

IOTC MID-TERM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2026

PREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

1. The IOTC Financial Regulations (2019) require for a mid-term review of IOTC finances to be prepared by the Secretariat and considered by SCAF and the Commission.

STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET IN 2026***As of 31 March 2026, around 49% of the 2026 budget has been received from Members***

2. The total of contributions requested from Contracting Parties for the 2026 budget was (US) \$4,401,862.
3. As of 31 March 2026, a total of \$2,163,930 has been received. Note however, this amount of contributions may include some outstanding contributions due from years prior to 2026.
4. Details on the status of contributions are available in Appendix 1.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2026***As of 31 March, around 28% of the 2026 budget has been spent.***

5. The total budget for 2026 is \$4,401,862 and as of 31 March the Commission has spent \$1,246,708 (28% - see Table 1).
6. The staff-related budgets¹ (totaling \$2,681,185) are expected to be underspent; The recruitment of the new P3 Compliance Officer, the P3 Data Officer and the G5 Data Assistant (Statistical Research) have only been very recently completed but delays in the timing of the recruitment will have an impact on the rate of expenditure and reduce overall spending. There could also be differences at year-end for expenditures on local salaries due to USD-SCR exchange rate fluctuations and unforeseen post adjustment changes to professional salaries.
7. Spending on the operations-related budgets² is, overall, on track, with a total of \$633,210 spent out of a budget of \$1,244,042 (51%). This includes commitments to contracts such as consultancies.
8. 77% of the Consultants/Service Providers budget has been spent and this is due to the early recruitment of consultants for specialised assignments. As soon as consultants are recruited all necessary funds are committed in the FAO financial system.
9. The meeting budget was overspent in 2024 and 2025 but should result in savings in 2026 since hosts have come forward for many of the Working Parties and the Science Committee.. The 2026 meeting budget was increased to \$122,000 and as a contingency, the Commission agreed that savings and, if necessary, the WCF would be used to cover any additional requirements in 2026. It is very unlikely that the WCF will be needed in 2026 to augment meeting costs and some of these funds should be available to use in other budget lines, keeping within the IOTC financial rules.

¹ Staff costs comprise salary costs and entitlements. Estimates of salary costs are relatively accurate as they are derived from extrapolations of current salaries. However, employer contributions to the pension and health funds can be variable and are more difficult to predict as they are determined by FAO and may change anytime during a budget year. The SCAF is advised that while the Secretariat provides best estimates for staff costs, it has no control over the final expenditures in this section of the annual budget.

² Note that the operations expenditure figures in the table include "hard commitments" made to contractual agreements such as purchase orders and contracts.

10. 38% of the travel budget has been used after 3 months but these costs include most of the travel expenditures for the annual meetings in the Maldives. Some extra budgetary funds are also available for travel through a new EU project so the travel budget is expected to be sufficient.
11. Spending on translation is advanced after 3 months due to funds being committed for translation service contracts that extend throughout the year.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS BETWEEN BUDGET SUB ITEMS

In accordance with the Final Regulations (2019), the Executive Secretary may authorize the transfer of up to [15] percent of appropriations between sub-items as specified in Article III.5 of this Regulation upon approval from the Chairperson of the Commission until a mid-term review.

12. No transfers are currently being proposed in 2026.

MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND

13. As mentioned in IOTC-2026-SCAF23-05, the average annual expenditure for the MPF is around \$253,752, and the budget available for 2026 is \$300,000, together with a positive balance of \$166,842 from previous years.
14. As of 31 March 2026, \$42,094 has been spent under the MPF. This includes some but not all of the travel expenditures for the current meetings, which will be accounted for in April and May.

REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

15. The Regional Observer Programme (ROP) contract is managed on a May to April calendar cycle and the programme remains on track. An additional Call for Funds was made to participants in January 2026 for a total of \$276,842, of which a total of \$276,835 has been received. A new contract extension will be awarded for ROP services in 2026-27 and a call for funds was recently made to participants for a total of \$871,182. As of 31 March 2026, \$82,051 has been received for the next cycle.

OTHER FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

16. The Secretariat received \$300,000 from the European Union as the first tranche to cover the funding of a new project in 2026-28. The multi-year project will provide a total of \$631,303 funding over a period of three years and will support a range of scientific and compliance related activities that have been prioritized by the Commission through its technical bodies.

