11 November 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR

2026-48

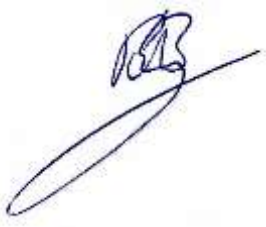
Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION (EJF)

Please find attached a request letter from the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) 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 Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) 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 Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)

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

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Protecting People and Planet

To:

The Chairperson

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Subject: Request for IOTC observer status from the Environmental Justice Foundation

Dear Chairperson,

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) to formally request observer status at IOTC meetings. EJF is an international non-governmental organisation committed to combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated human rights abuses in the fishing sector.

We are particularly interested in contributing to discussions related to compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures (CMMs). EJF investigators routinely interview migrant crew who have worked on board distant-water fishing vessels operating within the IOTC's jurisdiction, gathering detailed testimony on potential compliance issues. This testimony, along with associated visual evidence provided by crew, can offer much-needed additional insight into fishing activities within the IOTC area of competence and ultimately support compliance with CMMs. Our participation in meetings will allow us to answer questions about our findings.

To date, EJF has contributed to constructive dialogues with a range of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and other international fora. We also provide analytical briefings and detailed evidence dossiers to RFMO member states to support subsequent investigations into allegations and to promote transparency and collaboration. We look forward to continuing this spirit of engagement with the IOTC and member states.

Please do let me know if you require further information about EJF or our work. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

S. Trent

Steve Trent

Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) is an international environmental and human rights non-profit organisation with representation in:
Belgium - Brazil - Cameroon - France - Germany - Ghana - Indonesia - Japan -
Liberia - Philippines - Senegal - South Korea - Taiwan - Thailand - UK
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