AGREEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

53RD MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Lisbon, Portugal
August 24, 2026

DOCUMENT APICD-53-01

AIDCP BUDGET

1. BACKGROUND

The Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) is a legally binding multilateral agreement that entered into force in February 1999. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) provides the Secretariat for the Agreement[1] and performs several other functions established in the Agreement, its annexes, and other decisions adopted by the Parties.

Over the past two years, the AIDCP Parties and IATTC Members have been reviewing the financial sustainability of the Observer Program and seeking a long-term solution for allocating the costs shared by the two entities.

As part of this process, three technical studies were presented at the 50th Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties on the functions of observers (Document AIDCP-50-01), the allocation of Secretariat staff time between IATTC and AIDCP activities (Document AIDCP-50-02), and a revised proposal for the AIDCP budget structure (Document AIDCP-50-03). These studies provided the technical basis for subsequent discussions on the financial structure of the Observer Program.

At subsequent meetings, the Parties continued to examine different alternatives for establishing a financing arrangement that adequately reflects the functions currently performed by the Observer Program and the use that both the IATTC and AIDCP make of the information generated by observers.

[1] The Secretariat for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (the Agreement) is provided by the IATTC pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 1(t), and Article XIV, paragraph 3, of the Antigua Convention.

As an interim measure, at the resumed 2025 meeting, the Parties approved the 2026 budget using part of the AIDCP accumulated surplus and adopted Resolution A-25-02, under which they agreed to continue analyzing a permanent solution for financing the Program. Subsequently, at the 52nd Meeting of the Parties, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a work schedule to follow up on that resolution.

As part of the intersessional work provided for under Resolution A-25-02, a joint informal consultation meeting between the IATTC Finance and Administration Committee (CAF) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strengthening AIDCP Financing was held in January 2026. During the meeting, progress achieved to that point was reviewed, and the Secretariat presented additional information on the use of observer and support staff time, as well as on the use of information collected by the Observer Program to fulfill the mandates of both entities.

The discussions confirmed the need to continue strengthening the technical basis that will support future decisions on financing the Program. To this end, the delegations requested that the Secretariat prepare additional information on various financial and operational matters to facilitate analysis of the alternatives to be considered during preparation of the 2027 budget and subsequent fiscal years.

A second intersessional meeting between the IATTC Finance and Administration Committee (CAF) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strengthening AIDCP Financing was convened to present the results of the requested information. However, agreement could not be reached on the date and time of the meeting, and it had to be cancelled.

2. BUDGET STRUCTURE

In this document, IATTC staff, in their capacity as the AIDCP Secretariat, present the 2025 financial statements for AIDCP funds, the updated financial activity for 2026, the recommended budget for 2027, and an explanation of significant variances in certain expenditure categories budgeted for that year.

As illustrated in Figure 1, AIDCP revenue finances expenditures classified into two general categories: Observer Program expenditures and other expenditures associated with activities related to the overall implementation of the AIDCP.

The IATTC Observer Program is the AIDCP's principal cost component: US$2,537,650 of total expenditures of US$3,579,272 in 2025, equivalent to 71%. The remainder corresponds to meetings, administration, and the other categories described in Figure 1.

The AIDCP requires 100% observer coverage of fishing trips by large purse-seine vessels[2] in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and stipulates that at least 50% of those trips be covered by the IATTC Observer Program. The IATTC program provides observers for 100% of trips made by vessels of Parties that do not have a national observer program (currently El Salvador, Guatemala[3], Peru, and the United States). The seven Parties with national observer programs (Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela) generally cover 50% of their respective fleet trips, except Ecuador's national program, which covers 33.3%. The remaining observer coverage is provided by the IATTC Observer Program[4].

[2] Carrying capacity >363mt (IATTC Class 6).

[3] Resumes fishing activity in the EPO in 2025.

[4] For the purposes of this document, the AIDCP On-board Observer Program refers collectively to the purse-seine observer program administered by the Secretariat, together with the national purse-seine observer programs maintained by some Parties. The observer program administered by the Secretariat and coordinated through the IATTC field offices is referred to as the IATTC Observer Program, in order to avoid the potential confusion that could arise from referring to it as the AIDCP Observer Program.

Funding for IATTC Observer Program expenditures is divided between the AIDCP budget, which pays 70%, and the IATTC budget, which pays 30%. The 30% IATTC contribution, agreed at the beginning of the IATTC tuna-dolphin program in 1977, reflects the minimum level of observer coverage required for the data collected to be statistically reliable.

As stated in Resolution A-25-01, the AIDCP Meeting of the Parties decided to "*To accept the Secretariat's recommendation regarding the sharing of the cost of the On-Board Observer Program equally between the AIDCP and IATTC.*" Nevertheless, implementation of that decision remains subject to the corresponding decision by the IATTC.

