

Update on Conservation Committee Finance

Prepared by the Secretariat

July 2022

Action Requested

This paper provides an update on Conservation Committee finance including an update on the Voluntary Conservation Fund and from the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance. The Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) is asked to note this information and provide any comments on intersessional progress made.

1. Introduction

At IWC67, the Commission endorsed changes to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. This included an update to the project categories, eligibility criteria, evaluation criteria, and allocation process for the Voluntary Conservation Fund and revised Terms of Reference for the VCF Steering Group.

In addition, the proposed Carole Carlson Fund for whale watching and the CMP Fund were brought under the VCF umbrella and follow the same process, with the relevant SWG maintaining control over projects and budget.

This paper provides an update to the Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group.

2. Voluntary Conservation Fund

A status update for the Voluntary Conservation Fund can be found in Table 1.

A total of £119,434 in Voluntary Contributions was gratefully received in 2021, along with £13,242 in 2022 to date. Additional voluntary contributions to the fund are welcomed.

Since IWC67, the main expenditure from the Voluntary Conservation Fund relates to:

- Whale Watching Handbook
- Ship strikes database coordinator

Please note, the £140,000 commitment under Bycatch General relates to £20,000 each for pilot projects in Congo, Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, and Pakistan

Table 1. Status update for the Voluntary Conservation Fund, 30 June 2022

	Eastern SP Right Whale CMP Implementation	Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale	Public Comms Campaign on Franciscana	Amazon River Dolphin	Unallocated CMP Funds	Carole Carlson Fund (Whale Watching)	Bycatch General	Bycatch Risk Assessments	Marine Debris	FAO Factsheets	Conservation Committee Database	Ship Strikes	Unassigned	Total
Project Code	CM6602	CM6701	CM6702	CM6801		CW6601	CB6601	CB6701	C67002	CB6703		CS6701		
Opening Balance 01/01/2021	809	15,600	5,600	-	58,889	11,686	149,797	19,489	8,750	-	10,000	37,361	75,318	393,299
Income														
Voluntary Contributions from:														
Austria					17,297		25,945							43,242
Belguim							25,342							25,342
Chinese Taipei							11,500							11,500
Netherlands							8,507					8,507		17,013
Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)							3,613						3,613	7,225
Cetacean Society International (CSI)													361	361
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)							3,613					3,613		7,225
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)										2,273				2,273
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)												1,084		1,084
OceanCare							2,000							2,000
WWF Australia							2,168							2,168
Total Income	-	-	-	-	17,297	-	82,687	-	-	2,273	-	4,697	12,481	119,434
Expenditure														
Salary & Benefits												(20,675)		(20,675)
Contractor Remuneration			(1,700)			(9,450)								(11,150)
Miscellaneous													(1,347)	(1,347)
Bank Charges & Currency Adjs			(5)						428			(47)	(612)	(236)
Transfers of Budget												10,000		10,000
Total Expenditure	-	-	(1,705)	-	-	(9,450)	-	-	428	-	-	(10,722)	(1,959)	(23,408)
Closing Balance 31/12/2021	809	15,600	3,895	-	76,186	2,236	232,484	19,489	9,178	2,273	10,000	31,335	85,840	489,325
Opening Balance 01/01/2022	809	15,600	3,895	-	76,186	2,236	232,484	19,489	9,178	2,273	10,000	31,335	85,840	489,325
Income														
Voluntary Contributions from:														
Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)				3,973			6,621						2,648	13,242
Total Income	-	-	-	3,973	-	-	6,621	-	-	-	-	-	2,648	13,242
Expenditure														
Salary & Benefits												(14,858)		(14,858)
Contractor Remuneration			(1,650)											(1,650)
Miscellaneous														-
Bank Charges & Currency Adjs			(5)				(5)					(30)		(40)
Transfers of Budget														-
Total Expenditure	-	-	(1,655)	-	-	-	(5)	-	-	-	-	(14,888)	-	(16,548)
Current Balance 30/06/2022	809	15,600	2,240	3,973	76,186	2,236	239,101	19,489	9,178	2,273	10,000	16,447	88,488	486,019
Commitments														
Contractor Remuneration	(809)		(2,240)							(2,273)	(10,000)			(15,322)
Salary & Benefits												(14,888)		(14,888)
Contractor cost for bycatch rapid risk assessment training, Columbia		(9,600)						(2,989)						(12,589)
Travel element retained by Secretariat		(6,000)												(6,000)
Columbia rapid risk assessment								(9,500)						(9,500)
Capacity building								(7,000)						(7,000)
Seed Money for Pilot Projects							(140,000)							(140,000)
Communication activities							(3,000)							(3,000)
Consultant for IOTC data collation							(5,000)							(5,000)
Uncommitted Balance to 30/06/2022	-	-	-	3,973	76,186	2,236	91,101	-	9,178	-	-	1,558	88,488	272,720