

SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ICCAT IN 2009 TO DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES

At its 2005 meeting, the Commission decided to make Assistance to Developing Coastal States a permanent item in its annual meeting Agenda. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat with the objective of summarizing the capacity-building activities carried out in 2009 in which the Secretariat had some type of involvement, usually in terms of coordination and management of funds. The document also identifies other sources of funds with potential use by ICCAT.

1. ICCAT sources of funding

There are two funds that have been created specifically for scientific capacity-building activities in ICCAT:

- The **Data Fund** created through the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21]. The Data Fund is to be used "for training in data collection and for supporting of scientific participation in SCRS data preparatory and stock assessment sessions by scientists from Parties with insufficient capacity to meet data collection, quality assurance, and reporting obligations." Each year, the SCRS establishes general levels of funding for various activities during the upcoming year. Proposals received by the Secretariat are circulated to the SCRS Chairman and SCRS Officers for approval before any funds are awarded. This fund is open to voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. To date, the United-States has been the only contributor to this fund.
- The Japan Data Improvement Project (**JDIP**): The JDIP was initiated in December 2004 by Japan as a five-year project with the aim of making improvements to the data collected and used by ICCAT. Specific objectives include the investigation of the major sources of uncertainty in fishery statistics, and the implementation of capacity-building programs to address these uncertainties. The JDIP has a Steering Committee made up of the Executive Secretary, a representative from Japan, the SCRS Chairman and the Convener of the SCRS Sub-Committee on Statistics. The Steering Committee meets bi-annually to review funding priorities and project proposals, and decides on the granting of funds. The JDIP has a Coordinator at the Secretariat who works actively to identify potential projects and who manages the day-to-day operations. Japan's initial project ends in November 2009. However, Japan has initiated another project with two objectives, assisting developing CPCs to efficiently implement the ICCAT measures, in particular those related to the control and follow up of fisheries activities and improve the collection, analysis and data transmittal. The new project will start in December 2009, when the original project finishes, and its duration will be similar to last years project.
- **EC Fund for Capacity Building**: This fund was initiated in 2008 to support training in data collection and data analysis and to facilitate the participation scientists at SCRS meetings from parties that have a lesser capacity to comply with their statistical obligations as well as the participation at other meetings. The process followed for the use of these funds is similar to that for the use of the Data Fund, *i.e.* the approval of rapporteurs and the SCRS Chairman. This fund will last one year.

In addition, other funds are also available at the Secretariat:

- The **ICCAT Chairman Fund**: Since 2006, the Commission Chairman has provided funds to promote exchanges among the Contracting Parties at the regional level. Since its establishment, the fund has contributed towards organizing workshops in 2009 in different areas (Cape Verde, Turkey, Syria and Morocco). Currently, the fund finances activities of the

Commission Chairman and regional training courses. This fund is managed by the ICCAT Secretariat. The Chairman decides on the allocation of the fund.

- **U.S. Fund for Capacity Building:** Since 2008, the United States contributes with a fund for the organization of workshops on various activities aimed at fisheries capacity building for developing countries. The Delegation of the United States decides on the allocation of the fund.

At its meeting in 2008, the SCRS considered that the volume of funds available would enable establishing an overall program of priorities over the medium term. This program should include the various aspects of training, recovery of historical data, development of support materials and participation at meetings which is now covered by the various funds. Moreover, the SCRS also developed a common application aimed at the approval of the request of funds.

In this same sense, during the workshops of the Second Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) (*San Sebastian, 2009*), it was stressed that besides assisting developing country scientists to participate in the scientific meetings, there was a need to train these scientists so that they can take part in the data processing and analysis for the stock assessments. With this objective, the SCRS proposed that the Secretariat, together with the national scientists that have given training courses in the past, develop a curriculum of training courses with the corresponding manuals, in collaboration with the other organizations such as ICES or SPC.

Besides these funds, there are two research programs that were not created specifically for capacity-building activities. However, their objectives to collect data and biological information can indirectly serve to build capacity. These two programs establish funding priorities each year which are reviewed and approved by the SCRS. Proposals received by the Secretariat are circulated to the corresponding Coordinators for approval before any funds are awarded. Until 2009, the existing Programs were as follows:

- ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program (EBRP). This program has been carried out since 1987 for the purpose of obtaining more complete and detailed catch and effort statistics on billfish, carrying out an extensive tagging program, and conducting studies on billfish age and growth. The EBRP is financed by the Contracting Parties through the regular Commission budget. In 2009, Chinese Taipei contributed to this program.
- ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP). This program has been carried out since 1992 with the objective of improving the general biological information and statistical data on the fisheries, in particular, bluefin tuna. Since 1997, the BYP has been funded by the Contracting Parties through the regular ICCAT Commission budget.

