

Draft Annotated Agenda
Conservation Committee Planning Group
Online, 5 Oct 2023, 10:00- 12:00 BST

1. Welcome and aims of the meeting

- a) Appointment of Chair [Cat Bell is proposed]
- b) Appointment of Rapporteur [The Secretariat will offer to act as rapporteur]
- c) Terms of Reference and aims of the meeting

At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meetings which would help set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and ensure progression of the Conservation Committee work plan in the intersessional period.

- d) Review of documents available to the meeting

Documents are available on the meeting SharePoint. Those who are registered have access.

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Progress Updates from Intersessional Working Groups since IWC68

Progress reports are available for each topic. Each topic lead is invited to highlight key items or questions that are important for the progress of the topic workplan and that require input from the Planning Group or the wider Conservation Committee.

- a) Reports from SWGs
 - i. Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (CCPG_OCT23_02)
 - ii. Conservation Management Plans (CCPG_OCT23_03)
 - iii. Ship Strikes (CCPG_OCT23_04)
 - iv. Whale watching (CCPG_OCT23_05)
- b) Reports from ICGs
 - i. Anthropogenic Underwater Noise (CCPG_OCT23_06)
 - ii. Marine Debris (CCPG_OCT23_07)
 - iii. Socio-economic value of the roles of cetaceans (SC_69A_EM_02_rev2, CCPG_OCT23_08, CCPG_OCT23_15)
 - iv. Chemical pollution (No Document)
 - v. Climate change (CCPG_OCT23_09)

4. Preparation for IWC69

a) Draft Conservation Committee agenda

This item is an opportunity to discuss priority issues needing discussion by the Conservation Committee. The draft agenda for the Conservation Committee meeting is available for this meeting as (CCPG_OCT23_10).

- i. Sanctuary review
- ii. BBNJ

A paper has been prepared with background on the High Seas Treaty and Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity Framework to allow discussion on further engagement in these processes. (CCPG_OCT23_11).

iii. Dates for virtual Conservation Committee meeting

The Commission meeting is due to held in September 2024. This item provides an opportunity to discuss the timing of the virtual Conservation Committee.

b) Conservation Committee Strategic Plan and workplan

i. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Conservation Committee

A paper has been prepared with background on the Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity Framework and High Seas Treaty to allow discussion on further engagement in these processes (CCPG_OCT23_11).

ii. Standardising CC topic Terms of Reference

c) Database of recommendations

This item allows discussion of the process involved to close passed recommendations considered to be complete. An extract of recommendations is available for review (CCPG_OCT23_12). The Secretariat will be working with intersessional groups to update progress on recommendations and compile a list of those to recommend to Commission be closed.

d) Conservation Database update

This item will allow the Secretariat to provide an update on work done to develop the Conservation Database. Volunteers are requested to help test the upload of data into the Database.

5. Finance

a) Finance Updates

A brief paper (CCPG_OCT23_13) provides an update on the Voluntary Conservation Fund. Discussion only if needed.

b) Upcoming funding proposals

Working Group Chairs and other topic leads will be invited to highlight any funding requests that they plan to submit at IWC69 or beforehand (either requests to the Voluntary Conservation Fund or proposals to seek external funds).

6. Engagement with other organisations

Secretariat will briefly present an update paper on engagement with other organisations. It is available on the SharePoint for review as document CCPG_OCT23_14. In-depth discussion is not anticipated.

7. Conservation Committee positions

8. Any other business

Annex 1. Terms of Reference for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting

The Conservation Committee Planning Group is tasked with helping set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and progression of the Conservation Committees work plan in the intersessional period.

It will:

- Consider the Committee's progress since the last meeting of the Committee, in particular with regards to intersessional work, and support continued effective delivery of its work.
- Identify key discussions, priorities and deliverables for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee.
- Support the Chair in preparing for Conservation Committee meetings.
- Provide an additional opportunity for discussing the strategic development of the Conservation Committee, particularly with regards its outward facing strategic plan, strategic development of priorities, engagement with other organisations, and funding.

Membership

The group is intended to be small and focused and does not replace a full meeting of the Conservation Committee. Attendance is not restricted but may be limited by available space. It will primarily be composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee, Chairs of the Committee's standing working groups, and nominees from contracted governments. Additional expertise will be invited as appropriate to the agenda by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee. The meeting will be Chaired by the Chair of the Conservation Committee.

Timings

The Conservation Committee planning meeting should meet at least annually and where possible in conjunction with meetings of the Scientific and/or Conservation Committee to ensure best use of resources.