

**MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND<sup>1</sup>**

In 2020 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 14-14 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 20-09) which substitutes and repeals Rec. 14-14 in its entirety.

Recommendation 20-09 establishes a Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) to support representatives of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States for the purpose of attending and/or contributing to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies. This fund was initially provisioned with €60,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

The new recommendation differs from the previous one in that some minimum criteria must be met in order to control costs and minimize the administrative burdens. The criteria are as follows: when a developing Contracting Party sends more than six official delegates to a Commission meeting or more than four to a subsidiary body meeting using its own resources, it will not be entitled to receive financial support from the MPF; in addition, the delegates must travel in the least expensive economy class or another that is more economical and the flight itinerary must be defined at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

This fund was financed in 2022 with an allocation of €40,000.00 charged to Chapter 13b) of the ICCAT budget, as approved by the Commission in 2021. In addition, a voluntary contribution in the amount of €210,000.00 has also been received from the European Union, through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building, to be used in 24 months.

To these funds, the carryover from financial year 2021 must be added, which amounted to €455,811.72. Therefore, the available amount for 2022 was €705,811.72.

It should be noted that the carryover from financial year 2021 included a voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building. This contribution was made under a contract which terminated on 31 December 2021 and which has been settled in 2022, refunding to the European Union the unused amount.

In the second quarter of 2022, in-person meetings started to be held and, therefore, financing for representatives from developing Contracting Parties resumed. In 2022 31 trips have been managed and 18 CPCs have benefited.

For 2023, this fund will have a balance of € 645,159.98, comprising the carryover from 2022 and an allocation charged to the Commission budget (€170,000.00).

**Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)**

<b>Opening balance for financial year 2022</b>	<b>€ 455,811.72</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>€ 250,000.00</b>
Financed by ICCAT	€ 40,000.00
Voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building	€ 210,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 230,651.74</b>
Refund of unused financing from the European Union Fund for Capacity Building 2020-2021	€ 122,802.58
Scientific meetings	€ 38,015.37
<i>Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting (Madrid, Spain, hybrid meeting, 4-9 July 2022)</i>	<i>€ 2,422.21</i>

<sup>1</sup> Data at 14 November 2022.

<i>SCRS Species Groups and/or SCRS plenary meetings (Madrid, Spain, 19-30 September 2022)</i>	€ 35,593.16
Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 (Azores, Portugal / hybrid, 28-30 June 2022)	€ 27,391.00
Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 and 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission (Vale do Lobo, Portugal, 13-21 November 2022)	€ 42,442.79
<b>Balance at 14 November 2022</b>	<b>€ 475,159.98</b>

Summary of expenses	Scientific meetings		Meeting of Panel 1		Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 Meeting and 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission	
<b>CPC</b>						
Albania					X	€ 2,407.25
Belize			X	€ 2,375.97	X	€ 4,265.42
Brazil	b)	€ 5,651.25				
Côte d'Ivoire			X	€ 1,992.88	X	€ 3,027.16
Egypt					C	€ 701.78
El Salvador	b)	€ 5,456.55	X	€ 3,167.36	X	€ 4,062.15
Gabon	b)	€ 4,967.60	X	€ 2,657.22	X	€ 3,305.66
Guinea (Rep.)			X	€ 2,458.07		
Guatemala	b)	€ 5,691.93			X	€ 4,567.32
Honduras					X	€ 5,353.12
Mauritania			X	€ 1,874.79		
Nicaragua	b)	€ 3,701.47	X	€ 3,771.68	X	€ 4,041.29
Panama			X	€ 2,870.25	X	€ 3,143.88
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	b)	€ 2,662.29			X	€ 3,369.04
Senegal			X	€ 2,577.99		
Sierra Leone	b)	€ 3,291.39				
Trinidad and Tobago			X	€ 3,644.79		
Tunisia	a) and b)	€ 6,592.89				
Uruguay					X	€ 4,198.72
<b>Total</b>		<b>€ 38,015.37</b>		<b>€ 27,391.00</b>		<b>€ 42,442.79</b>

- a) *Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting*  
b) *SCRS Species Groups and/or SCRS plenary meetings*

C: Trip cancelled.