IWC/J16/SC-CC/03

Conservation Committee draft public facing strategy 2016-2026

Government of Australia



REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DRAFT PUBLIC FACING STRATEGY 2016 - 2026

At the 2015 planning meeting, the Conservation Committee agreed to develop an outward facing strategic plan. The appended draft Strategy has been developed by Australia as a simple and visual description of the Committee's purpose, work, priorities, and its relationship to other committees and bodies. It has been designed as a public and forward focused document, which can act as an overarching guide for more detailed internal work plans being developed under the Committee and its Working Groups. The current content is indicative and intended to facilitate discussion.

Australia welcomes general feedback on the draft Strategy, including on the overall suitability of the proposed model and its linkages with other strategic documents.

Australia is able to coordinate finalisation of the Strategy with input from Committee members and Working Groups.

A brief rationale behind each component of the draft Strategy follows, with key feedback and discussion points included where relevant (in *italics*).

PAGE ONE

The first page of the draft Strategy provides the vision, objectives, priorities and measures of success for the Committee.

Vision

This component has been left blank, pending input from the UK as agreed at the 2015 planning meeting.

• Is this structure/space consistent with work that the UK may have developed to date?

Objectives

These are intended to encompass the high level and long term objectives of the Committee over the next ten years and beyond.

Priorities

The proposed priorities are a mix of management tools and threats.

- Would it be better to break this up into priority tools and threats?
- Are any key priorities missing? For example, chemical pollution and priority habitats are referenced in the detailed work plan of the Conservation Management Plans Working Group, but we are not aware of these issues being raised in context to the wider Committee to date.

Measures of success

These are intended to reflect the ideal outcomes of the Committee over ten years and beyond, rather than duplicate the objectives.

PAGE TWO

The second page provides detail on how the Committee intends to implement the Strategy outlined on page one.

Structure

This component reflects the current structure of the Committee, to be updated as required (for example, it might be preferable in future to establish groups which more directly align with most/all priorities listed on page one).

- Would it be better to include cross-references and/or links to the more detailed internal strategic plans being developed under each Working Group, or are these documents not suitable for publication? (for example, the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan).
- Australia will request content for this component from Committee and Working Group chairs during (or soon after the conclusion of) current meetings.

Partnerships

This component outlines relationships between the Conservation Committee, the wider Commission and external stakeholders. This provides a tangible link back to the third proposed objective on conservation agenda collaboration, which has been recognised as a goal since the establishment of the Committee.

Resourcing

This outlines the current sources of funding available for conservation initiatives through the Commission, to be updated as required.

- Should the Small Cetaceans and CMPs funds be considered sub-components of the Voluntary Conservation Fund as listed? (noting the Secretariat may be able to confirm this).
- The IWC other work fund provides resourcing for activities that could arguably be classified as conservation initiatives. *Is the Committee comfortable with including this as a source of funds?*
- Are there any current sources of conservation funding missing from this component?

Commitments and purpose of strategic plan

This component details the more tangible commitments that the Committee can make in agreeing to implement the draft Strategy, and provides the public with brief background on why a strategy is required.

Conservation Committee: Strategic Plan 2016-2026

Vision

Objectives

Robust conservation advice

Best practice threat management

Conservation agenda collaboration

Securing finance

Deliver conservation advice to the Commission that has the confidence of Contracting Governments and the international community Identify and promote best practice and collaborative management in addressing threats facing the conservation of cetaceans

Coordinate and deliver the Commission's conservation agenda across the Commission and in partnership with relevant organisations Establish and leverage financing mechanisms to make available the necessary resources to implement cetacean conservation initiatives

Priorities

Whale and dolphin watching

Conservation management planning

Whale sanctuaries and protected areas

Ship strike mitigation

Marine debris

By-catch mitigation

Anthropogenic sound

Effective financing

Measures of Success

Cetaceans are protected, priority threats are effectively managed, and at risk populations are recovering

The Conservation Committee is an effective, functioning body and is resourced to achieve its objectives

The Conservation Committee's advice is valued by the Commission and its subcommittees, and other organisations



Conservation Committee: Strategic Plan 2016-2026

HOW WE WORK

Conservation Committee
Chair: Mexico

Ship Strikes Working Group
Chair: USA

Standing Working Group on Whale Watching
Chair: USA

Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans Chair: Australia

Provides advice on the nomination, development and implementation of CMPs

Working across the IWC

Scientific Committee: the Committee collaborates closely with the Commission's Scientific Committee and relevant subcommittees to monitor conservation resolutions and understand and address a range of threats to cetaceans and their habitats. This collaboration includes the formation of intersessional and ad-hoc joint working groups

Other IWC collaboration: the Committee works across the Commission, including with the Secretariat and other committees, with the aim of ensuring cetacean conservation remains a critical focus of the Commission. This includes liaising with relevant ad-hoc groups such as the Finance and Administration Committee's group on strengthening conservation financing

External partnerships: the Committee works with other international organisations, multilateral environmental agreements and non-government organisations to promote greater collaboration on cetacean conservation

Voluntary Conservation Fund

Aims to leverage donations from member governments, international organisations and other appropriate donors, to support seven diverse conservation priorities: conservation management plans; whale watching; by-catch and entanglement; ship strikes; stranded cetaceans, including euthanasia; pollution; and emerging issues and new threats to whale populations

Small Cetacean Conservation Research Fund

Aims to enhance international cooperation to conserve and rebuild depleted populations of small cetaceans

Conservation Management Plans Fund

Provides support for collaborative efforts of member states to nominate, develop, or implement Conservation Management Plans IWC – Other Work Fund:
Supports conservation and research efforts across the Commission. Under this fund, resourcing has historically been available for conservation efforts that may not fall under other funds, for example for through the Whale Entanglement Response Training Programme

Why do we need a Strategic Plan?

Article V(1)(a) of the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling provides that the Commission may adopt measures with respect to the conservation of whale resources.

The Berlin Initiative on Strengthening the Conservation Agenda of the International Whaling Commission (2003-1) led to the establishment of the Conservation Committee as a way to meet this objective under the Convention.

This plan sets out a renewed vision for the Committee, and specifies a program of work and the outcomes to be delivered, over the next decade, to support the sustainable non-lethal use of cetaceans and to address environmental and anthropogenic threats facing cetaceans. The plan is also intended to guide and inform the strategic direction of detailed work plans of the Committee and its various working groups. It is also intended to be a live document which will be updated in line with the evolving priorities of the Committee.

The Conservation Committee's commitments in delivering this Plan

The Committee will provide advice on, and implement as required, conservation initiatives to support the Commission in safeguarding for future generations the great natural resource represented by cetaceans

The Committee's work will be conducted in collaboration with the Scientific Committee and other IWC committees as required

The Committee will meet annually to review the work of the sub-committees and working groups delivering its programs, and to facilitate collaboration with key partners

The products and guidance developed by the Committee will be made available on the Commission's website for use by Contracting Governments and other interested parties

Committee Structure

Partnerships