

19 March 2026

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-16

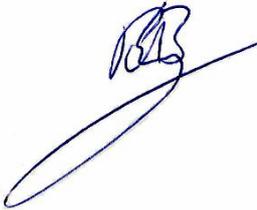
Dear Madam / Sir

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

Please find attached a request letter from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) 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 Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) 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 Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

#### 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, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



Wildlife Conservation Society  
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Kigali,  
Rwanda  
17 March 2026

**Wildlife  
Conservation  
Society**  
2300 Southern Blvd  
Bronx, NY 10460 USA  
718 220 5100

WCS.org

IOTC Secretariat  
Blend Seychelles Building (2nd floor)  
Providence  
PO Box 1011  
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES

Re: Request for pre-approval as observer to attend meetings of the  
Commission

Dear Mr Adam Ziyad

I am writing to you to request pre-approval for representatives from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to attend meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as a pre-approved non-member.

The WCS is a non-profit organization, focusing on terrestrial and marine conservation issues at key geographic sites around the world. Among these, of relevance to the IOTC, include marine programs in East Africa, southeast Asia, and parts of the Indo West Pacific.

In the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) specifically, WCS is working to improve the conservation status and the sustainable utilization and management of marine resources, including chondrichthyan and other fishery resources, and for the conservation of marine mammal species, among others. We aim to achieve this vision by focusing on various strategic activities, including capacity development, awareness raising, collation of robust scientific information, coastal fishery assessments, support to governments and fishing communities for more sustainable fisheries management, and support to several governments that are Contracting Parties to the IOTC, to improve the implementation of measures under Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Fishery Management Organizations, among other activities.



Our work is therefore linked to the management of resources under the mandate of the IOTC, and we believe we could contribute meaningfully to this mandate. In particular, our long-term collection of coastal fishery data in several states would provide considerable species-level data that could support the activities and mandate of the IOTC's Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB).

We therefore wish to engage formally, to enable WCS staff to join meetings of the Commission, including meetings of the WPEB, as pre-approved observers.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Regards

**Wildlife  
Conservation  
Society**  
2300 Southern Blvd  
Bronx, NY 10460 USA  
718 220 5100

WCS.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michel Masozera', is written over a horizontal line.

**Michel Masozera PhD**

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