown, the approved budget for this meeting will likely fall short and there may be additional costs to the host government. The Secretariat is holding a provisional booking in Bled, Slovenia as a back-up in the case there are any reasons that the original proposal cannot go ahead.

IWC69

The Commission accepted the offer to host IWC69 from the Government of Peru at IWC68 in October 2022. The event is proposed to be located in the city of Lima around the months of September/October 2024 and is being planned to follow the new meeting structure as laid out in the adopted Budgetary Reform. A site visit to view potential venues and make other on-the-ground arrangements is planned for June 2023.