

10 May 2024

IOTC CIRCULAR 2024-25

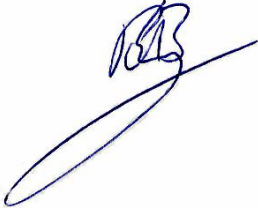
Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Please find attached a request letter from the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission may wish to allow the Nature Conservancy to participate as an Observer given their interest in the IOTC as stipulated in the attached letter. Thus, unless any objections are received within 30 days of the date of this Circular, the IOTC Secretariat will consider that approval has been granted for the Executive Secretary to issue an invitation to the potential Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Letter from the Nature Conservancy

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

4th April 2024

Dr. Paul de Bruyn
IOTC Executive Secretary
Blend Seychelles Building (2nd floor)
Providence
PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé, Seychelles

Dear Dr. Paul de Bruyn,

I am writing to formally request accreditation for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to attend meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Agreement.

TNC is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1996, and also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), please find attached.

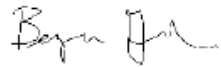
TNC supports the commitment of the UN system, including that of the FAO, to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. TNC is committed to building upon our existing partnership with the FAO to support key international priorities related to sustainable use of natural resources, regenerative food production and the conservation of global biodiversity. We seek to do so by bringing new models of collaboration to the table with diverse partners – including coastal community members, the fishing industry, technology providers, seafood buyers, universities, and local non-profit organisations.

Since 2015, TNC has been working across geographies to support improved fisheries transparency to build healthy and sustainable tuna fisheries, reduce bycatch of vulnerable species, decrease illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improve socio-economic returns. We have supported numerous Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) expert committees, including those of WCPFC, ICCAT and IATTC, bringing technical knowledge on at-sea monitoring tools and electronic monitoring (EM) data and program standards. In addition, we are working with multiple governments that are Contracting Parties of IOTC and industry partners to understand the issues at hand and deploy cutting-edge EM that provides the needed oversight of commercial tuna vessels. At the global level we are working with EM service providers and research and development projects aimed at making on-the-water monitoring more reliable, functional and affordable.

Over the next few years, TNC will continue to use on-the-water experience to understand how EM can be scaled-up to meet today's challenges. We also hope to share these insights with RFMOs to support regional and national programs and further improve monitoring practices, including through EM, thereby using this technology to achieve sustainability goals in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We hope to share insight and be part of these discussions, **including attending the 4th Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards in June.**

We therefore request accreditation and invitation to attend the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding TNC and/or this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gilmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ben Gilmer
Director of Large-Scale Fisheries
The Nature Conservancy