

Update on Conservation Committee Finance

Prepared by the Secretariat

August 2023

Action Requested

This paper provides an update on Conservation Committee finance including an update on the Voluntary Conservation Fund. 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 £227,547 in Voluntary Contributions was gratefully received in 2023 to date. Additional voluntary contributions to the fund are welcomed.

Since IWC68, the main expenditure from the Voluntary Conservation Fund relates to:

- Ship strikes database coordinator
- South-West Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP

Please note, the £116,000 commitment under Bycatch General relates pilot projects in Congo, Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, and Pakistan

Table 1. Status update for the Voluntary Conservation Fund, 31 August 2023

	CMP			BYCATCH							SHIP STRIKES			Conservation Committee Database	Carole Carlson / Whale Watching Fund	Ecosystem Services	IPs to SC	Unassigned	Total	
	South West Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP	River Dolphin CMP	Unallocated CMP Funds	Bycatch General	Bycatch Coordinator Attendance at SC Meeting	Bycatch Risk Assessment	Bycatch in tuna fisheries (FAO)	Rapid Risk Assessment Training - Columbia	Bycatch Assessment Workshop - Thailand	CIBRI/NA	Pilot Project - Peru	Ship Strikes Coordinator Role Costs	Ship Strikes Coordinator Attendance at SC Meeting							Marine Debris
Project codes	CM6701	RIVER		CB6601	CB003	CB6701	CB6801	CB001	CB002			CS6701	CSS001	C67002		CW6601		SO001	Unassigned	
Opening Balance 01/01/2023	15,600.00	3,972.70	76,185.59	289,716.99		19,489.12		-				28,643.40	-	9,177.87	10,000.00	2,235.95	1,000.00		180,663.66	636,685.28
Income																				
Budget Transfer				(8,224.23)	3,402.00				822.23		4,000.00			- 9,177.87	- 8,000.00	8,000.00		2,811.75	6,366.12	-
Transfer from Research Fund												10,000.00								10,000.00
Interest income																				-
Voluntary Contributions																				-
CG Australia			58,543.34	53,221.21																111,764.55
CG USA								6,622.26					3,895.45							10,517.71
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)							95,264.66													95,264.66
Total Income	-	-	58,543.34	44,996.98	3,402.00	-	95,264.66	6,622.26	822.23	-	4,000.00	10,000.00	3,895.45	- 9,177.87	- 8,000.00	8,000.00	-	2,811.75	6,366.12	227,546.92
Expenditure																				
Staffing																				
Salaries												(23,575.44)								(23,575.44)
Staff Assessment												3,443.43								3,443.43
Travel																				
Accommodation					(1,658.15)								(1,741.43)					(831.59)		(4,231.17)
Flights - Economy					(984.40)		(2,595.20)						(1,124.70)					(1,340.81)		(6,045.11)
Other Ground Transport					(44.45)													(34.35)		(78.80)
Subsistence/Per Diem					(715.00)								(715.00)					(605.00)		(2,035.00)
Project Costs																				
Contractor Remuneration	(9,600.00)								(822.23)											(10,422.23)
Project Equipment																				0.00
Media & Communications Literature																				0.00
Bank Charges & Currency Adj																				
Bank Charges																			(237.75)	(237.75)
Foreign Currency Gains and Losses																				0.00
Transfers of Budget																				
Transfers of Budget																				0.00
Total Expenditure	(9,600.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,402.00)	0.00	(2,595.20)	0.00	(822.23)	0.00	0.00	(20,132.01)	(3,581.13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,811.75)	(237.75)	(43,182.07)
Closing Balance 31/08/2023	6,000.00	3,972.70	134,728.93	334,713.97	0.00	19,489.12	92,669.46	6,622.26	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	18,511.39	314.32	0.00	2,000.00	10,235.95	1,000.00	0.00	186,792.03	821,050.13
2023 Commitments																				
Net salary costs												(18,511.39)								(18,511.39)
Contractor Remuneration							(92,669.46)	(6,622.26)			(4,000.00)				(2,000.00)		(1,000.00)		(106,291.72)	
Contractor cost for bycatch rapid risk assessment training, Colombia								(2,989.12)												(2,989.12)
Travel Element Retained by the Secretariat	(6,000.00)																			(6,000.00)
Seed Funding Pilot Projects				(116,000.00)																(116,000.00)
Colombia Rapid Risk Assessment								(9,500.00)												(9,500.00)
Capacity Building								(7,000.00)												(7,000.00)
Communication activities					(3,000.00)															(3,000.00)
RFMO engagement					(5,000.00)															(5,000.00)
Revised Closing Balance 31/12/2023	-	3,972.70	134,728.93	210,713.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	314.32	-	-	10,235.95	-	-	186,792.03	546,757.90