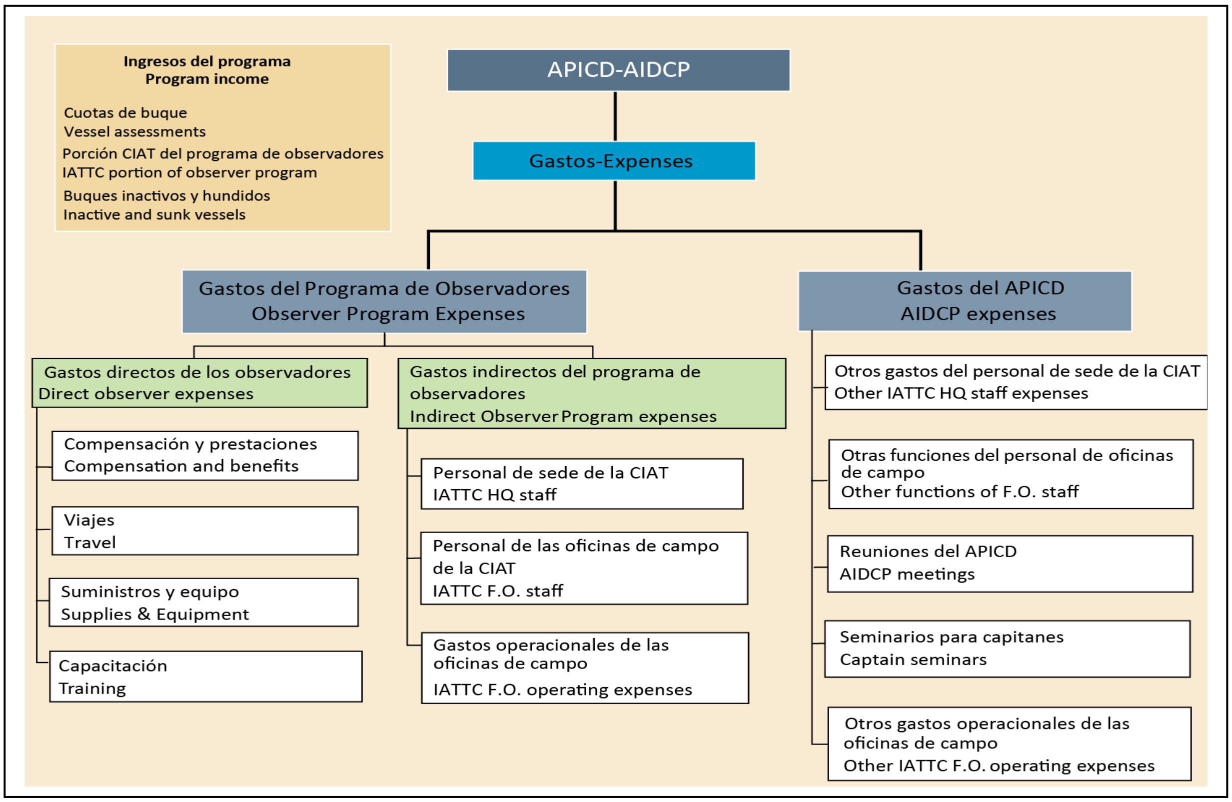

FIGURE 1. Flowchart of the AIDCP budget

As Secretariat of the AIDCP, the IATTC uses a single accounting system to record financial transactions relating to both the AIDCP and the IATTC. Nevertheless, separate financial controls, subsidiary records, and monitoring processes are maintained for each entity to ensure proper identification, classification, and separate presentation of the revenue, expenditures, assets, and liabilities attributable to each.

In response to the recommendations of the AIDCP Parties and IATTC Members, the budget structure continues to evolve to improve traceability between the approved budget, financial execution, and the reports presented.

Document AIDCP-48-01 presented in Panama City, Panama, in August 2024, provides a clearer description of the expenditures incurred in administering the On-board Observer Program. However, for convenience, the percentage allocation of field office expenditures is included in Annex A.

3. PROGRAM EXPENDITURES, 2021-2025

Table 1 illustrates AIDCP expenditures during 2021-2025, broken down into the two expenditure categories (*Observer Program expenditures and AIDCP expenditures (non-observer))*, and details their respective cost components.

TABLA 1. Gastos, 2021-2025 (US$) / TABLE 1. Expenses, 2021-2025 (US$)	2021 AIDCP-44-01	2022 AIDCP-46-01	2023 AIDCP-48-01	2024 AIDCP-51-01	2025 AIDCP-53-01
GASTOS DEL PROGRAMA DE OBSERVADORES / TABLE 1. Expenses, 2021-2025 (US$) (8)					
Costos directos de los observadores:/ Direct Observer costs:					
Compensación y prestaciones/ Compensation and benefits	1,415,276	1,543,687	1,423,114	1,533,503	1,473,681
Viajes / Travel	33,949	63,802	63,700	75,330	76,257
Suministros y equipo/ Supplies and equipment	9,652	70,631	77,348	77,174	109,585
Capacitación/ Training	-	9,730	18,342	311	
Subtotal / Subtotal	1,458,878	1,687,851	1,582,504	1,686,318	1,659,523
Costos indirectos del programa de observadores:/ Indirect Observer Program costs:					
Personal de sede de la CIAT/ IATTC HQ staff	894,350	631,467	586,633	553,492	492,203
Costos de mano de obra en el extranjero de la CIAT/ IATTC foreign contract labor costs[9]	242,888	271,656	343,469	312,196	301,494
Gastos imprevistos/ Unexpected expenses	-	-	110,000	-	-
Costos operacionales oficinas de campo de la CIAT/ IATTC F.O. operating costs	-	-		-	-
Gastos Generales oficinas de campo /General F.O Operating expenses	-	-	37,924	38,410	35,804
Informatica/ Information Technology	-		1,299	725	1,041
Imprenta, franqueo / Printing, postage	-	-	13,094	2,558	1,181
Viajes de personal / Staff travel	-	-	2,389	2,248	741
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	-	-	8,655	12,362	25,530
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	-	-	28,358	18,318	18,154
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	-	-	2,973	2,002	1,979
Gastos Generales oficinas de campo /General F.O Operating expenses	68,464	74,847	-	-	-
Total, Costos del programa de observadores/ Total observer program costs	**2,664,579**	**2,665,821**	**2,717,298**	**2,628,629**	**2,537,650**
GASTOS DEL APICD (NO OBSERVADORES)/ AIDCP EXPENSES (non-observer) (10)					
Otros costos del personal de sede de la CIAT/ Other IATTC HQ staff costs	383,293	727,742	711,497	743,871	734,544
Otros costos de Mano de obra en el extranjero/ Other foreign contract labor costs	104,080	116,352	77,659	68,553	65,855
Gastos extrapresupuestarios/ Extrabudgetary expenses	-	-	30,000	23,384	
Sistema Contable/Accounting system MIP	-	-	-	3,071	6,711
Informatica / Information Technology	242	459	312	-	-
IT compras y mantenimiento/IT purchasing and maintenance	-	-	-	2,661	13,229
Almacenamiento de informacion en nube/Cloud data storage	-	-	-	62,798	42,297
Gastos extrapresupuestario Indemnización */ Extrabudgetary expenditure Severance	-	-	-	-	52,875
2024 Pre-aprobada consultoria/ 2024 Preaproved consultant	-	-	-	-	17,610
Gastos extrapresupuestario Auditoria/ Audit extrabudgetary Audit	-	-	-	-	29,969
Reuniones del APICD/ AIDCP meetings	13,797	34,052	41,051	46,282	47,811
Otros costos operacionales oficinas de campo/ Other F.O Operating costs					
Gastos generales oficinas de campo/ General F.O operating expenses	-	9,083	8,807	9,123	8,749
Imprenta, franqueo / Printing, postage	1,223	1,785	556	440	8,129
Viajes de personal / Staff travel	1,102	483	2,743	117	303
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	601	2,251	617	20,107	3,870
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	4,388	5,961	4,165	4,454	4,464
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	1,610	1,201	1,126	2,993	5,206
Total, otros costos del APICD no observadores/ Total, other AIDCP non-observer costs	**510,336**	**899,369**	**878,533**	**987,854**	**1,041,622**
Total, Costos del programa de observadores del APICD/ Total, AIDCP Observer Program costs	**3,174,915**	**3,565,190**	**3,595,831**	**3,616,483**	**3,579,272**

