

Agenda Item 15.2

National Reporting

Revision to National Reporting Format

Document Inf.15.2.b

**IWC Voluntary National Reports on
Cetacean Conservation**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

IWC



**NOTE:
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED
TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Citation: International Whaling Commission. 2004. Annex H. Report of the Conservation Committee. Appendix 4. A proposal for voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation. Ann. Rep. Int. Whal Commn 2004: 104-105

Appendix 4

A PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REPORTS ON CETACEAN CONSERVATION

Submitted by Brazil

Introduction

The establishment of a Conservation Committee of the International Whaling Commission has opened new possibilities for the IWC to promote international cooperation and provide adequate advice for interested national governments on issues related to cetacean management and conservation.

To better assess the progress currently been made by national governments, identify cooperation opportunities and help develop the Conservation Agenda, it would be very useful to gather and analyse information provided by the governments themselves on the status of cetacean conservation and management initiatives they may wish to forward to the IWC. A parallel can be drawn with the National Progress Reports on Cetacean Research, which since their introduction in 1973 have been very useful as a Scientific Committee tool. In order to fulfil its mandate effectively, the Conservation Committee will likewise depend on the submission of information by Contracting Governments on progress with cetacean conservation.

Paragraph 31 of the Schedule already obliges Contracting Governments to transmit to the Commission copies of all their official laws and regulations relating to whales and whaling, and changes in such laws and regulations. Although this requirement is not limited to whaling-related measures, in practice not all members have transmitted their non-whaling laws and regulations affecting cetacean conservation, and these could be covered under a national cetacean conservation report. Issues such as the establishment of cetacean-related marine or freshwater protected areas, and particular management activities that could be of interest to other States facing similar challenges or willing to cooperate through either bilateral or international exchanges.

Even landlocked States, and other States with limited cetacean fauna, can and do contribute to cetacean conservation, for example through assistance with capacity building in cetacean conservation, especially in cooperation with developing States, as well as through active participation in biodiversity-related conventions other than the IWC.

National Cetacean Conservation Reports would be submitted annually for consideration by the Conservation Committee, and could subsidise its operational agenda as priority items of interest for member States are identified.

Brazil is mindful of the differing views and concerns regarding the initial operation of the Conservation Committee, and having taken these into account, would like to propose that the National Cetacean Conservation Reports be requested on a voluntary basis.

Proposal

We propose that a request be adopted by the Commission for the annual submission, on a voluntary basis, of National Cetacean Conservation Reports by Contracting

Governments from 2005 onwards, to be considered by the Conservation Committee, and added to the IWC website.

These Reports should follow the format proposed in Adjunct 1 and contain information on:

- laws, regulations and other measures affecting the conservation of cetaceans;
- planning, design and designation/establishment of marine or freshwater protected areas of particular interest to cetacean conservation;
- information on whalewatching operations, its scale, target species and pertinent management issues;
- particular governmental programmes to enhance the conservation of endangered species and populations;
- data pertinent to the nature and scale of threats to cetacean conservation in their waters, and measures taken to address such threats, including, where appropriate, a summary of cooperation needs;
- systems in place for reporting of cetaceans injuries and mortality including stranding networks, incidental catch and collisions reporting frameworks;
- national activities pertaining to regional and bilateral agreements with other States relating to cetacean conservation;
- assistance to other States, especially to developing states, in the field of cetacean conservation, listing where appropriate future assistance opportunities that may become available; and
- any other information that the Conservation Committee may from time to time specify for inclusion.

The first such report should be submitted by interested parties to the Conservation Committee prior to the 57th Annual Meeting, and contain a comprehensive summary of existing laws, regulations and other measures in effect relevant to the conservation of cetaceans, and of the cetacean conservation work of the last few years. Subsequent annual reports need only contain new information.

Groups of Contracting Governments which have participated in cetacean conservation-related activities under the purview of regional organisations or agreements (such as CMS agreements) should seek to invite the organisation to submit a Cetacean Conservation Report documenting the relevant measures taken by that organisation.

The international organisations listed in Resolution 2003-1 (CMS, CCAMLR, IMO, IUCN, UNEP) should also be invited to submit regular information to the Conservation Committee on cetacean conservation issues and actions related to their field of work, preferably along the lines of the topics submitted to National Cetacean Conservation Reports.

Adjunct 1**Proposed Template for National Cetacean Conservation Reports**

Country:

National Governmental Authority submitting the Report (full contact information)

1. Legal developments (laws, regulations and other regulatory measures related to cetaceans).
 2. Information on whalewatching operations (scale, target species/populations and relevant management issues).
 3. Current Government programs related to cetacean conservation.
 4. Current threats to cetacean conservation and management measures taken/proposed.
 5. Reporting systems for cetacean injuries/mortality/strandings.
 6. International cooperation activities (includes bilateral or multilateral cooperation, assistance and funding programs and appropriate contact information, and other international activities of the Country submitting the Report).
 7. Other (at the discretion of the Authority submitting the Report).
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