An ambitious, six-year research program on Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (GBYP) is expected to start in 2010 which will include, among other activities, those previously financed by the BYP.

This program responds to proposals made by the SCRS in 2002 and 2005 and the later proposal made in 2008, which was presented by the SCRS Chairman to the Commission. The Commission approved the proposal and requested the SCRS to give priority to the selection of a Coordinator, to data mining and aerial surveys in 2009, and to redefining the rest of the tasks for their presentation to the Commission in 2009. Various Contracting Parties have indicated their participation in this program and have provided funds.

2. Funds granted in 2009

Information summarized below providing details on the specific projects funded, the results and the accounting reports on the accounts can be found in the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research (Data Fund and JDIP) and in the SCRS Report (EBRP and BYP).

Capacity-building activities can be classified in the following general categories:

- **Travel assistance.** Assistance was provided to scientists from developing coastal States to participate in inter-sessional scientific meetings and the SCRS meeting. The following table shows the countries financed and the SCRS meetings to which their representatives participated in 2009:

Meeting	Country	Place and Date
Training Workshop on Data Collection and Improvement in the Caribbean Region	Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Granada, St. Lucía, St. Vincent and the Granadines and Trinidad and Tobago	Guyana, February 16-20
2009 ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods	Brazil	Madrid, March 11-14
Inter-sessional Meeting of the Tropical Species Group	Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Ghana and Morocco	Madrid, April 20-25
Training Workshop on the Parameter Estimation and Basic Stock Assessment Modeling in the Mediterranean Region	Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco	Tangier, Morocco, May 18-22
Sailfish Assessment Meeting	Venezuela, Senegal	Recife, Brazil, June 1-5
Inter-sessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems	Uruguay	Recife, Brazil, June 8-12
Atlantic Swordfish Assessment Meeting	Morocco, Uruguay	Madrid, September 7-11
Training Workshop on Cooperativism and Associativism	Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, St. Tomé and Príncipe	Cape Verde, September 17-22
Species Groups	Cape Verde, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Uruguay and Côte d'Ivoire	Madrid, September 28 to October 2
SCRS	Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and Uruguay	Madrid, October 5-9

The total for this Chapter amounted to €57,180.75 (Tables 1 and 2).

- **Improvement in data collection (Tables 1 and 2).** This category encompasses the current Task I and Task II data, the recovery of historical data, scientific observer programs, and the collection of biological information through tagging and other means. Activities financed by the JDIP concerning sampling, on-board observers and the recovery of historical data in

Ghana and Abidjan amounted €23,734.00 (**Table 1**). In 2009, Ghana continued the on-board observer program financed jointly by the JDIP and the U.S. Fund for Capacity Building, and the recovery of historical data in electronic format has been initiated. Also, in 2009, experimental multi-species sampling was carried out on the Ghanaian catches landed at the port of Abidjan.

– **Training**

- In February 2009, a “Training Workshop on Data Collection and Improvement in the Caribbean Region” was held in Guyana. Two U.S. scientists and a Secretariat staff member served as instructors for the course. Fourteen (14) scientists from the following Contracting Parties participated: Barbados (2), Belize (2) Turks and Caicos (1), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2), Trinidad and Tobago (1). The scientists from the following Cooperating Parties were also presented: (Guyana) (2), and other entities (4). This Workshop was jointly financed by the JDIP and the EC Fund for Capacity Building.
- In May 2009, a “Training Workshop on Parameter Estimation and Basic Stock Assessment Modeling in the Mediterranean region” was held in Tangier, Morocco. There were a total of 18 participants from seven countries: Morocco (8), Algeria (2), Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Turkey (2), Albania (1), and Libya (1). A Japanese scientist and two members of the Secretariat staff were instructors for the course. The Workshop was financed by the ICCAT/Japan Data Improvement Project.
- In September, a Training Course on Cooperativism and Associativism was held in Mindelo, Cape Verde. Twelve (12) scientists from the following countries attended: Angola (2), Equatorial Guinea (1), Cape Verde (2), St. Tome and Principe (3), Guinea Bissau (2), and Mozambique (2). A scientist of Brazil was the course instructor. The course was financed by the Chairman’s Regional Workshop Fund.

The total amount spent on this chapter amounts to €114,199.36 (**Table 1 and 2**).

- **Other.** There are other activities that are not strictly for capacity-building but which can potentially be used as part of training programs or other capacity-building tasks. An example are the species identification sheets, which are easy to handle and can be of considerable assistance for the samplers, the printing and distribution of generic tagging posters to encourage the recovery of tags, and the purchase of material for tagging activities. In 2009, the JDIP contributed €561.44 towards these activities (**Table 1**).

In summary, €195,675.55 was used in 2009 towards the capacity-building activities mentioned above. The assistance towards missions, training courses and data collection activities for tagging twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties, five non-Contracting Parties, one Cooperating Entity, and more than 50 scientists benefited from the travel assistance.

