Whaling Commission Must Not Leave People Behind

Portoroz, Slovenia 28 October 2016  IWMC World Conservation Trust, the premier advocate for the sustainable use of wildlife, cautioned the International Whaling Commission (IWC) today that it must not forget the livelihoods of people as it performs its regulatory functions.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust, said: "The IWC must strike the right balance between regulating whaling and respecting the rights of people. At the moment, the IWC seems to be concentrating too little on human rights and the negative impact its actions have on communities."

The biennial meeting concluded after failing to pass a resolution on the issue of food security, recognize the human rights of indigenous peoples or agree a quota for coastal whalers in Japan. By contrast, it was able to pass a resolution on the endangered Vaquita, a small cetacean that does not fall within the organization's jurisdiction.

The IWC also once again rejected establishing a so-called whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic, in an area where zero whales are hunted. The so-called sanctuary had no scientific justification.

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The International Wildlife Management Consortium (IWMC) World Conservation Trust is an international organization that promotes Sustainable Use as a conservation mechanism, for the protection of the sovereign rights of independent nations and for the respect of diverse cultures and traditions.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust was Secretary General of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) from 1982 to 1990.

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