



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
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Executive Secretary and Member Parties of the IOTC

## **RE: APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS FOR 2013**

South Africa hereby would like to request renewal of its co-operating status for 2013. Firstly, South Africa would like to apologize for this late submission. This submission was deliberately submitted late as we had hoped that a decision would be taken by now by our Cabinet and Parliament on South Africa's accession to the IOTC. We hereby confirm that the accession process is at an advanced stage. The Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) formally supported the accession to IOTC during March 2012, after receiving support of accession by the Department of International Relations and Co-operation and the Department of Justice. The request to accede was also reviewed and supported by the International Co-coordinating Committee and Departmental Executive Committee of the DAFF. During January 2013 our Minister approved the IOTC Cabinet memorandum and it is currently being tabled at Cabinet and a decision to accede is imminent.

It is regrettable that the above process has been lengthy with many of the processes and procedures occurring outside the ambit and control of the DAFF. However, South Africa assures the IOTC Commission that every effort is being made to expedite this process and become full members of the IOTC. In addition, South Africa is committed to conservation, research, development and resource management in the Southwest Indian Ocean and is committed to implement all of the relevant IOTC conservation and management measures. This is evident from our compliance track record with IOTC and in the appointment of a dedicated researcher in 2011 who has been capacitated to address all the fisheries research and statistics pertaining to tuna Regional Fishery Management Organisations, including the IOTC.

South Africa therefore kindly requests the IOTC members to review the contents of this letter and favourably consider South Africa's request for the renewal of its Co-operating Non-Contracting Party status for 2013.

Kind Regards,

  
**MS GRETA APPELGREN-NARKEDIEN**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**  
**Letter Signed by:** Mr Mongezi Nqoro  
**Designation:** Director (Intergovernmental and International Relations)  
**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013