



CCSBT-ESC/2508/06

Capacity Building Needs Assessment (ESC Agenda Item 6.1)

Background

At CCSBT 30 in 2023, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan¹ that includes a number of specific actions detailed in its Action Plan. One such action was the development of a Capacity Building Workplan.

One of the key challenges identified by the Strategic Plan adopted in 2023 was to “consider the special requirements and capacity building needs of developing State Members and potential Cooperating Non-Members in terms of compliance with CCSBT obligations”. This is further captured as one of the overarching goals of the Strategic Plan, which states the following:

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.

- *This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.*

Accordingly, a specific action in the Action Plan was developed to deliver against the portion of this goal that is focused on assistance to developing countries. Item 7)i) under the Action Plan commits Members to the following:

Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.

Members assigned a “very high” priority to this item and a delivery timeframe of 2024/2025. Members also tasked the Secretariat to develop an initial draft of the Capacity Building Workplan, which was delivered and adopted at CCSBT 31 in 2024 (see **Attachment A**).

¹ www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/CCSBT_Strategic_Plan.pdf

The initial step in the Capacity Building Workplan is the creation of a Needs Assessment. The Secretariat has been tasked with providing the ESC with this initial assessment to support the creation of a finalised Needs Assessment Report. This initial assessment has been done in collaboration with the Chair of the ESC and the Scientific Advisory Panel.

Initial Assessment

The ESC's assessment will focus on Objectives 1 and 2 of the Capacity Building Workplan with Objective 3 (on compliance related activities) reserved for the Compliance Committee.

Objective 1: Improve Data Collection

Current Status

The Secretariat has not identified any deficiencies which raise immediate concerns in its analysis of scientific data submissions as part of the Scientific Data Exchange. Both South Africa and Indonesia are currently submitting data as part of the data exchange. However, some elements of the submission are not fully meeting the requirements.

Indonesia has yet to meet the agreed scientific observer coverage targets set out in the Scientific Observer Program Standards (i.e. 10%) and its submission is therefore lacking for all data that is scientific observer dependent.

All Members except the European Union have a requirement to provide direct ageing data to the Scientific Data Exchange, using direct age estimates from otolith collections. South Africa has been required to provide these data since the 2017 Data Exchange but has not yet provided any.²

The ESC already undertakes activities dedicated to improving the scientific capacities of developing Members. As a part of the Scientific Research Program (SRP), ESC 28 agreed to implement a new project on capacity building for the SBT Spawning Ground Monitoring Program in Indonesia. In addition, the EC has also approved and funded a Member Participation Fund (MPF) to provide support for developing Members to attend technical meetings of the CCSBT.

Preliminary Recommendations

The initial assessment from the Chair and Secretariat concludes that current efforts aimed at improving data collection are sufficient. Although, both the Chair and Secretariat recognise that Indonesia has had persistent issues in meeting its scientific observer coverage requirements, those issues appear to be driven by systemic and funding barriers rather than a need for capacity building activities through the ESC.

Objective 2: Improve Scientific Analysis

Current Status

This objective is somewhat subjective and cannot be readily assessed by analysing recent data or submission trends. All Members engage in discussions at the ESC, however, some of the more technical discussions tend to be led by a handful of experts.

This situation is not unique to developing Members and reflects a wider trend at the ESC. One of the ways to ensure that developing Members maintain their capacity to engage on

² Noting also that Japan has not submitted direct age data since 2018.

ESC technical topics is to ensure attendance at technical meetings. This has been the role of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) in recent years.

The Secretariat would like to note that, despite the difficulties in recent years due to the reorganisation of the agencies involved, Indonesia has increased its contribution to the CCSBT's scientific process. This includes the submission of papers on SBT catch monitoring in Benoa, preliminary analyses on SBT catch by the Indonesian fleet (Area 1 or Area 2), and information on reproductive studies of SBT. In addition, several CCSBT-funded science projects, such as the close-kin mark recapture and sampling and aging of Indonesian otoliths, are implemented in collaboration between Indonesia and Australia/CSIRO.

Furthermore, CCSBT scientific meetings provide Members with capacity-building opportunities. For example, the Operating Model coding and model run training through the OM Coding Project (a 3-day workshop in Tokyo in November 2023 and the OMMP 14 in Seattle in June 2024) were both instances where capacity development was a key focus.