Between 2021 and 2025, total AIDCP expenditures increased from US$3,174,915 to US$3,579,272, an increase of 12.7%. The Observer Program remained relatively stable over the period, with a slight decrease of 4.8% (US$2,664,579 in 2021; US$2,537,650 in 2025), and observer compensation remained its largest line item. The overall increase is concentrated in non-observer expenditures, which increased from US$510,336 to US$1,041,622 due to the addition of accounting systems, technology, cloud storage, and audit services.

In addition to providing information on the evolution of the annual operating budget, the AIDCP has used funding from accumulated surpluses to address specific needs of national programs. Through Resolution A-19-01, the Parties approved a portion of the surplus existing as of December 31, 2018, to help finance equipment replacement for national observer programs. This resulted in total funding of US$207,269 for this purpose. The amount allocated to each national program and the corresponding expenditures charged against those amounts as of June 30, 2026, are as follows.

Distribución de la asignación de fondos para programas nacionales, resolución A-19-01, en US$, al 30 de junio de 2026								
Programa Nacional	Asignación	Monto Distribuido	Adquisiciones					Disponible
			2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Colombia	7%	14,716	(1,832)					12,884
Ecuador	32%	65,704	(62,226)			(3,478)		0
Unión Europea	3%	6,840	(4,579)					2,261
México	31%	64,253		(43,772)	(11,866)		(6,207)	2,407
Nicaragua	4%	8,913	(1,868)					7,045
Panamá	12%	24,872	(16,278)	(1,038)	(4,142)			3,414
Venezuela	11%	21,971	(7,733)		(3,703)	(8,690)	(656)	1,189
Total	100%	207,269	(94,516)	(44,810)	(19,711)	(12,169)	(6,862)	29,201

4. ANALYSIS OF VARIANCES IN THE FINANCIAL RESULTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

The following table presents a comparison between the approved budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and the actual financial results at year-end.

Analisis de las variaciones resultado 2025 / Analysis of Variance for the 2025 (US$)	2025 Aproved/Aprobado (51B-01)	Actual/Real 12-31-25	Variacion/ Variation US $	Variacion/ Variation %
Ingresos del APICD /AIDCP Income				
Cuotas de buque – Clase 6, año en curso/Vessels assesments current year clase 6	2,458,964	2,550,327	91,363	3.7
Pago de la CIAT al programa de observadores del APICD cuota extraordinaria /IATTC extraordinary payment to the AIDCP Observer Program	820,000	761,294	-58,706	(7.2)
Cuotas de buques – Menores de clase 6/ Vessel assessments SC less than 6	12,661	27,850	15,189	120.0
Cuotas de buque – Clase 6, años anteriores/ Vessel Assessments prior year-SC6	151,139	187,069	35,930	23.8
Intereses de inversiones/ Investment interest	55,000	62,013	7,013	12.8
Recargo por retrasos y miscelaneous/ Late fees and miscellaneous	54,597	88,511	33,914	62.1
Cuotas de buques - Inactivos y hundidos/ Vessel assessments inactive and sunk	15,309	17,309	2,000	13.1
Gastos extrapresupuestarios/ Extrabudgetary expenses		4,370		
TOTAL, INGRESOS OPERACIONALES/ TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME	**3,567,670**	**3,698,744**		
GASTOS DEL PROGRAMA DE OBSERVADORES / OBSERVER PROGRAM EXPENSES				
Costos directos de los observadores/ Direct Observer costs				
Compensación y prestaciones / compensation and benefits	1,560,000	1,473,681	-86,319	(5.5)
Viajes / travel	85,000	76,257	-8,743	(10.3)
Suministros y equipo / supplies and equipment	115,558	109,585	-5,973	(5.2)
Capacitación / Training				
Subtotal	**1,760,558**	**1,659,523**		
Costos indirectos del programa de observadores/ Indirect Observer Program costs				
Personal de la sede de la CIAT: científico/técnico / IATTC HQ staff: scientific/technical	431,214	492,203	60,989	14.1
Costos de mano de obra en el extranjero de la CIAT / IATTC Foreign contract labor cost	350,000	301,494	-48,506	(13.9)
Costos operacionales oficinas de campo/ F.O operating costs				
Gastos Generales oficinas de campo /General F.O Operating expenses	39,928	35,804	-4,124	(10.3)
Informatica/ Information Technology	4,344	1,041	-3,303	(76.0)
Imprenta, franqueo / Printing, postage	10,472	1,181	-9,291	(88.7)
Viajes de personal / Staff travel	3,722	741	-2,981	(80.1)
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	32,148	25,530	-6,618	(20.6)
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	17,766	18,154	388	2.2
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	1,786	1,979	193	10.8
Total, Costos del Programa los Observadores a bordo / Total, On-board observer Program costs	**2,651,938**	**2,537,650**		
GASTOS DEL APICD (NO OBSERVADORES)/ AIDCP EXPENSES (NON-OSERVER)				
Personal de sede de la CIAT : administrativo/ IATTC HQ staff Administrative	815,088	734,544	-80,544	(9.9)
Otros costos de mano de obra en el extranjero de la CIAT/ Other IATTC Foreign Contract Labor Costs	82,693	65,855	-16,838	(20.4)
Gastos extrapresupuestario Auditoria/ Audit extrabudgetary expenses	38,700	29,969	-8,731	(22.6)
2024 Pre-aprobada consultoria/ 2024 Preaproved consultant	17,610	17,610	0	0.0
Gastos extrapresupuestario */ Extrabudgetary expenditure Severance package	0	52,875	52,875	1.0
Reuniones del APICD/ AIDCP meetings	50,000	47,811	-2,189	(4.4)
Otros costos operacionales oficinas de campo/ Other F.O Operating costs				
Gastos generales oficinas de campo/ General F.O operating expenses	12,608	8,749	-3,859	(30.6)
Sistema contable/Accounting system MIP	10,533	6,711	-3,822	(36.3)
Informatica/ Information Technology	38,588		16,938	46.7
IT compras y mantenimiento/IT purchasing and maintenance		13,229	13,229	
Almacenamiento de informacion en nube/Coud ldata storage		42,297	42,297	
Imprenta, franqueo / Printing, postage	1,051	8,129	7,078	673.5
Viajes de personal / Staff travel	1,051	302	-749	(71.2)
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	3,126	3,870	744	23.8
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	7,175	4,464	-2,711	(37.8)
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	1,524	5,206	3,682	241.6
Total, Otros gastos/ Total Other Expenses	**1,079,747**	**1,041,622**		
TOTAL, GASTOS DEL PROGRAMA DEL APICD/ TOTAL AIDCP PROGRAM EXPENSES	**3,731,685**	**3,579,272**		
Exceso/(insuficiencia) de ingresos sobre los gastos	**(164,015)**	**119,472**		