The funds included in this document correspond to 2009 and do not necessarily include the activities of previous years. Moreover, as stated in section 1, a part of the ICCAT budget of the ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program (EBRP) covered the capacity building activities:

- **EBRP.** In 2009, Ghana and Senegal provided in-kind contributions by supporting the time spent by Mr. P. Bannerman (Ghana) and Mr. T. Diouf (Senegal), the Co-Coordination for the East Atlantic.

3. Other sources of funding

3.1 Part VII, Article 25 of UNFSA

In the 1995 *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* (UNFSA), Article 25 (Part VII) of the Agreement requires States Parties to cooperate in order to enhance the ability of developing States "to conserve and manage straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and to develop their own fisheries for such stocks; to enable their participation in high seas fisheries for such stocks and to facilitate their participation in sub-regional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements."

In order to help developing states implement UNFSA, in 2004 the UN set up a trust fund which is managed by FAO¹. Any developing State that is a Party to UNFSA can apply for financial assistance from the trust fund. The application can be made directly by the State through its Permanent Mission to UN or its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or it could be made through an RFMO like ICCAT. DOALOS will screen applications and if they meet the procedural requirements, the applications will be forwarded to FAO for review and decision.

The model application form can be obtained from the UN-DOALOS web site or on the ICCAT website (<http://www.iccat.int>). In addition to contact details, objectives and a budget, the application must contain explanations on the following:

- An explanation of how the assistance requested relates to the implementation of UNFSA
- A description of desired outputs of the project/expenditure.
- A description of any existing alternative sources of funding.

3.2 Other

There are other ongoing programs in the fisheries field which may contain components for assistance to developing coastal states. Some of these that are managed by FAO are listed in **Table 3**, however it should be noted that the Secretariat has made no attempt to study the feasibility of accessing these funds for ICCAT-related objectives. Contracting Parties are invited to contribute information on additional resources that could be used to provide assistance to developing coastal parties to ICCAT.

Table 1. Funds granted in 2009 for various programs managed by ICCAT (in Euros, estimated in October 2009).

<i>Item</i>	<i>JDIP</i>	<i>Data Fund</i>	<i>ICCAT Chairman</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>Total</i>
Travel assistance	23,970.22	16,587.79		16,622.74	57,180.75
Data collection	23,734.00				23,734.00
Training courses	70,561.96		30,636.43	13,000.97	114,199.36
Posters and tagging equipment, species identification sheets	561.44				561.44
Total	118,827.62	16,587.79	30,636.43	29,623.71	195,674.55

¹ The complete texts of the objectives can be obtained from the UN-DOALOS web site:
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/fishstocktrustfund.htm

Table 2. List of developing coastal States that have benefited from the funds in 2009 (data up to October 31, 2009).

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Data Collection</i>	<i>Training</i>	<i>Travel Assistance</i>
Albania		X	X
Angola		X	X
Algeria		X	X
Barbados		X	X
Belize		X	X
Brazil		X	X
Cape Verde		X	X
Côte d'Ivoire	X		X
Egypt		X	X
Equatorial Guinea		X	X
Ghana	X		X
Libya		X	
Morocco		X	X
St. Tomé and Príncipe		X	X
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		X	X
Senegal			X
Syria			X
Trinidad and Tobago		X	X
Tunisia		X	X
Turkey		X	
Uruguay			X
Venezuela			X
Dominica, Granada, St. Lucia and CRFM		X	X
Guinea Bissau, Mozambique		X	X

Table 3. List of some programs managed or co-managed by FAO.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Web site</i>
CopeMedII	Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice, technical support and establishment of cooperation networks to facilitate coordination to support fisheries management in the Mediterranean 	http://www.faocopemed.org
FISHCODE-STF	Worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a global inventory of fish stocks and fisheries • Development of data collection systems for small-scale and multi-species fisheries • Development of criteria and methods for ensuring information quality and security • Development of arrangements for the provision and exchange of information • Support to and participation in the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS) • Sustaining data collection and information systems • Expanding the scope of information on status and trends of fisheries, including the need to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fisheries management • Capacity-building in developing countries • Participation in working groups in assessing the status and trends of fisheries 	http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?xml=STF_proj.xml&dom=org&xp_nav=1
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH: CONSIDERING INTERACTION INCLUDING WITH MARINE MAMMALS (financed by Japan)	Worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the development of capacity of member countries in the implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (EAF). The project has been promoting the development of skills for evaluating the nature and impact of interactions between species that are directly or indirectly affected by fisheries and the importance of these for fisheries management. The project has been also promoting the development of capacity in the implementation of EAF, with particular emphasis on assisting countries in the identification and reconciliation of multiple objectives with fisheries in an ecosystem. 	http://www.fao.org/fishery/eaf-capacity-building/en