

IOTC MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND BUDGETS FOR 2019 & 2020

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PURPOSE

1. To submit for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF), the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) historical and future expenditure levels in support of the annual budget decision making process.

BACKGROUND

2. **Eligibility:** The IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014) detail a range of eligibility criteria for gaining access to the IOTC MPF. However, the core requirement is that the applicant must be from a '*Developing Contracting Party*, which is defined as any Contracting Party (Member) that is under the categories of "Low" or "Middle" income, according to the criteria used in the most recent calculation of the annual IOTC budget contributions (see Annex of the IOTC Financial Regulations).
3. A core exclusion criterion is that any Contracting Party of the Commission who is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Commission is not eligible to benefit from the MPF if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years.
4. **Commission and subsidiary bodies:** The MPF currently serves 14 bodies; including: nine scientific bodies (7 working parties, the TCMP and the Scientific Committee), four non-scientific bodies (TCAC, TCPR, WPICMM and the Compliance Committee), and the Commission.
5. **Historical expenditure:** The total MPF expenditure from the IOTC regular budget and extra-budgetary sources for the period 2010 to 2017, was US\$ 1,663,692 (Table 1). Of this, US\$ 1,212,312 was sourced from the IOTC Regular budget (including the initial allocation from 'accumulated funds'). A further US\$ 451,380 was provided by external partners as extra-budgetary contributions.

Table 1. Historical expenditures against the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund, including from the initial allocation of 'accumulated funds', regular budget and extra-budgetary sources for the period 2010-17.

Year	Total expenditure (US\$)	Regular budget actual expenditure (US\$)	Extra budgetary actual expenditure (US\$)	Extra budgetary source
2010	57,429	57,429	0	Initial MPF Allocation from 'accumulated funds' (US\$200,000)
2011	157,186	157,186	0	
2012	195,502	108,263+17,747*	69,492	Australia *FAO Project servicing costs 2010-12.
2013	315,952	240,547	75,405	Australia
2014	242,517	118,517	124,000	Australia, BOBLME Project, ABNJ Tuna Project
2015	207,073	118,656	88,417	Australia, China, ABNJ Tuna Project
2016	285,088	211,022	74,066	Australia, China, ABNJ Tuna Project
2017	202,945	182,945	20,000	China
TOTAL	1,663,692	1,212,312	451,380	

DISCUSSION

6. Noting that the first two years of the MPF were financed from ‘accumulated funds’ and that the process had not yet been fully developed, the annual average expenditures for the ensuing six years (2012-17) could be considered as a better reflection of MPF needs. The total average expenditure for the period 2012-17 was US\$ 241,153.
7. The regular budget contribution is US\$ 200,000, and therefore the extra-budgetary contributions are essential to meet the current MPF demand, and Members and partners should be encouraged to contribute to the MPF.

Table 2. Proposed and predicted expenditure in 2018-20.

Year	Total expenditure prediction (US\$)	Regular budget (US\$)	Extra budgetary (US\$)	Extra budgetary sources
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Projected</i>		<i>Received</i>
2018	249,439	200,000	49,439,	Australia and China
2019	290,000	200,000	90,000	TBD
2020	290,000	200,000	90,000	TBD

RECOMMENDATION/S

8. That the SCAF **NOTE** paper IOTC–2018–SCAF15–08, and the basis for the projected budget in its deliberations on the Meeting Participation Fund budget.
9. That the SCAF **NOTE** the importance of extra-budgetary contributions in meeting the current MPF demand.