The approved 2025 budget projected a deficit of US$164,015. However, at year-end, the Program achieved a surplus of US$119,472, representing an improvement of US$283,487 compared with the budgeted result. This favorable variance is primarily attributable to a combination of higher revenue during the year and lower expenditures than initially estimated.

Operating revenue reached US$3,698,744, exceeding the approved budget by US$131,074. The increase is primarily explained by higher collection of current-year Class 6 vessel assessments, as well as greater recovery of outstanding prior-year assessments, higher late-payment fee revenue, and better investment performance. These results partially offset the lower extraordinary contribution received from the IATTC for the Observer Program, which was below budget.

With respect to expenditures, total expenditures was US$3,579,272, approximately US$152,413 below the approved budget. The principal savings were recorded in the direct costs of the Observer Program, particularly compensation and benefits, travel, and supplies and equipment, because actual needs during the year were lower than those anticipated when the budget was prepared. Lower expenditures were also recorded for foreign contract labor and in several field office operating categories.

Within Observer Program costs, some line items were higher than budgeted, primarily costs associated with scientific and technical staff at IATTC headquarters. This difference reflects adjustments between initial estimates and actual human-resource requirements during the year, as the budget projections were based on operating assumptions that ultimately proved lower than the resources actually required. This increase was partially offset by lower costs in other categories, including foreign contract labor.

On the other hand, AIDCP administrative expenditures (not related to the Observer Program) were below budget in several categories. The main favorable variances were in IATTC headquarters administrative staff, foreign contract labor, audit, the MIP accounting system, general field office expenses, and staff travel. These differences reflect ongoing expenditure monitoring and careful use of available resources during the year.

Some administrative line items were higher than budgeted. These included the extraordinary expenditure for a US$52,875 severance payment, which had not originally been contemplated. In addition, expenditures related to information technology were incurred during the year, including purchases, maintenance, and cloud storage services. These expenditures were managed within available resources and offset by savings in other categories.

5. PROGRAM REVENUE, 2025-2026

5.1 Vessel assessments

The principal source of AIDCP funding is the collection of vessel assessments. In 2025, the applicable assessment was US$14.95 per cubic meter ($m^3$) of hold capacity, in accordance with Resolution A-18-01. At the 51st Meeting of the Parties, an increase of US$1.52 per m^3 was approved to finance the US$10.00 per day increase in compensation for observers in the On-board Program. Accordingly, beginning in 2026, Resolution A-25-02 set the assessment at US$16.47 per m^3 for active Class 6 purse-seine vessels and vessels requiring an observer that are listed in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. In both cases, revenue is distributed among national observer programs according to their percentage of coverage of the relevant trips, up to a maximum of 50%.

The second source of revenue is the IATTC payment, equivalent to 30% of AIDCP Observer Program costs: US$761,294 in 2025, US$ 815,168 in 2026, and US$877,082 projected for 2027. Through Resolution A-25-01, the AIDCP established its position that these costs should be allocated 50/50 between the two entities. Intersessional meetings between the IATTC Finance and Administration Committee (CAF) and the Ad Hoc Working

Group did not reach agreement, and the final decision therefore rests with the IATTC plenary. Accordingly, the budget presented in this document is based on the current 30/70 allocation. If the 50/50 allocation were adopted, the IATTC contribution for 2027 would increase from US$877,082 to US$1,461,804 (an additional US$584,722), and the projected AIDCP result would change from a budgetary shortfall of US$110,364 to a surplus of US$474,358.

Vessels listed in the Regional Vessel Register as inactive or sunk also pay an assessment of US$1.00 per cubic meter ($m^3$) under Resolution A-25-02.

Table 2 summarizes the source of AIDCP revenue and the use of funds in 2025.

	TABLA 2. Fuentes de ingresos y uso de fondos del APICD, 2025, en US$** **TABLE 2. AIDCP sources and uses of funds, 2025, in US$	**Actual/ Real**
1	Cuotas de buques – Clase 6, año en curso Vessel assessments – Current year size class 6	2,550,327
2	Cuotas de buques – Menores de clase 6 / Vessel assessments – Size class less than 6	27,850
3	Recargos por retrasos e ingresos varios / Late fees and miscellaneous income	88,511
4	Cuotas de buques - Inactivos y hundidos / Vessel assessments - Inactive and sunk	17,309
5	Cuotas de buques – Clase 6, años anteriores / Vessel assessments – Prior year size class 6	187,069
6	Contribución extrapresupuestaria voluntaria / Voluntary extrabudgetary contribution	4,371
7	Intereses de inversiones / Investment interest	62,013
	Subtotal, ingresos del APICD / Subtotal AIDCP income	**2,937,450**
8	Pago CIAT al programa de observadores/ IATTC portion of observer program (30%)	761,294
	Total, ingresos del APICD / Total AIDCP income	**3,698,744**
	Total, gastos del programa de observadores del APICD / Total AIDCP Observer Program expenses	**3,579,272**
	Superavit de ingresos sobre gastos / Excess revenue over expenses	**119,472**

1. Assessments paid by all Class 6 vessels in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register at a rate of US$14.95/$m^3$. ter
2. Assessments paid by purse-seine vessels below Class 6 that are required to carry an observer on board.
3. Includes all late fees paid by all vessels in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register.
4. Assessments paid by sunk or inactive Class 6 vessels at a rate of US$1.00/$m^3$.
5. Assessments paid by Class 6 vessels for prior years.
6. Voluntary extrabudgetary contribution for administrative payments.
7. Investment interest.
8. IATTC payment, covering 30% of total AIDCP Observer Program expenditures.