USE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND IN 2026

Permission to use the WCF already granted

17. Meetings. See paragraph 8.
18. IOTC Website (as required).

Permission to use the WCF being sought in 2026

19. The IOTC IT infrastructure is ageing and does not comply with FAO specifications. It will therefore require some updating. The Secretariat remains in consultation with FAO about bringing its infrastructure in line with FAO policies as well as updating critical components as required. Some funding (\$50,000) has been provided under the 2026 budget but additional funding may be necessary.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

That the SCAF:

- a) **NOTE** the mid-term financial report for the year 2026.
- b) **NOTE** that additional funds may be required for a consultancy to fully review the IOTC IT infrastructure. Some funding is provided for in the 2026 budget. If additional funding is required, funds will be first taken from savings in other budget lines, then, only if required, from the Working Capital Fund.

Table 1. Comparison between budgeted expenditures and actual expenditures as of 31 March 2026 (in US\$).

	TOTAL BUDGET 2026	EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 MARCH 2026	BALANCE	% SPENT
PRO STAFF				
BASE SALARY (& post adj)	1,439,816	315,865	1,123,951	22%
PENSION & HEALTH	435,193	96,798	338,395	22%
FAO ENTITLEMENTS & RENTAL	557,080	110,778	446,303	20%
ICRU	68,098	0	68,098	0%
GS STAFF	-	-	-	
BASE SALARY	91,338	16,772	74,566	18%
PENSION & HEALTH	46,451	9,297	37,154	20%
FAO ENTITLEMENTS	38,421	4,171	34,250	11%
ICRU	4,787	0	4,787	0%
TOTAL STAFF	2,681,185	553,680	2,127,504	21%
OPERATIONS				
CAPACITY BUILDING	130,000	30,673	99,327	24%
CONSULTANTS/SERVICE PROVIDERS	460,652	356,820	103,832	77%
TRAVEL (STAFF)	180,000	68,262	111,738	38%
MEETINGS	122,000	39,016	82,984	32%
INTERPRETATION	130,000	40,719	89,281	31%
TRANSLATION	128,000	83,529	44,471	65%
EQUIPMENT	10,000	480	9,520	5%
GOE	73,390	13,710	59,680	19%
CONTINGENCIES	10,000	-	10,000	0%
TOTAL OPERATIONS	1,244,042	633,210	610,832	51%
SEY add. Contribution	-	-	-	0%
PSC	176,635	17,724	158,911	10%
Deficit Contingency	-	-	-	0%
MPF	300,000	42,094	257,906	-
GRAND TOTAL	4,401,862	1,246,708	3,155,154	28%

Appendix 1. Status of Member contributions to the IOTC autonomous budget (in US\$) – 31 March 2026

	1	2	3	4
Member	Outstanding Contribution 1 January 2026 (all years prior to 2026)	Contribution due for 2026	Received Contributions in 2026	Total Outstanding Contributions
AUSTRALIA	0	195,332	195,332	0
BANGLADESH	1,999	81,044	81,044	1,999
CHINA	0	110,149		110,149
COMOROS	357,420	77,608		435,029
EUROPEAN UNION	0	852,533	852,533	0
FRANCE	0	161,908	161,908	0
INDIA	0	171,755	171,755	0
INDONESIA	0	307,185		307,185
IRAN	866,124	238,508		1,104,632
JAPAN	0	213,662		213,661
KENYA	0	71,998		71,998
KOREA, Rep. of	245,862	234,078		479,941
MADAGASCAR	38,546	38,682	38,546	38,682
MALAYSIA	0	82,599	82,599	0
MALDIVES	160,304	163,204		323,509
MAURITIUS	0	87,422	87,422	0
MOZAMBIQUE	183,358	41,491		224,848
OMAN	0	256,448		256,448
PAKISTAN	2,653	94,485		97,138
PHILIPPINES	0	51,861	51,861	0
SEYCHELLES	0	261,144		261,145
SOMALIA	30,608	15,179		45,787
SOUTH AFRICA	0	70,948	70,948	0
SRI LANKA	0	124,781	124,781	0
SUDAN	418,459	15,288		433,747
TANZANIA	8,342	79,211		87,553
THAILAND	0	83,287	83,287	0
UNITED KINGDOM	0	161,914	161,914	0
YEMEN	893,600	58,156		951,755
Total	3,207,273	4,401,862	2,163,930	5,445,205

Member	Total Outstanding Contributions
BELIZE	47,092
ERITREA	337,698
GUINEA	143,295
SIERRA LEONE	66,097
VANUATU	26,251
Total	620,433

Members	5,445,205
Ex-Members	620,433
Total	6,065,638