Preliminary Recommendations

The initial assessment from the Chair and Secretariat concludes that current efforts aimed at improving scientific analysis are sufficient. The Chair and Secretariat recognise the role of the MPF in maintaining capacity and supports its ongoing use.

Potential Capacity Development Initiatives

Although not part of the preliminary recommendations, the Secretariat has identified the following potential activities which could be undertaken in order to support capacity building in the areas identified above:

- In-country training activities targeting specific capacity building needs;
- Mentorship between Member officials/scientists;
- Virtual workshops; and/or
- Support for external training.

Next Steps

Following the Capacity Building Workplan, the ESC this year is invited to:

1. Evaluate the current status and preliminary recommendations described in this paper;
2. Determine if the ESC recommends the EC to develop a Capacity Development Initiative from a science perspective; and
3. If the above 2 are the case, identify priorities for targeted engagement, specifying area, issue, urgency, relevant stakeholders and possible solutions to assist in developing the Capacity Development Initiative.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Capacity Building Workplan

(Agreed at the Thirty-First Annual meeting of the Commission: 10 October 2024)

1. Objectives

- **Objective 1: Improve data collection**
- **Objective 2: Improve scientific analysis**
- **Objective 3: Improve compliance related activities**

2. Needs Assessment

Activity: Conduct a needs assessment

Description: Identify existing gaps in skills, knowledge, and resources through analysis of performance and feedback from relevant subsidiary bodies (i.e. Compliance Committee and Extended Scientific Committee).

Responsible: Secretariat, CC and ESC Chairs, Compliance Committee and Extended Scientific Committee, Members

Timeline:

- Secretariat to provide paper to meetings of ESC and CC with preliminary assessment.
- ESC and CC to finalise Needs Assessment

Resources Needed: Compliance data, feedback from Chairs of subsidiary bodies and Scientific Advisory Panel.

Outcome: Agreed Needs Assessment Report

3. Member Engagement & Development of Capacity Building Initiative

Activity: Secretariat to engage with the Member(s) identified through the Needs Assessment and agree on targeted capacity development initiatives including required budget, performance indicator(s) and risk management plan.

Description: Involve key stakeholders within Member administration to gather input and build support for capacity development initiatives.

Responsible: Secretariat, relevant Member(s)

Timeline: Following conclusion of ESC and CC meetings

Resources Needed: Availability of Secretariat staff and Member administrations.

Outcome: Relevant Member(s) aware and supportive of the planned capacity development initiatives.

4. Budget

Activity: Develop and manage budget for Capacity Development Initiatives

Description: Outline and manage the financial resources needed for the capacity development activities. Seek external funding opportunities where available.

Responsible: Secretariat

Timeline: In line with broader budget reporting obligations

Resources Needed: Secretariat time in managing external contractors otherwise limited resourcing requirement.

Outcome: Approved budget at FAC

5. Implementation of Capacity Building Initiative

Activity: Deliver planned activities (e.g. training sessions, site visits, and workshops)

Description: Deliver training programs to address identified skill gaps.

Responsible: Secretariat in consultation with relevant Member(s)

Timeline: 2026 and beyond

Resources Needed: Secretariat time, travel, training materials, venue, external experts

Outcome: Activity reports, participant feedback

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Activity: Monitor and evaluate any changes in performance against indicators

Description: Implement a system to track progress and assess the effectiveness of the capacity development initiatives.

Responsible: Secretariat

Timeline: Before the Annual Extended Commission meeting

Resources Needed: Secretariat time in compiling data on performance indicators.

Outcome: Monitoring and evaluation summary report

7. Reporting and Feedback

Activity: Report findings and gather feedback on individual initiatives

Description: Prepare and present reports on progress and outcomes, and collect feedback for continuous improvement.

Responsible: Secretariat

Timeline: Annual Extended Commission meeting

Resources Needed: Secretariat time in preparing report. Subsidiary bodies to assess report.

Outcome: Final report to Subsidiary Bodies

8. Review and Adjustments to Capacity Building Workplan

Activity: Review and make any adjustments required to the approach used to target, develop, and deliver the capacity development initiatives

Description: Periodically review the workplan and make adjustments as needed based on feedback and evolving needs.

Responsible: Extended Commission

Timeline: First review after three years and then every five years.

Resources Needed: Secretariat and Subsidiary bodies to provide review for overall assessment by the Extended Commission.

Outcome: Updated workplan