5.2 Accumulated surplus

Table 3 presents the estimated accumulated surplus as of December 31, 2026, including adjustments made based on decisions adopted during meetings of the Finance and Administration Committee (CAF) and the AIDCP Parties, as well as financial commitments approved for specific activities.

TABLE 3. Estimated of Accumulated Surplus and Commiteed Funds as of 31 December 2026 /Estimación del superavit acumulado y Fondos comprometidos al 31 de diciembre 2025	US$ AIDCP-51b-01	Adjusted / Ajustado US$ 52a Meeting
Surplus as of 31 December 2023/Superávit al 31 de diciembre de 2023	2,194,101	2,194,101
2024 Deficit /Déficit de 2024	(112,757)	(112,757)
Surplus subtotal as of 31 December 2024 /Subtotal Superávit al 31 de diciembre de 2024	2,081,344	2,081,344
Reserved funds to be used in 2025[1] /Fondos reservados para ser usados en 2025	(35,000)	
Surplus as of 31 December 2024/Superávit al 31 de diciembre de 2024	2,046,344	2,081,344
Surplus as of 31 December 2025/Superávit al 31 diciembre 2025		119,472
Reserved funds to be used in 2026[2] /Fondos reservados para ser usados en 2026		(30,000)
Estimated Result for the Year Ended December 31, 2026/Resultado estimado del ejercicio terminado el 31 de diciembre de 2026.		8,260
Close-Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) for dolphin populations*/Proyecto CKMR por parientes cercanos de poblaciones de delfines		(810,800)
Surplus balance after applying its authorized use in 2026/Saldo del superávit después de aplicar su utilización autorizada en 2026		1,368,276

The estimate begins with the accumulated balance available at the end of 2023 and reflects the financial results of subsequent periods, including the 2024 deficit and the corresponding adjustments for restricted funds earmarked for approved activities.

For 2025, the initial estimate contemplated the use of US$35,000 in restricted funds; however, at year-end only US$5,000 was used for payment of the update to the American Museum of Natural History Diorama. The US$30,000 difference remains restricted and available for use in training and capacity-building activities during 2026.

In addition, the updated 2026 financial projection incorporates a review of expected revenue based on the assessment established by Resolution A-25-02, set at US$16.47 per m³, as well as an update of the financial commitments associated with the Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) Project for dolphin populations. The amount initially considered for this project was adjusted from US$1,409,399 to US$810,800, in accordance with the updated project budget prepared by scientific staff.

As a result of these adjustments, and taking into account restricted funds and approved commitments, Table 3 reflects the estimated surplus as of December 31, 2026, and the balance available after applying the authorized use of resources during that period.

5.3 OUTSTANDING VESSEL ASSESSMENTS:

As shown in Table 4, as of June 30, 2026, nine vessels have outstanding payments for fiscal years 2020 through 2026 totaling US$295,237. Venezuela accounts for US$165,575 (56% of the total) and Ecuador for US$116,400 (39%).

TABLA 4. Cuotas de buques pendientes, al 30 de junio de 2026/ Outstanding vessel assessment as of June 30,2026			
Buque - Vessel		**Adeudos - Arrears**	
Pabellón - Flag	**Nombre - Name**	**Años - Years**	**US$**
ECU	*Vicente*	2021-2023	82,902
ECU	Eileen Marie	2026	10,997
ECU	Pacific Tuna	2026	22,501
PER	Don Juan	2026	13,262
VEN	Guayacan	2020	12,745
VEN	*Falcón*	2024-2026	83,243
VEN	Carmela	2026	22,918
VEN	Cayo Noronky	2026	23,751
VEN	Don Francesco	2026	22,918
	Total		**$ 295,237**

6. 2026-2027 BUDGET, KEY ASSUMPTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Estimating the AIDCP's budgetary requirements requires consideration of both the prior year's financial execution and operational factors that may affect future-period results. In particular, Observer Program costs may vary significantly due to factors such as the number of trips made, assignment duration, transportation rates, availability of local observers, and, when necessary, the hiring of observers from other regions.

Likewise, the revenue projection must take into account that revenue may vary from year to year. Collections depend primarily on fleet activity, timely fulfillment of participants' financial obligations, changes in fleet composition, and recovery of outstanding assessments or surcharges from prior years.

Table 5 presents actual 2025 expenditures, the updated 2026 estimate, and the projection for 2027. Five criteria were applied:

1- An inflation adjustment of approximately 4% for most line items.
2- Alignment with historical expenditure.
3- Elimination of non-recurring extraordinary expenditures.
4- Accounting reclassifications.
5- Incorporation of specific operational needs.

The 2026 column reflects the updated estimate rather than the budget approved at the 52nd Meeting (document AIDCP-52-01), which anticipated a budgetary shortfall of US$472,930 to be covered by the accumulated surplus. The updated estimate results in a surplus of US$8,260, a favorable variance of US$481,190 compared with the approved budget.

