

MID-TERM REVIEW

Conservation Management Plans Work Plan 2014-2020

Draft Terms of Reference

A mid-term review of the [Conservation Management Plans Work Plan 2014-2020](#) will be undertaken during the 2016-2018 intersessional period. The review will be led by a correspondence group of the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans, under the direction of the CMP SWG chair.

The mid-term review will consider:

1. The process for developing CMPs. Currently it takes a minimum of three years from CMP nomination to endorsement from the Commission.
2. Funding for CMP activities, including intersessional funding approval processes, use of funds (for nomination, development and/or implementation), better utilisation of remaining funding in the CMP Voluntary Fund, and potential funding streams to support CMPs (eg Voluntary Fund, Scientific Committee, range states). This theme would need to be consistent with related work being undertaken by the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness and Cost Savings Measures under the Finance and Administration Committee, and the proposed objective in the draft Conservation Committee Strategic Plan on effective financing.
3. Cross-committee engagement and communication on work activities and budget/funding.
4. Identifying priority work areas for new population and/or threat-based CMPs, including actions proposed by the Scientific Committee and common barriers and buy-in for CMP development.
5. Lessons learned to date on the role and operation of CMP coordinators.
6. Development of guidelines and principles for threat-based CMPs.
7. The ongoing role of the Standing Working Group in providing advice on the CMP process, including reporting requirements.

A report summarising the outcomes of the review and a costed and revised (if required) CMP Work Plan will be submitted to the Conservation Committee at its 2018 meeting. An update report, including draft guidelines and principles for threat-based CMPs, should be presented to the Conservation Committee planning meeting in 2017.

Terms of Reference - Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans

The Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (the CMP Working Group) is responsible for the provision of advice on the nomination, development and implementation of CMPs endorsed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The CMP Working Group will be comprised primarily of members of the Conservation Committee, but will also include members from the Scientific Committee and members from other IWC bodies as appropriate, Commission members from range states and interested observers. The Chair will be elected from Group members and may hold the position for a period of up to four years.

The CMP Working Group will report annually to the IWC through the Conservation Committee. Conservation Management Plans are intended to be a practical and flexible management tool for the IWC to manage human and cetacean interactions for those populations, threats or habitats of greatest conservation concern and where there is a reasonable expectation that the plan will deliver real conservation gains. The CMP Working Group will support development of comprehensive plans tailored to address the species, habitat or threats of the most pressing need and with the greatest likelihood of success.

Duties of the CMP Working Group may include, but are not limited to:

Recommending priority cetacean populations, threats or habitats suitable for the preparation of a CMP.

Providing up-to-date guidelines and templates to support the nomination, development, implementation and monitoring of CMPs.

Establishing appropriate criteria to assess the merits of proposed CMPs.

Providing appropriate guidance to proponents of CMPs to support best practice nomination, development and implementation.

Facilitating provision of data and expert advice from relevant IWC Committees and sub-committees, as appropriate.

Reporting to the Conservation Committee on the status of existing CMPs.

Advising the Commission, through the Conservation Committee, on funds or other resources requested to support the nomination, development, or implementation of a CMP.

Undertaking other activities as directed by the Commission or Conservation Committee.

Review of Action Items from IWC65		
No.	Action item (IWC65)	Progress
1	That the Commission endorse the revised Terms of Reference for the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans.	Completed.
2	That the Commission endorse the draft <i>Conservation Management Plans Work Plan 2014-2020</i> at Attachment B .	Completed. Work Plan being implemented and will be updated as part of a proposed mid-term review.
3	That the Scientific and Conservation Committees endorse the CMP-related recommendation from the two IWC workshops on marine debris and cetaceans (in 2013 and 2014) that the issue of marine debris is incorporated and addressed in existing (and future) CMPs.	Overtaken by events. See report above.
4	That the Conservation Committee further discuss , and consider referring to the Scientific Committee for discussion, the concept of a threat based marine debris CMP.	Completed. At its meeting in 2015, the Scientific Committee reported (IWC/66/Rep01(2015)) “The Committee recommends that instead of a CMP on marine debris, the possibility of a broader threats-based CMP should be considered at the Joint Meeting of the Conservation and Scientific Committees that follows SC/66a. Consideration could be given to bycatch and other entanglement as a focus.”
5	That all CMPs include an assessment of impacts of marine debris.	Ongoing – see report above
6	That the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee be urged to undertake further analysis on priority candidates of cetaceans, including small cetaceans, that would benefit from the implementation of a CMP, as a matter of high priority.	Ongoing. A preliminary list of small cetacean populations that might require special attention and high priority was developed (SC/66a/SM22). A ‘small cetacean task team,’ was established under the Scientific to

		<p>Committee to allow for swift intersessional action for particularly threatened small cetacean populations.</p> <p>At its meeting in 2015, the Scientific Committee agreed to establish a Small Cetacean Task Team on franciscana (see Annex L, item 10.1).</p> <p>In 2016, the Fransiscana Task Team concluded that priority tasks are needed to improve conservation of the species in Franciscana Management Area I: (1) monitor the fisheries and estimate bycatch; (2) assess areas at risk from coastal and offshore development; (3) estimate abundance and trends; and (4) plan for long-term conservation efforts. A draft CMP has been developed for this population for consideration by the Commission in 2016.</p> <p>In 2016, the Scientific Committee noted that the South Asian river dolphin is a candidate for development of a Task Team, given the ongoing and new threats to the survival of the species.</p>
7	That the Conservation Committee recommend that the Scientific Committee discuss the issue of carrying capacity for South West Atlantic Right Whales as a matter of priority; and that the scientists associated with the recent research be included as invited participants to SC66a.	Unclear. The 2015 and 2016 Scientific Committee reports update on research undertaken on this population, but do not specifically mention carrying capacity studies.
8	That the Working Group collaborate with relevant Contracting Governments to develop an inventory of cetacean conservation measures in place in the Indian Ocean.	<p>Engagement in the region is ongoing. As a first step, in February 2016, a workshop was held in Sri Lanka for Indian Ocean Rim Association member states to build sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region. It is expected that this will lead to the establishment of an IORA sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism network, to be endorsed by the IORA Council of Ministers at its meeting in October 2016. It is hoped that this network can promote conservation measures in the region.</p> <p>The potential to develop an inventory of cetacean conservation measures in the region will be explored further in the next intersessional period.</p>

9	That the Scientific Committee be invited to review the Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan from a CMP perspective and make an assessment of whether there are gaps in the Plan that can be addressed by the Commission.	Unclear. The 2015 and 2016 Scientific Committee reports update on research undertaken on this population, but do not specifically mention the Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan. Propose this recommendation be revisited as part of the mid-term review of the CMPs work plan.
10	That the Working Group on Conservation Financing should add to their work programme the consideration of the provision of dedicated funds to be made available for CMP related work.	Completed. CMPs are being considered by this group as part of wider conservation financing.
11	Countries receiving funding for CMPs should provide an estimate of funds required to further work relating to CMPs to aid in the budgeting process for the next four years.	Ongoing.
12	That the Conservation Committee should highlight to the Scientific Committee (though the Commission) that research actions detailed in endorsed CMPs should be made a priority.	Ongoing.
13	That the CMP Working Group meet during the intersessional period and report back to the Conservation Committee at IWC66.	Completed. The Standing Working Group worked electronically during the intersessional period and met on 19 October 2016. The work of the SWG-CMPs was also discussed at Conservation Committee meetings in 2015 and 2016.