

## Venue for IWC65

### *The Secretariat*

#### Background

The Secretariat circulated separate calls for offers to host IWC65 in February and October 2012, and has since made direct approaches to several Contracting Governments to raise the possibility of hosting. In addition the opportunity to host IWC65 in 2014 was publicised at the Commission's previous meeting in 2012.

No expressions of interest in hosting have been received to date. The Secretariat's experience is that 12 months is the minimum period which is necessary to establish the logistical and protocol requirements to support a full IWC plenary meeting. As such this paper proposes options for the dates and venue for IWC65.

#### Budget Constraints

The Commission approved budget for IWC65 is £261k. In addition, the 'Other Meetings' budget allocation of £42k may be available. Therefore maximum total funds of **£303k** are available.

#### UK options

The Secretariat has investigated the suitability of several UK venues. The two most appropriate are the Brighton Metropole Hotel and the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC). Both are available to host the meeting from either the 2-10 or 23-31 October 2014. The table below shows the estimated breakdown of costs of holding a meeting at these venues over two time periods with the projected overspends for each. All costs except room hire have been assumed to be similar at both venues

Item	Brighton Metropole		Edinburgh ICC	
	2 weeks <sup>1</sup>	8 days <sup>2</sup>	2 weeks	8 days
Room hire	£300,000	£132,000	£354,000	£158,600
Staff Accommodation	£21,000	£12,000	£21,000	£12,000
Staff Subsistence	£9,625	£5,500	£9,625	£5,500
Staff Travel	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Staff Overtime	£17,500	£10,000	£17,500	£10,000
A/V and Interpretation	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
Translation services	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
Freight	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Office Consumables	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
IT Hardware and Software	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Site Visits	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Communications/Internet	£8,750	£5,000	£8,750	£5,000
Printing	£17,500	£10,000	£17,500	£10,000
Security	£17,500	£10,000	£17,500	£10,000
Refreshments	£23,520	£13,440	£23,520	£13,440
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£519,395</b>	<b>£301,940</b>	<b>£573,395</b>	<b>£328,540</b>
<b>Projected Overspend</b>	<b>£216k</b>	<b>-£1k</b>	<b>£270k</b>	<b>£26k</b>

TOTAL BUDGET                      £303k

<sup>1</sup> A 2 week duration allows for 4 sub-committee days; 3 days for reporting and translation; 1 day for private commissioners and 5 days for Commission plenary. This is a similar timetable to that used at IWC64 in 2012.

<sup>2</sup> An 8 day meeting duration is illustrated in Bureau paper IWC/S13/BUR 14 and is based up 3 sub-committee days, 1 day for private commissioners and 4 plenary days.

The table shows that the 8 day option at the Brighton Metropole is expected to be the most cost effective UK option.

The Brighton Metropole has been used to convene previous IWC meetings, most recently in the 1980s. Brighton is a thriving and cosmopolitan city around one hour's drive from central London and Heathrow airport. It is around a 30 minute drive from London Gatwick.

### **Overseas options**

The Secretariat has also researched 3 venues in Indonesia and 3 in Thailand for cost comparison. The investigations reveal that the venues in Indonesia had similar room hire rates to the UK whereas room rates in Thailand were approximately 80% of UK rates. However, significant savings are made to freight (approx. £25,000) and staff costs (approx. £20,000) when hosting in the UK, making this the more economical choice from the perspective of staying within the Commission's budget. The Secretariat would also recommend that with the limited time available (12 months) using a venue in the UK would be logistically preferable.

One further overseas venue is currently being reviewed due to a potential last-minute local host sponsorship offer. If necessary, full details of this will be provided in due course for the Bureau to consider when it meets.

### **Secretariat Recommendation**

Of the two UK venues the Secretariat would recommend the Brighton Metropole over EICC due to better transport links with London and the slight cost advantage over the Edinburgh venue.

### **Restriction on Dates**

Annex 1 contains a copy of a recent memo circulated by the European Commission which draws attention to potential overlapping dates with the CBD and CMS Conferences of the Parties which are expected to take place in October 2014.

Dates for the Convention on Biological Diversity appear to be fixed at 6-17 October 2014. Consequently, if Bureau members advise to use either of the two UK venues identified in this paper the most appropriate dates may be 23-31 October to avoid a date conflict with the CBD.

### **Action**

The Bureau is invited to review the above options for the venue for IWC65 and advise the Secretariat of an appropriate course of action.

## Annex 1 – Memo from Presidency of European Commission

**Possible overlapping of CBD and CMS COP dates in 2014****Presidency information note****17 July 2013**

According to recent information from the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Dr. Bradnee Chambers, the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 11) is likely to take place in October 2014, period which would directly overlap with the date of the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12). For a number of reasons postponing CMS COP 11 after the CBD COP 12 does not seem to be a possible option for Dr. Chambers.

In addition, the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is also scheduled for "September or October 2014" according to the IWC website.

Such overlap would likely raise a number of challenges and concerns both from substance (ensuring consistence between decisions) and practical points of view (in many Parties, the same colleagues are following the CMS and the CBD or even the IWC).

Against this background, the objective of this note is to inform and raise awareness among Member States about this situation, to seek comments and to explore a possible outreach strategy towards the CMS.

**General information**

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP), following a change in the rules of procedure in 2000, is now held every two years. The last 11th Conference of the Parties took place in India, in October 2012. The CBD COP 12 will be held in the Republic of Korea from 6 to 17 October 2014.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP) meets at intervals of not more than three years. So far, since the Convention entered into force in 1983, the CMS COP has held ten conferences. The last 10th CMS Conference of the Parties took place in Norway, in November 2011.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was traditionally holding an Annual Meeting. In the last 64th Meeting, that was held in Panama, in July 2012, it was agreed that the Commission would move to biennial meetings. The 65th Meeting is scheduled for September or October 2014.