TABLA 5. Presupuestos de 2026-2027 (US$) / TABLE 5. 2026-2027 budgets (US$)	2025 Real Actual	2026 Recomendado Ajustado/ Recommended Adjusted	2027 Proyectado Projected
INGRESOS DEL APICD / AIDCP INCOME			
Cuotas de buques – Clase 6, año en curso / Vessel assessments – Current year size class 6	2,550,327	2,832,740	2,832,740
Pago de la CIAT al programa de observadores del APICD / IATTC contribution to the AIDCP Observer Program	761,294	815,168	877,082
Cuotas de buques – Menores de clase 6 / Vessel assessments – Size class less than 6	27,850	5,579	
Cuotas de buques – Clase 6, años anteriores / Vessel assessments – Prior year size class 6	187,069		
Intereses de inversiones / Investment interest	62,013	58,971	65,000
Recargo por retrasos y misceláneos / Late fees and miscellaneous	88,511	23,054	
Cuotas de buques - Inactivos y hundidos / Vessel assessments - Inactive and sunk	17,309	7,794	
Contribución extrapresupuestaria voluntaria / Voluntary extrabudgetary contribution	4,371		
TOTAL, INGRESOS OPERACIONALES / TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME	**3,698,745**	**3,743,306**	**3,774,822**
GASTOS DEL PROGRAMA DE OBSERVADORES / OBSERVER PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Costos directos de los observadores: / Direct Observer costs:			
Compensación y prestaciones / Compensation and benefits	1,473,680	1,695,218	1,700,000
Viajes / Travel	76,257	98,765	113,580
Suministros y equipo / Supplies and equipment	109,585	134,906	117,422
Capacitación / Training		10,000	0
Subtotal / Subtotal	**1,659,522**	**1,938,888**	**1,931,002**
Costos indirectos del programa de observadores: / Indirect Observer Program costs:			
Personal de sede de la CIAT científico/técnico / IATTC HQ staff: scientific/technical	492,202	491,925	515,602
Costos de mano de obra en el extranjero de la CIAT / IATTC foreign contract labor costs	301,493	332,462	378,761
Costos operacionales oficinas de campo / Field office operating costs			
Gastos generales oficinas de campo / General F.O. operating expenses	35,804	35,604	37,028
Informática / Information technology	1,041	4,474	4,474
Imprenta y franqueo / Printing and postage	1,181	1,392	1,448
Viajes del personal / Staff travel	741	64	500
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	25,532	29,309	34,436
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	18,154	11,446	18,298
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	1,979	1,427	2,059
Total, Costo del programa de observadores a bordo / Total, Observer program costs	**2,537,650**	**2,846,992**	**2,923,608**
GASTOS DEL APICD (NO OBSERVADORES) / AIDCP EXPENSES (NON-OBSERVER)			
Personal de sede de la CIAT: administrativo / IATTC HQ staff: administrative	734,544	662,660	689,166
Otros costos de mano de obra en el extranjero de la CIAT / Other IATTC foreign contract labor costs	65,855	72,317	83,610
Gastos extrapresupuestarios Auditoria / Extrabudgetary Audit expenditures	29,969	15,500	18,000
2024 preaprobada consultoría / 2024 Pre-approved consultant	17,610		
Gastos extrapresupuestarios inmdennizacion / Extrabudgetary severance expenditures	52,875	0	
Reuniones del APICD / AIDCP meetings	47,811	47,896	52,000
Otros costos operacionales oficinas de campo / Other field office operating costs			
Gastos generales oficinas de campo / General F.O. operating expenses	8,749	8,609	12,986
Sistema contable / Accounting system	6,711	3,725	5,374
IT Compras y mantenimiento/IT Purchase and maintanance	13,229	7,776	8,087
Almacenamiento de informacion en nube/ Information storage in cloud	42,297	32,198	33,486
Imprenta, franqueo / Printing, postage	3,129	1,083	21,126
Viajes del personal / Staff travel	302	1,000	1,040
Servicios legales y contables / Legal and accounting services	8,870	20,000	20,800
Mantenimiento de vehículos de las oficinas de campo / Field office vehicle maintenance	4,464	7,390	7,686
Comisiones bancarias y otras / Bank and other fees	5,207	7,902	8,218
Total, Otros gastos / Total, Other expenses	**1,041,624**	**888,056**	**961,578**
TOTAL, GASTOS DEL PROGRAMA DEL APICD / TOTAL AIDCP PROGRAM EXPENSES	**3,579,274**	**3,735,048**	**3,885,186**
Exceso/(insuficiencia) de ingresos sobre los gastos / Revenue over/(under) expenditures	**119,472**	**8,260**	**(110,364)**

For 2026, operating revenue is estimated at US$3,743,306 and expenditures at US$3,735,048, resulting in a surplus of US$8,260.

Compensation and benefits is the largest budget item, with US$1,695,218 estimated for 2026 and US$1,700,000 projected for 2027. The 2027 projection is based on approximately 22,000 sea days and incorporates observer insurance using a standardized approach across field offices. This adjustment provides a more appropriate reflection of program costs.

The remaining direct Observer Program costs were adjusted as follows: travel increases from US$98,765 to US$113,580 due to higher transportation fares; supplies and equipment decrease from US$134,906 to US$117,422 because purchases that are not required in 2027 have been removed; and no training expenditures are projected for 2027 (US$10,000 in 2026).

The indirect Observer Program costs and AIDCP administrative expenditures were evaluated individually, taking into account historical expenditure and the specific needs of each component. Some adjustments reflect normal operating increases, while others reflect specific needs, including editorial support services in Manta, staff severance in Manzanillo-Mazatlán, and adjustments related to field office operations.

Line items related to technology, accounting systems, information storage, and infrastructure maintenance were reviewed to reflect the program's current needs. In some cases, the levels approved for 2026 were maintained because of existing commitments, while in others adjustments were made based on historical expenditure patterns and improvements required for operations.

For 2027, operating revenue is projected at US$3,774,822 and expenditures at US$3,885,186, resulting in a budgetary shortfall of US$110,364.

Given the principles of financial prudence, transparency, and administrative efficiency, it is essential to establish a dedicated contingency fund for unforeseen circumstances related to AIDCP implementation, in view of the importance of protecting financial stability should extraordinary, urgent, and unforeseen expenditures arise that were not contemplated in the approved annual budget. In this regard, it is recommended that the budget include an allocation of US$150,000 for this fund, to be adjusted annually.

The revenue projection includes only current-year Class 6 vessel assessments (US$2,832,740), the IATTC contribution (US$877,082), and investment interest (US$65,000). No revenue is projected from prior-year assessments, late fees, vessels below Class 6, or inactive or sunk vessels, which together contributed US$320,739 in 2025.

Assuming the potential 2027 budgetary shortfall of US$110,364, an estimate was made of the increase in vessel assessments that would be required for that year, based on revenue requirements of US$3,885,186 and a fleet capacity of 177,282 m3 (as of June 30, 2026). The assessment would increase from the current US$16.47 to an estimated US$16.60.

6.1 Supplies and equipment: safety equipment and subscriptions for observers

In October 2018, the 38th Meeting of the Parties adopted Resolution A-18-02 on improving observer safety at sea: safety equipment. The resolution stipulates that observers be provided with (1) an independent two-way satellite communication device and (2) a waterproof staff locator beacon. The Secretariat identified the InReach SE+ and ResQLink 400/406 devices as the most suitable options (MOP-36 INF-A).

All InReach devices were purchased and distributed in 2020 to all AIDCP programs; annual service plans were budgeted at approximately US$60,000 through 2025. Table 6 compares the devices deployed with assigned observer trips. The devices reached the end of their five-year useful life, and the Secretariat recommended including a minimum of US$26,000 for their phased replacement in 2026. This amount is not included in the 2027 supplies and equipment projection (US$117,422).

TABLA 6. Número de dispositivos de seguridad desplegados, por pro-grama, durante 2025 (incluye algunos viajes sin actividad en el OPO) **TABLE 6.** No. of safety devices deployed, by program, during 2025 (includes some trips without activity in the EPO)					
Flag	**Viajes/unidades desplegadas por programa- Trips/units deployed by program**			**Total viajes Total trips**	**% Viajes asignados % Trips assigned**
	Programa nacional National program	**CIAT IATTC**	**Total**		
Colombia	20	18	38	38	100
Ecuador	158	314	472	472	100
EU-UE	14	16	30	30	100
Guatemala	NA	4	4	4	100
Mexico	123	117	240	240	100
Nicaragua	9	10	19	19	100
Panama	62	67	129	129	100
Peru	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
El Salvador	NA	25	25	25	100
United States	NA	33	33	33	100
Venezuela	33	27	60	60	100
Total	**419**	**631**	**1050**	**1050**	**100**

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above, the Parties are recommended to:

(i) Approve the AIDCP budget for 2027 in the amount of US$3,885,186, with projected operating revenue of US$3,774,822;

(ii) Authorize the projected budgetary shortfall of US$110,364 to be covered from the accumulated surplus, the estimated balance of which as of December 31, 2026, after applying the authorized uses, is US$1,368,276;

(iii) Increase the vessel assessment from US$16.47 to US$16.60;

(iv) Commit to establishing a dedicated contingency fund for the AIDCP in the proposed amount of US$150,000, in addition to the budget requested in item (i);

(v) Continue, through the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strengthening AIDCP Financing and together with the relevant IATTC body, the analysis of a long-term approach to the allocation of On-board Observer Program costs, in accordance with Resolution A-25-01 and paragraph 9 of Resolution A-25-02.

(vi) Approve the percentage allocations of activities for both staff and field offices.

8. ANNEX A. STAFF ACTIVITY ALLOCATION

As part of the annual review process of the allocation of shared costs between the IATTC and the AIDCP, an updated proposal for the allocation of staff time (Annex A) and field office costs (Annex B) for 2027 has been prepared.

With respect to the allocation of staff time, the proposal details, position by position, the percentage of time devoted exclusively to the IATTC, the Observer Program, and the other activities of the AIDCP, following the same methodology used for the allocation in previous periods, as previously reviewed and discussed.

For field offices, the 2027 proposal establishes a similar allocation for the currently active offices (Manta, Playas, Manzanillo, Mazatlán, and Panama City), assigning 60% of costs to the Observer Program, 15% to the AIDCP, and 25% to the IATTC. This represents an increase in the share allocated to the Observer Program compared with the allocation in effect since 2023, under which the Observer Program's share ranges from 40% to 50%, depending on the office. The Cumaná office is not included in this proposal because it was closed in May 2025.

The Parties are invited to consider and approve these updated allocations of staff time and field office costs for 2027, in accordance with Recommendation (vi) of this document.

Annex A forms part of document AIDCP-48-01 and reflects the allocation of staff activities that has been used to date (2026).

Addendum A		**2021**			**2022**			**2023**	
	IATTC obs. prog.	**AIDCP**	**IATTC**	**IATTC obs. prog.**	**AIDCP**	**IATTC**	**IATTC obs. prog.**	**AIDCP**	**IATTC**
Position	**A[1]**	**B[2]**	**C *****	**A ***	**B ****	**C *****	**A ***	**B ****	**C *****
Director	0.14	0.06	0.80	-	0.20	0.80	-	0.20	0.80
Administration	0.18	0.08	0.75	-	0.25	0.75	-	0.25	0.75
Policy Advisor	0.25	0.11	0.65	-	0.35	0.65	-	0.35	0.65
Policy Advisor	0.25	0.11	0.65	-	0.35	0.65	-	0.35	0.65
Compliance and data analysis	0.56	0.24	0.20	0.40	0.40	0.20	0.40	0.30	0.30
Program Policy	0.25	0.11	0.65	0.25	0.25	0.50	-	0.30	0.70
Administration & Finance	0.21	0.09	0.70	-	0.30	0.70	-	0.30	0.70
Finance	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Finance	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Finance	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Admin support	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Admin support	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Translation	0.14	0.06	0.80	-	0.20	0.80	-	0.20	0.80
Technological support	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.11	0.10	0.79	0.11	0.10	0.79
Coord. of Scientific Research	0.11	0.05	0.85	-	0.15	0.85	-	0.15	0.85
Data analysis and reporting	0.14	0.06	0.80	-	0.20	0.80	-	0.20	0.80
Data analysis and reporting	0.07	0.03	0.90	0.10	-	0.90	0.10	-	0.90
Data analysis and reporting	0.18	0.08	0.75	-	0.25	0.75	0.10	-	0.90
Bycatch specialist				0.10	-	0.90	0.10	-	0.90
Data analysis and reporting				0.10	-	0.90	0.10	-	0.90
Data analysis and reporting	0.07	0.03	0.90	-	0.10	0.90	-	0.10	0.90
Data analysis and reporting	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.10	0.03	0.87	0.10	0.03	0.87
Data analysis	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.10	0.03	0.87	0.10	0.03	0.87
Data analysis	0.11	0.05	0.85						
Data entry	0.35	0.15	0.50	0.45	0.05	0.50	0.45	0.05	0.50
Data entry	0.55	0.24	0.21						
Head of program	0.55	0.24	0.21	0.80	0.20	-	0.15	0.05	0.80
Data Editor	0.56	0.24	0.20	0.70	0.05	0.25	0.70	0.05	0.25
Data Editor	0.56	0.24	0.20	0.80	-	0.20	0.80	-	0.20
Technological support	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.11	0.10	0.79	0.11	0.10	0.79
Technological support	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.11	0.10	0.79	0.11	0.10	0.79
Technological support	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.11	0.10	0.79	0.11	0.10	0.79
Technological support							0.11	0.10	0.79
Technological support	0.14	0.06	0.80	0.11	0.10	0.79			

* Percentage of activities specifically related to the observer program (70% AIDCP / 30% IATTC)

** Percentage of other AIDCP-related activities (100% AIDCP)

*** Staff expenses 100% IATTC

[1] Reflects an estimated 70% of the total percentage related to the observer program and the AIDCP

[2] Reflects an estimated 30% of the total percentage related to the observer program and the AIDCP

New allocation:

POSITION	IATTC	OBSERVER	AIDCP/APICD	TOTAL
Director	0.70	0.10	0.20	1.00
Director's Assistant	0.75	–	0.25	1.00
Administrative Secretary	0.75	–	0.25	1.00
Head of Policy and Compliance Division	0.70	0.10	0.20	1.00
Policy and Compliance Officer	0.65	–	0.35	1.00
Policy and Compliance Officer	0.65	–	0.35	1.00
Policy Officer	0.30	0.40	0.30	1.00
Policy Officer	0.70	–	0.30	1.00
Head of Scientific Research Division	0.85	–	0.15	1.00
Stock Assessment Program Head	1.00	–	–	1.00
Senior Statistician	1.00	–	–	1.00
Principal Quantitative Fisheries Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Senior Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Principal Quantitative Fisheries Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Head of Ecosystem and Bycatch Program	0.95	–	0.05	1.00
Quantitative Ecology Specialist for Vulnerable Species	0.95	–	0.05	1.00
Ecosystem Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Principal Bycatch Mitigation Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Principal Quantitative Scientist	0.85	–	0.15	1.00
Bycatch and Electronic Monitoring Scientist	0.80	–	0.20	1.00
Coastal and Subregional Fisheries Scientist	0.90	–	0.10	1.00
Achotines Laboratory Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Head of Life History and Behavior Group	1.00	–	–	1.00
Assistant, Life History and Behavior Group	1.00	–	–	1.00
Principal Emeritus Scientist	1.00	–	–	1.00
AIDCP Accounting and Human Resources Coordinator	0.50	–	0.50	1.00
AIDCP Accounting Assistant	0.50	–	0.50	1.00
IATTC Accounting Coordinator	0.85	–	0.15	1.00
IATTC Accounting Assistant	0.85	–	0.15	1.00
Data Collection and Database Program Head	0.79	0.11	0.10	1.00
Data Specialist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Content and Social Media Coordinator	0.79	0.11	0.10	1.00
Data Technician	1.00	–	–	1.00
Data Specialist	1.00	–	–	1.00
Data Specialist and Regional Register Administrator	0.87	–	0.03	1.00
Data Editor	0.40	0.50	0.10	1.00
Data Editor	0.20	0.60	0.20	1.00
Information Technology Specialist	0.79	0.11	0.10	1.00
Digital Editors and Digitizers Coordinator	0.20	0.40	0.40	1.00
Information Technology and Database Specialist	0.20	0.40	0.40	1.00
Full Stack Developer	0.20	–	0.10	1.00
Information Technology Department Coordinator	0.79	0.11	0.10	1.00
Translation Coordinator	0.80	–	0.20	1.00

9. ANNEX B. FIELD OFFICE ACTIVITY ALLOCATION

The complete details of the key tasks and Secretariat operating expenditure components related to the On-board Observer Program and the overall implementation of the AIDCP are contained in document AIDCP-48-01, AIDCP Budget, which remains current. The following presents only the allocation of field office expenditures among the IATTC Observer Program, the AIDCP, and the IATTC, as this information varies from year to year.

The allocation for each field office is reviewed at the beginning of each year by the Director and the Observer Program Supervisor, and adjusted as necessary; the same percentages were maintained during 2025. In Table 5, the category "Field office operating expenses" appears twice: once under "Observer Program expenditures" and again under "AIDCP expenditures (non-observer)," as "Other direct AIDCP expenditures." This reflects the fact that part of the field offices' efforts directly supports the IATTC Observer Program, while another part relates to non-observer aspects of AIDCP implementation. The remaining field office operating expenses are charged directly to the IATTC budget. The following table describes the allocation of field office expenditures among these three categories.

	Field office allocations					
	Programa de observers		APICD		CIAT	
	2022	2023/2026	2022	2023/2026	2022	2023/2026
Manta	37%	40%	16%	10%	47%	50%
Playas	29%	40%	12%	10%	59%	50%
Manzanillo	34%	50%	15%	10%	51%	40%
Mazatlán	36%	50%	15%	10%	49%	40%
Cumaná[5]	70%	70%	10%	10%	20%	20%
Ciudad de Panamá	50%	70%	21%	20%	29%	10%

New allocation:

Asignaciones de las oficinas de campo/ Field office allocations						
	Programa de observadores /Observer Program		APICD/AIDCP		CIAT/IATTC	
	2023/2026	2027	2023/2026	2027	2023/2026	2027
Manta	40%	60%	10%	15%	50%	25%
Playas	40%	60%	10%	15%	50%	25%
Manzanillo	50%	60%	10%	15%	40%	25%
Mazatlán	50%	60%	10%	15%	40%	25%
Cumaná	70%	N/A	10%	N/A	20%	N/A
Ciudad de Panamá	70%	60%	20%	15%	10%	25%

[5] The field office was temporarily closed.